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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries and Names
Electoral District: Hervey Bay; Maryborough

Submission:

The proposed redistribution unnecessarily divides Hervey Bay, a clearly defined and rapidly growing coastal city. It separates communities from the infrastructure that services them, including major health facilities, and is inconsistent with how comparable regions are treated. A more logical boundary can achieve quota requirements without fragmenting this cohesive urban area.

I strongly object to the proposed redistribution that places parts of Hervey Bay within the Maryborough electorate.

Hervey Bay is a cohesive, functionally integrated urban area, comprising suburbs including Pialba, Urraween, Kawungan, Eli Waters, Scarness, Torquay, Urangan, Wondunna, Nikenbah, Point Vernon, Craignish, Dundowran and Dundowran Beach.

These suburbs:

- Operate as a single economic and social unit
- Share health, education, retail and emergency services
- Are connected through continuous urban development

Residents identify with Hervey Bay—not Maryborough.

The proposed redistribution divides this clearly established community, contrary to the principle of maintaining communities of interest.

Infrastructure and Service Catchments

The proposed boundaries would result in key infrastructure, including Hervey Bay Hospital, being located in a different electorate to the population it primarily serves.

This creates:

- Fragmented advocacy for essential services
- Reduced accountability for infrastructure planning
- A disconnect between representation and service delivery

Electoral boundaries should reflect how communities access services. The proposed configuration fails to do so.

Population and Growth Considerations

Hervey Bay is one of Queensland's fastest-growing regional centres, with:

- Current enrolment of approximately 45,500 electors (above quota)
- Projected growth to over 48,000 electors by 2032
- Ongoing expansion in Eli Waters, Nikenbah and northern coastal areas

This growth is clearly coastal and northward, reinforcing Hervey Bay as a single expanding urban centre.

The proposed redistribution addresses this growth by splitting the urban core,

which is a short-term solution likely to require future correction. A more appropriate approach is to adjust boundaries at the periphery, not through the centre of the city.

Inconsistency with Other Regions

In comparable coastal regions such as the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast:

- Urban communities are generally kept intact within electorates
- Boundary adjustments occur at the outer edges
- Key infrastructure is not separated from the population it serves

The treatment of Hervey Bay is inconsistent with this approach.

Suggested Alternative Boundary

A more logical and balanced boundary can be achieved without dividing Hervey Bay.

The alternative boundary would:

- Include **River Heads**
- Extend along **Booral Road**, incorporating properties to the north
- Connect across to **Torbanlea–Pialba Road via Takura**
- Extend north-west to the **Burrum Heads Road intersection**
- Include **Burrum Heads**
- Retain the **entire Hervey Bay urban area within a single electorate**

This boundary follows recognisable transport corridors and settlement patterns, and reflects how the region functions.

Electoral Balance Justification

Based on available data and reasonable locality estimates:

- Current Hervey Bay electorate: ~45,500 electors
- Additions (River Heads, Booral, Takura, Burrum Heads): ~3,600 – 5,200
- Offsetting removals (western rural areas): ~4,500 – 6,000

This results in an estimated electorate of approximately 40,500 – 43,500 electors.

This is within the acceptable quota range and demonstrates that electoral balance can be achieved without dividing the urban core of the city.

Conclusion

The proposed redistribution:

- Divides a clearly defined and rapidly growing city
- Separates communities from essential infrastructure
- Fails to reflect current and future population patterns

I respectfully request that the Committee:

- Retain all Hervey Bay suburbs within a single electorate
- Adopt a boundary aligned through River Heads, Booral Road, Takura and Burrum Heads

- Avoid splitting key infrastructure and service catchments
- Implement a boundary that reflects both community identity and future growth
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This provides a fair, logical and sustainable electoral outcome.