

**Submission ID:** O-0736  
**Date Received:** 9/4/26, 6:55 pm  
**Name:** Richard Lickfold  
**Organisation Name:** Hinterland Matters  
**Submission Topic:** Electorate Boundaries  
**Electoral District:** Noosa; Coolum (formerly Ninderry); Nambour (formerly Nicklin)

### **Submission:**

This submission objects to the Commission's proposal to place Eumundi in the Nambour Electorate as it would separate our collective voice. We have over 100 active members working on issues in our area involving an estimated 20,000 people and thousands of others connected in community conversations through another six online communities.

The only rationale given by the Commission to place Eumundi in Nambour is to do with the quota numbers and this decision clearly shows no understanding of the issues that should legally be covered by this inquiry according to the Terms of Reference. The Commission gives no rationale within its full Terms of Reference (TOR) that explains its recommendation to remove our main town from our economic, social and cultural networks. We have been connected to Eumundi for almost two hundred years since colonial settlement and for 50,000+ years of First Nations occupation. This meaningful and enduring reality is not recognised by the Commission and must be corrected.

### **Background on Hinterland Matters.**

The Hinterland Matters Collective started in June 2024, and based on an initial recruitment quickly grew to approximately 100 followers sharing information and working together to provide a stronger voice for the Hinterland. As a collective we are not politically aligned. Hinterland Matters has a fluid boundary depending on the issue and crosses Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Noosa Council and includes the suburbs of Eumundi, Doonan, Verrierdale, Valdora, Ninderry, Yandina Creek, Weyba Downs and beyond.

Although it is hard to be precise, we believe the Hinterland Matters catchment includes approximately 11.25% of the SCRC land area and 5.0% of the population (almost 20,000). Despite this significant group within Local, State and Federal electorates we believe our needs are not heard in comparison to the focus on coastal and higher density areas on the Sunshine Coast. The socio-economic and demographic profiles of our area show we are self-supporting, educated, professional, mixed population demographics, low public transport users (there is virtually no public transport available in most parts of the Hinterland). We do not ask much but seek government policies, plans, strategies and infrastructure that will support our wellbeing and that of future Hinterlanders.

Based on the TOR we object to the proposal to move Eumundi to the Nambour Electorate:

1. For good reasons Eumundi has a strong electoral history of placement eastward for the last 35 years at least, Eumundi has been politically, culturally and socially associated with the coastal and coastal hinterland regions and has had no electoral connection whatsoever to the west. Our understanding is that 1991 Eumundi was placed in the Noosa electorate, in 1999 Eumundi remained in the Noosa electorate, in 2008 Eumundi remained in the Noosa electorate; and in 2017 Eumundi was included in the Ninderry electorate.
2. Eumundi is part of the coastal Hinterland and should be included in Noosa Electorate or Ninderry Electorate including Verrierdale and Doonan as that is where our community partnerships and commonalities lie with regard to the TOR, not in Nambour.
3. Although it is hard to be precise, we believe the Hinterland Matters catchment includes approximately 11.25% of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council land area and 5.0% of the population (almost 20,000).
4. Hinterland Matters Collective communities have worked together on many political issues. Eumundi was one of the few Ninderry Electorate locations to host a "Meet the Candidates" session before the last State Election which was well attended and specifically included questions for candidates relevant to our hinterland.
5. We have been connected to Eumundi for almost two hundred years since colonial settlement and for 50,000+ years of First Nations occupation. This meaningful and enduring reality is not recognised by the Commission.
6. Our Ninderry State representative tabled petition details in State Parliament with over 1300 signatures to protect Memorial Drive in Eumundi for the Eumundi Residents Association that we work closely with and many members supported this petition. We are a strong and united community.
7. Just because Eumundi itself has a smaller population is no reason why we should be separated with no reason from our community, an action way outside the Commission's full TOR. Justice requires that the TOR issues be equally considered for every citizen whether they reside in a highly populated coastal area, rural location or hinterland town like Eumundi.
8. Based on the lack of any rationale given, Eumundi has clearly been allocated to Nambour as a convenient measure for the Commission not to look deeper and gain a full understanding of the dynamics of our communities here. The recommendation is not validated and makes no sense in any way. Our community shouldn't be dissected to suit a bureaucratic numbers process that yet again ignores our community pleas and falls short of the Commissions own responsibilities according to its own TOR.
9. The Eumundi Markets attracts up to 2 million people each year and we are one of the largest tourist attractions on the Sunshine Coast, sometimes described as the largest. We need to work with other tourism planning groups working in this league, including in preparing for the Olympics. Many market visitors come from Bruce Highway, coastal arterial roads and Maroochydoore

airport with a smaller number on public transport. We need this connectivity recognised and planned for with Eumundi being part of Ninderry or Noosa not Nambour.

10. Aswell as the hinterland communities, community groups in Eumundi are connected to Cooroy and Noosa Groups. An example is the Eumundi Writers Festival that involves approximately 1100 people/events.75% of attendees live within 50km of Eumundi mainly towards Noosa, the coast, Coolum and Maroochydore.. For another example, Noosa Heads was one of the highest "Yes" votes for "The Voice" referendum at 54% with Eumundi also very high as a regional town and above the national average at 43% YES. Nambour was below the national average for YES at 37%. These figures show the Eumundi community thinks very differently to Nambour residents and has different priorities.

11. Our economic connections are not with Nambour and its surrounds. As an example a local B&B provided figures showing their expenditure is nearly 43% in Eumundi itself, 24% in Noosa, 14% in Cooroy and only 5% in Nambour Electorate.

12. Natural system catchments for Eumundi also relate more to the coastal hinterland and Hinterland Matters environmental priorities than they do to Nambour and its large suburbs, and the western hinterland.

13. The Commission has received many submissions from Eumundi, Cooroy and Verrierdale on their connection to each other and to Noosa over the years and these still stand. Why are they ignored?

14. Based on the Commissions projections, Noosa Electorate will be the lowest Electorate population and the most below the quota. Eumundi and our neighbours belong with Noosa, or at least leave us with the connections we have now developed in Ninderry.

15. To include Eumundi, Doonan and Verrierdale in the Noosa electorate the Noosa electoral boundary should follow the Bruce Highway to the west and use Eumundi Noosa Road as a guide for the southern boundary and reaching south from there to pull in Verrierdale.

16. The southern suburbs of Rosemount, Kiels Mountain and Diddilibah have had a history of attachment to Maroochydore and Ninderry but are closely economically and socially attached to the Nambour electorate, indeed, the suburbs are contiguous with the town and if included in Nambour State Electorate, they could provide the quota the Commission seeks for Nambour whilst leaving Eumundi where it belongs and functions now.

17. That Eumundi is included in Local Government Division 10 is also incorrect as our relationship is with Doonan, Verrierdale and the coastal hinterland heading towards Noosa shire areas and Cooroy. Eumundi should be in Noosa Shire or at least part of Division 9 in SCC. It is difficult to interest the Division 9 Councillor in Eumundi issues despite the fact that Eumundi issues logically stretch into Division 9 into the coastal hinterland . The fact that the existing

local government boundaries are incorrect cannot be allowed to trip over to spread this error to State Electoral boundaries to further exacerbate this wrong.