

**Submission ID:** O-0746  
**Date Received:** 9/4/26, 10:17 pm  
**Name:** Lorraine Stephens  
**Submission Topic:** Electorate Boundaries  
**Electoral District:** Hill

**Submission:**

See below

**Submission Attachments**

Email - Lorraine Stephens - Objection to abolishment of the QLD seat of Hill.pdf

## **Objection to abolishment of the QLD seat of Hill.**

**Population growth imbalance:** Why should Hill constituents be penalized for living in a regional area by losing their seat so the Southeast Queensland high growth areas so new seats can be created?

Why can't the Queensland Parliament amend the Electoral Act 1992 to create new seats in the high growth areas as was done in 2017? This is nearly 10 years ago.

**QRC set quota's** – According to the latest figures (31.03.2026) from the Electoral Commission Queensland, in Hill voter numbers do not fall below the 10% average number of electors in all electorates! Therefore, why is Hill being targeted? There are other electorates such as Mundingburra, Gregory or Gaven that could be absorbed into other electorates, if the Government were not prepared to use its legislative authority to amend the Act to increase the number of electorates in Queensland.

<https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/enrolment/enrolment-figures>

As a side matter if the number of constituents are less than the "magic" quota, it should be remembered that rural areas cover a large land mass with fewer people. Much of this area encompasses family farms and therefore naturally less population per kilometre area. It should be remembered that Hill is a classic example of this situation.

Hill by its nature does not have large, centralized industries requiring permanent workforces. Much of the workforce is transient – back packers who are ineligible to vote. Therefore, there is not enough commerce and industries in rural areas to attract large populations to these areas through lack of permanent employment opportunities.

Why can't or aren't quotas adjusted?

**Why has the QRC deemed it necessary to preserve three electorates with specific focus on urban Townsville?** Why should Hill be sacrificed to enable three distinct electorates of Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra.

Why can't Townsville and Hinchinbrook combine into one electorate

Leaving Hill as it is – Why should Atherton, Herberton, Ravenshoe and Tolga be redistributed into Flinders (formerly Traeger), while other parts of the Tableland (Malanda, Millaa Millaa and Yungaburra) are disconnected and moved into Mulgrave? The Atherton Tablelands feels we are one community – do not disconnect us!

Moving part of the Tablelands to Flinders is unacceptable as Flinders alone is geographically very large. How regularly will the member for Flinders be able to travel here to hear our concerns, taking our issues to parliament. The proposal is unfair to the constituents, member for Flinders and the member for Hill as he would lose his seat and be out of a job.



Increasing the size is unacceptable.

Splitting Hill, we will lose a strong advocate that has represented Hill and former Dalrymple (including Atherton & Herberton) since 2009. He must be doing things right otherwise he would be voted out. He is OUR representative – leave Hill alone!

Strong Rural Advocate: Shane is ever present in our various communities, listening to our concerns and presenting them to parliament. He has achieved much for our communities. Do not disadvantage constituents of Hill by having less focused parliamentary representation.

**LNP suggestions** – is it because the Katter Party has held the seat for so long - **Smells of Gerrymandering!**

The LNP claim:

“Traeger should extend into the Tablelands region, incorporating Ravenshoe, Herberton, Atherton, and Tolga. This expansion creates a logical north-south corridor that unites communities sharing similar agricultural interests, and service needs. The Tablelands communities have historical and ongoing connections with the pastoral and agricultural areas of western Queensland, making this boundary adjustment both statistically necessary and community-appropriate.”

As an employee of an agricultural machinery sales and service organisation in the seat of Hill, I can emphatically state that the agricultural communities we deal with are NOT primarily focused on western Queensland. Our business has customers from **all of the Tablelands** (Malanda, Millaa Millaa, the Palmerston, Ravenshoe and Herberton included), Mareeba to Kuranda & Cairns, Dimbulah, west to Georgetown, north to Cooktown and as far south as Ayr. The statement that it is more community appropriate is not supported as demonstrated above. There are several other agricultural businesses in Hill that have similar historical and ongoing connections.

“Abolish Hill – The Atherton Tablelands communities are better represented when split along their natural economic gravity: the inland agricultural towns (Herberton, Ravenshoe, Atherton and Tolga) gravitate towards the south-west, while the coastal rainforest towns (Malanda, Millaa Millaa) look east to Cairns. Abolishing Hill enables surrounding seats to regain quota without fragmenting these

Tablelands linkages and avoids a cascade of disruptive adjustments throughout Northern Queensland.”

The above assertion is not valid. The residents of the Tableland regularly travel between towns and to Cairns for major appointments. Atherton is the major economic centre for residents from the rainforest towns through to Mt Ganet. Many travel between towns for work purposes, so how can it be more conducive to split Hill and receive even less infrastructure than we get now?

It should also be noted the majority of road freight comes to the Tablelands via the Palmerston highway traversing from Innisfail through the rainforest towns to Atherton and surrounding communities. The inland highway from Chartertowers to the Tablelands is less travelled by trucks, unless the coastal road is cut due to rain and flooding. I know this as a close relative drives a heavy vehicle truck on these roads.

In closing, Hill should remain a separate QLD electorate with our current member of parliament.

Sincerely



Lorraine Stephens

