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

Submission:

The proposed redistribution unfairly divides the Hervey Bay community and separates residents from the services and identity of their city. It creates confusion, weakens representation, and treats Hervey Bay inconsistently compared to other similar coastal communities.

I object to the proposed redistribution because it divides the Hervey Bay community in a way that does not reflect how people live, access services, or identify with their region.

Hervey Bay is widely recognised as a single, unified coastal city. People live, work, shop, and access services across the whole area without regard to artificial boundaries.

Dividing this community across electorates does not reflect reality.

Impact on Residents

The proposed changes would create practical issues for residents, including:

- Confusion about which electorate they belong to
- Uncertainty about who to contact regarding local issues
- Reduced ability to advocate for community-wide concerns

Separation from Essential Services

A major concern is that key services used by Hervey Bay residents—particularly health services such as the hospital—would be placed in a different electorate.

This means:

- The community and its primary health services would be represented by different Members
- Advocacy for critical services could become fragmented
- Local issues may not be addressed cohesively

From a resident's perspective, this simply does not make sense.

Loss of Community Identity

Hervey Bay has a strong and well-established identity as a coastal city.

The proposed redistribution:

- Breaks this identity apart
- Links parts of Hervey Bay with Maryborough, which is a separate town with different characteristics
- Ignores how residents see their own community

People in Hervey Bay do not identify as being part of Maryborough. Maintaining community identity should be a key consideration in boundary decisions.

Inconsistency and Fairness

It is difficult to understand why Hervey Bay is being divided when other similar coastal areas in Queensland are not.

On the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast:

- Communities are generally kept intact
- Boundaries follow logical, recognisable areas
- Cities are not split unnecessarily

Hervey Bay deserves the same consideration.

A More Sensible Approach

There are clearly other ways to adjust boundaries without dividing Hervey Bay.

A more sensible approach would be to:

- Keep the Hervey Bay community together
- Adjust boundaries in less disruptive areas
- Use outer or rural areas to balance numbers rather than splitting a city

This would be more consistent with how boundaries are managed elsewhere.

Suggested Alternative Boundary

To balance the numbers, a more logical and balanced boundary can be achieved without dividing the core of 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

Conclusion

The proposed redistribution:

- Does not reflect how the Hervey Bay community functions
- Creates unnecessary confusion for residents
- Separates people from the services they rely on
- Treats Hervey Bay inconsistently compared to similar regions

I respectfully request that the Committee reconsider the proposed boundaries and ensure that Hervey Bay remains a single, unified electorate.