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Date Received: 27/3/26, 3:58 pm
Name: Kylie Porter
Organisation Name: Greater Whitsunday Alliance
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Mirani

Submission:

See below

Submission Attachments

Boundary Realignment Submission 260327.pdf

Friday March 27, 2026

Queensland Redistribution Commission,
Brisbane,
QLD, 4001
E: QRCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au

Dear Commissioners,

RE: Submission to the Queensland Redistribution Commission, Proposed Redistribution of Electoral Boundaries - Electorate of Mirani

On behalf of Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3), I am writing to lodge a formal objection to the proposed redistribution of electoral boundaries impacting the Mirani electorate, in particular the use of the Mackay Ring Road as a boundary line. This proposal would separate major sugarcane growing districts from the milling infrastructure on which they rely, creating an artificial divide within a highly connected agricultural region.

For context, GW3 is the peak independent economic development organisation for the Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday region, working to support long-term prosperity across the Greater Whitsunday. A core part of this role is strengthening the region's agricultural sector, which remains a foundational contributor to regional employment, exports and economic stability.

The proposed boundary would place the communities of Eton, the Pioneer Valley, Homebush, Pleystowe and Walkerston outside the electorate containing the Racecourse Sugar Mill, despite these areas operating as a single, integrated sugar producing region with shared economic, transport and workforce linkages.

The sugar industry is central to the Mirani electorate and is one of Queensland's most important sugar producing areas. It operates as a coordinated production system rather than a collection of individual farms, bringing together growers, mill operators, transport networks, contractors and supporting services.

The Racecourse Sugar Mill plays a critical role in this system, processing cane from across the Pioneer Valley and surrounding districts. Growers in Eton, Homebush, Pleystowe and Walkerston have long-standing supply arrangements with the mill and are connected through an established cane rail and haulage network that underpins the efficiency of the industry.

The proposed redistribution would split growers from the mill they supply, resulting in separate parliamentary representation for different components of what is, in practice, a single agricultural operation. This would create a number of practical challenges, including fragmented representation for an industry cluster that depends on coordinated advocacy on issues such as water security, transport infrastructure, biosecurity and workforce availability; reduced capacity for growers and millers to engage collectively with government through one local Member with a clear understanding of the full operational footprint of the industry; and increased administrative and policy complexity

where decisions affecting the milling sector span multiple electorates despite the industry functioning as a unified system.

Sugar production is highly seasonal and relies on close coordination between growers, mill operators and government agencies, particularly in relation to disaster recovery, road access, flood mitigation and rail infrastructure. Dividing growers and their primary mill across different electorates risks weakening the effectiveness and consistency of this engagement.

A further concern is the impact of the proposed boundaries on the sugarcane rail network that connects growing districts to the Racecourse Sugar Mill. The narrow-gauge cane rail system is a defining feature of the region and operates across farms and communities throughout the Pioneer Valley and surrounding areas. It provides the primary means of transporting harvested cane safely and efficiently to the mill during the crushing season.

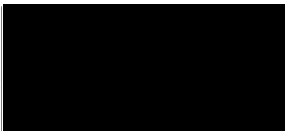
Under the proposal, this rail network would be split across electorates despite operating as a single integrated transport system, with the infrastructure located in one electorate, many growers in another and the mill potentially represented separately. This arrangement does not reflect the operational reality of the industry and risks undermining coordinated advocacy on matters such as rail crossings, road safety, maintenance and future network upgrades.

For these reasons, I respectfully submit that the proposed boundary change separating the Pioneer Valley cane growing districts from the Racecourse Mill should be reconsidered.

Should you have any further queries – please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

GREATER WHITSUNDAY ALLIANCE



Kylie M. Porter
Chief Executive Officer