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Electoral District: Hervey Bay

Submission:

The proposed boundary removes the Hervey Bay Hospital from the Hervey Bay electorate, leaving the city without a hospital and placing both major regional hospitals within the Maryborough electorate. This creates a clear misalignment between community of interest, service catchments, and political representation. The Hervey Bay Hospital overwhelmingly serves the Hervey Bay population and forms part of the city's established urban footprint. Relocating it into the Maryborough electorate fragments accountability for health services, weakens advocacy, and breaks the representational link between residents and their primary health facility.

The proposed boundary also shifts the Hervey Bay Sport Precinct into the Maryborough electorate, despite the precinct being advocated for, funded, and delivered specifically for the Hervey Bay community. This facility—including the regional athletics track, future indoor courts, aquatic centre site, and associated sporting infrastructure—is integral to the Hervey Bay growth corridor and is used predominantly by local residents and sporting clubs. Moving it out of the electorate removes long-standing advocacy continuity and undermines the purpose and intent of the investment.

Across the Fraser Coast, these changes collectively create a regional imbalance. Major public assets and key growth areas are transferred to the Maryborough electorate, while Hervey Bay loses representation over the services and facilities its population relies on. Several rural and peri-urban communities are also redistributed in ways that do not reflect their service patterns or community connections. The resulting boundaries do not align with the functional geography of the Fraser Coast and should be reconsidered to better reflect community-of-interest principles.

A practical solution is to retain the Hervey Bay Hospital and Hervey Bay Sport Precinct within the Hervey Bay electorate by adjusting the boundary slightly west to follow a clearer physical feature such as the Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road corridor. This approach could maintain quota compliance while preserving the integrity of the Hervey Bay urban footprint, keeping major public facilities aligned with the communities that rely on them, and avoiding fragmentation of the city's primary growth corridor. It also ensures that representation reflects actual service catchments and community identity across the Fraser Coast.