

Submission ID: O-0127
Date Received: 12/3/26, 4:14 pm
Name: Liz Harris
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Hill

Submission:

To: Queensland Redistribution Commission
Email: QRCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed redistribution that would alter or abolish the electoral district of Hill. As a resident of this community, I urge the Commission to retain the current boundaries because Hill is a unique rural district with very different needs, identity, and priorities from Cairns or other urban areas.

Hill includes towns and communities such as Atherton, Innisfail, Tully, Babinda, Malanda, Mission Beach, Ravenshoe, Yungaburra, Tolga, Millaa Millaa, Herberton, Mount Garnet, Dimbulah, and Innot Hot Springs. These communities share strong rural connections, regional infrastructure, and economic interdependence. The proposed merger with Cairns would erase decades of local identity, disrupt essential services, and weaken our representation.

Our rural communities rely on local hospitals, clinics, schools, emergency services, and transport networks that are planned around the current district. Changing the boundaries would risk fragmenting these services, leaving residents underserved. Roads, disaster response, and healthcare access in remote areas are all tailored to Hill's existing population and geography. Integrating these towns with Cairns would make planning and service delivery far less effective.

Hill's economy is primarily agriculture, mining, and regional tourism, which is fundamentally different from Cairns' urban economy. Forcing Hill into a Cairns electorate would dilute focus on rural issues, threaten investment in local industries, and reduce advocacy for policies that support regional livelihoods.

Our community also has a clear and shared interest in rural issues such as water management, land use, road maintenance, health services, and employment. These concerns are not shared by Cairns residents, and merging these areas would make effective representation impossible, leaving Hill residents without a strong voice in Parliament.

Additionally, the current boundaries reflect natural communities, infrastructure, and historical connections. Redrawing them now would create confusion for voters, disrupt service coordination, and set a dangerous

precedent for rural communities across Queensland. Hill has functioned effectively as a cohesive rural electorate for decades, and there is no justification for altering its boundaries.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Queensland Redistribution Commission to reject any proposal that abolishes, splits, or merges Hill. Preserving the existing boundaries is essential to protect our rural identity, maintain access to essential services, support local economies, and ensure fair and effective representation.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Harris

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