

Submission ID: O-0613
Date Received: 8/4/26, 8:36 am
Name: Michael Lollback
Organisation Name: Blackall-Tambo Regional Council
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Gregory

Submission:

See below

Submission Attachments

Email - Michael Lollback - Electoral Redistribution 20260407 V1.2.pdf



Blackall-Tambo

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Reference: 95705
7 April 2026

The Electoral Commission of Queensland,
Queensland Redistribution Commission.

Objection to the proposed changes to the boundary of the Gregory State Electoral District (with specific reference to the redistribution of Tambo and its environs into the Warrego State Electoral District).

For the attention of the Commissioners of the Queensland Electoral Commission,

**Mr Gregory Koppenol,
Mr John Sosso, and
Mr Patrick Vidgen PSM.**

Submitted by: Michael (Mike) John Lollback: Chief Executive Officer, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, on behalf of:

The Mayor and Councillors of the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council:

**Mayor, Cr. Andrew Martin
Deputy Mayor, Cr David Hardie
Cr. Peter Skewes OAM
Cr. Boyd Johnstone
Cr. Alina Hart
Cr. Jane Scobie
Cr. Grahame Schulter, and**

**The staff of the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, and the
Community of the Blackall-Tambo Region.**

And to:

The Hon David Crisafulli, Premier of Queensland and Minister for Veterans.

The Hon Jarrod Blijie, Member for Kawana. Deputy Premier of Queensland. Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations.

The Hon Ann Leahy, Member for Warrego. Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers.

Mr. Sean Dillon, Member for Gregory. Assistant Minister for Primary Industry Development, Water and Western Queensland.

Cr. Matt Burnett, Mayor of Gladstone Regional Council and President of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

Ms. Alison Smith, Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

Mr. Morgan Gronold, Chief Executive officer RAPAD

Mr. Greg Hoffman PSM, Executive Officer, the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (WQAC)

This written objection is submitted as part of the stage 3 of the Queensland Redistribution Commission (The Commission) public consultation process, in accordance with the *Electoral Act, 1992*.

In making this submission I am aware of varied other objections being made by, the Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD), the Western Alliance of Councils (WQAC), other councils of Central and Western Queensland and members of the public. This submission is not intended to mirror those submissions, rather to be read in conjunction with them so that the fullness of the opposition to this proposal can be better understood.

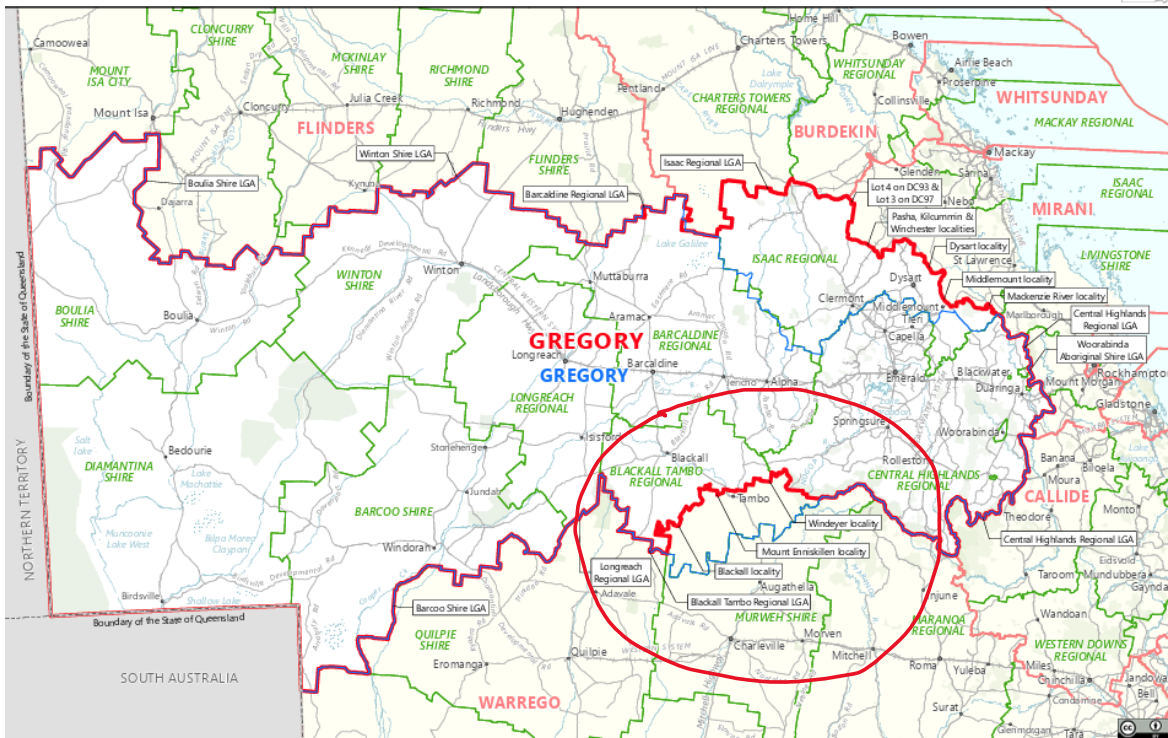
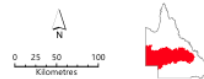
INTRODUCTION:

This submission is an objection to the proposed redistribution of the electoral districts of Warrego and Gregory. In particular, the submission strongly objects to the township of Tambo and surrounding rural properties being removed from their current electoral district, Gregory, and placed in the Warrego Electoral District.

This submission advocates that no change is made to the existing boundary and that Tambo and its environs within the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council area remains in the Gregory Electoral District.

GREGORY

— Proposed state electoral district
— Current state electoral district
— Local government area (LGA)



This submission recognises that the redistribution report is in draft and provides only a quantitative measures of electoral votes (that will be discussed further in this submission). The Queensland Redistribution Commission ‘Submission and publication guidelines, indicates that the Commission must “also consider and weigh the following factors that impact electorates and their surrounding communities”:

- Economic, social, regional or other community of interest factors
- Ways of communication and travel within electoral districts
- The physical features of each proposed electoral district
- Boundaries of existing electoral districts
- Demographic trends in the state, with a view to ensuring electoral districts remain within quota.

(Queensland Redistribution Submission and Publication Guidelines, P.1)

As these matters do not appear in the draft report by the Commission, it is presumed that those matters will be taken into account in this, phase 3, or the process, before any final decision is made.

This submission argues that in consideration of all aspects of this proposal, the change to the electoral boundary that will move Tambo and its environs from the Gregory

Electorate to the Warrego Electorate has economic, social and regional consequences, and is unnecessary when measured against the Commissions own targets of tolerance of electoral voters.

Economic, social, regional or other community of interest factors:

In March 2008 the State Government of Queensland forcibly amalgamated 157 local government areas into 73, aiming for “sustainability and economies of scale”. The amalgamations resulted in significant community protest that resulted in the de-amalgamation of several councils in 2014, establishing the 77 Local Governments in Queensland today. Those amalgamations saw the creation of ‘super councils’ with Queensland having both the largest and amongst the smallest local government area’s (by number of voters) in Australia.

The former Blackall Shire and Tambo Shire were amongst those areas forcibly amalgamated. Tambo is the oldest township in Western Queensland, and its amalgamation was hard felt by its residents. Suggestions of varied names were considered for the new Council, but the historic flavour of the community saw the new Council named Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, the only Queensland Council to direct join the names of the two Shires. This was done to protect the unique identity of each place and demonstrate the commitment to build a community of communities within the region. That name proudly stands to this day.

Two present Councillors on the current Blackall Tambo Regional Council, Cr. Peter Skewes and Cr. Graham Schulter served on that newly amalgamated Council and have asked that I include the turmoil they faced in their attempts to fully amalgamate the ‘old Council’s’.

Since 2008, Council has worked tirelessly in establishing a fully functional and well-regarded local government area. The current Mayor, Cr Andrew Martin, was first elected in 2016 and is currently in his third term. The Council, under his leadership, has worked tirelessly in achieving both the economies of scale the State of Queensland aspired to, and the cohesion and harmony of the community.

Blackall and Tambo are “like” communities. The townships of Blackall and Tambo are separated by 100klm, and residents of both towns share services and social experiences. Children from Tambo attend the Blackall State High School, and young people from both townships make up this Council’s ‘Youth Council’, a group of youths, elected by their peers, to represent youth issue. Council has a bus service that services residents of both towns. That bus is a direct partnership between Council and the State government and used to transport people from one township, including rural properties, to another, as well as to airline connections and medical appointments. Council has proudly maintained services to both townships such as libraries, sporting facilities, swimming pools and arts and culture centres. The two townships are now intimately

linked to each other as two separate and distinct areas with common ties. The relationship between the two areas is enhanced by having a single Council, a single state electorate and a single federal electorate. This has meant that both towns share the common bond of having one state member across those issues that affect both townships and the region as a whole. The division of that community cohesion is threatened directly by this proposal and, intended or otherwise, has the two areas compete with rather than complement each other.

The economic and social connections between the two areas is one that have been built over the past 18 years since amalgamation. It is not by accident. It can be attributed to hard work in forging two townships into one community of interest.

The Commission's proposal effectively divides the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council into two separate and distinct state electorates and threatens the social cohesion and community connection that has been established between Blackall and Tambo following the Amalgamation in 2008, that has met the state government's intended purpose of achieving an economy of scale. The turmoil of those immediate years after amalgamation have given way to a functionally operational and socially cohesive local government area. The ethos of the entire region is one based on shared services, community connectedness and commonalities in Local, State and Federal political representation.

As already stated, the Local, State and Federal electoral districts are common across the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council area. These are, the seats of Gregory, from a State perspective, Maranoa, from a Federal perspective, and the Blackall-Tambo Local Government. Those regions all work in concert to ensure democratic decisions across the entire region are consistent and cohesive. The proposed changes creates a complicated change in a workable system that is neither operationally nor politically functional.

Maintaining the current boundary that will retain Tambo and its environs in the Gregory Electoral District reflects over a decade of strong social and economic growth. The democratic process is enhanced by ensuring that these communities of interest remain linked in-service delivery and political commonality.

Ways of communication and travel within electoral districts:

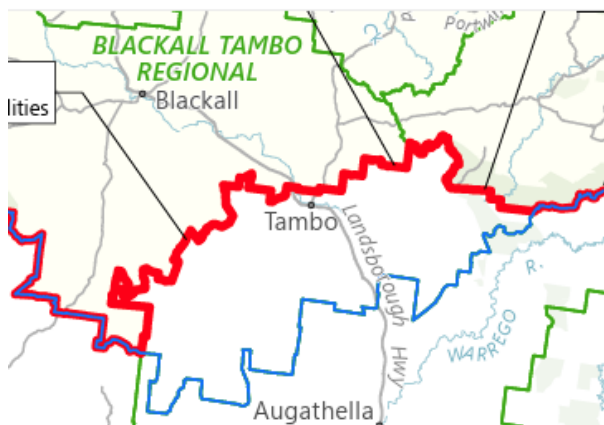
Tambo is situated 100Klm from Blackall, making the travel links between the two townships easy and achievable. The closest large township within the Warrego Electoral District to Tambo is Charleville, some 200Klm away, effectively doubling the travel distance and time. Augathella is also a small community that shares strong commonality with Charleville and is within the Shire of Murweh situated around 120Klm from Tambo. There is little commonality between the townships of Augathella, Charleville and Tambo. The relationship between Blackall and Tambo is well formed,

and well understood by Local, State and Federal members. This proposal would 'isolate' Tambo as the furthest most outpost of the Warrego District, standing alone from its nearest town that has established social relationships. Its fair and equitable representation on a State level would suffer by being outside of the Gregory Electorate, sharing that electorate with the greater Murweh Shire area rather than with its direct community of interest within the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council. It is feared that this will weaken the capacity of the township to be affectively advocated at a State level, weakening its democratic platform.

Boundaries of existing electoral districts – ensuring electoral districts remain within quota

The map here, taken from the Commission's web site shows both the existing State electoral boundary (in Blue) and the proposed electoral boundary (in red). The existing blue line has Tambo and its environs in the Gregory District. The red line moves it to the Warrego District.

It should be noted here that the existing boundary mirrors the current local government area, and the proposed boundary effectively shifts the Region into two distinct electoral districts. The proposed boundary sits on the literal 'doorstep' of the township of Tambo.



The Commission’s Redistribution Proposal (the report) provides the following:

Gregory

	Enrolment September 2025*	Projected Enrolment 2032*	Area (km ²)
Existing boundaries	35,498 (-11.67%)	35,926 (-19.59%)	459,680
Proposed boundaries	40,324 (+0.34%)	40,672 (-8.97%)	481,217
Losses	Loses the southern portion of the Blackall Tambo local government area, including the town of Tambo, to Warrego.		
Gains	Gains the western portion of the Isaac local government area from Burdekin.		
Composition	The Boulia, Diamantina, Winton, Barcoo, Longreach, Barcaldine, Central Highlands and Woorabinda local government areas, and portions of the Isaac and Blackall Tambo local government areas.		

*Enrolment is inclusive of the “additional large district number”.

The district of Gregory is currently below the minimum enrolment threshold, meaning the Commission is required to make changes to bring the district back into quota.

The Commission proposes **moderate changes** to this district. The proposed changes add the western portion of the Isaac local government area, currently in Burdekin, and transfer the southern portion of the Blackall Tambo local government area to Warrego. These changes serve to rebalance the number of electors between the large districts, retain the existing boundaries to the extent practicable, and limit the geographical expansion of the district. Submissions including S-078, S-101, S-110 (LNP), S-114 and S-115 (ALP) suggested Gregory expand into the Isaac local government area to various extents.

The proposed district is slightly below the average State enrolment, and projected to decline toward the lower end of the enrolment threshold, but remain in quota, in the coming years.

(Proposal for the Redistribution of the States Electoral Districts. March 2006)

The rationale described for this change is based on the district of Gregory, currently “below the minimum enrolment threshold”. It gives no account of those other matters included in the “key legislative considerations” in the Commission’s ‘Submission and publication Guidelines’. It emerges as counter-intuitive for the Gregory electorate, based on the rationale of the report, to effectively ‘remove’ the voters of Tambo and its environs from the Gregory Division.

Warrego

	Enrolment September 2025*	Projected Enrolment 2032*	Area (km ²)
Existing boundaries	38,597 (-3.96%)	38,725 (-13.33%)	337,811
Proposed boundaries	40,961 (+1.92%)	41,109 (-7.99%)	351,296
Losses	No losses.		
Gains	Gains the eastern portion of the Western Downs local government area including the towns of Jandowae and Bell from Callide. Gains the southern portion of Blackall Tambo local government area, including the town of Tambo, from Gregory.		
Composition	The Bulloo, Quilpie, Paroo, Murweh, Maranoa and Balonne local government areas, and portions of the Western Downs, Blackall Tambo, and Toowoomba local government areas.		

*Enrolment is inclusive of the "additional large district number".

The Commission proposes **minimal changes** to the district of Warrego, with two areas of territory added to the district to improve projected enrolment.

A portion of the Western Downs local government area, including Jandowae and Bell is proposed to be transferred to Warrego from Callide. Submissions including S-110 (LNP) and S-114 suggested these towns be included in Warrego. These areas are well connected and share a community of interest with Dalby. The southern portion of Blackall Tambo local government area, including the town of Tambo is also proposed to be transferred from Gregory.

The proposed changes serve to balance the number of electors between Warrego and Gregory, retain the existing boundaries to the extent possible, and limit the geographical expansion of the district.

The proposed district is slightly below the average State enrolment, and projected to decline toward the lower end of the enrolment threshold, but remain in quota, in the coming years.

(Proposal for the Redistribution of the States Electoral Districts. March 2006)

Whilst it is recognised that the Commission has a responsibility to ensure electoral equity, the report fails to demonstrate that a fully immersive and measurable process has been carried out. Whilst the 'Key Legislative' considerations in the report commences with the equal distribution of electors throughout Queensland, it also indicates variances of 10% ("the quota") at the time of redistribution. It also clearly states that the Commission must consider those other factors previously outlined. *(summarised from page 1 of the Submission and publication guidelines)*

It becomes clear that the proposal that has been published in the draft report, is qualitative in nature only and fails to consider those other key legislative requirements. This objection is designed to highlight those other key considerations that the Commission 'must' consider.

When considering both the Warrego and Gregory Districts, the shifting of Tambo into Warrego emerges as of little consequence to the total number of votes across either electoral district. It is well within the tolerance of 10%.

Neither does the draft report include any submission to the Commission (as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report) that raises any suggestions regarding excising Tambo from the current Gregory Electoral Division. It should be noted here that Council did not input into that first stage of consultation as the current proposal is so remote that it was not even considered by this Council or the community as a rational proposal that the Commission would consider.

In summary, the report provides only that quantitative measure and fails to provide any empirical data that demonstrates that those matters that the Commission ‘must’ consider have factored in any way in this proposal.

On the 25 March 2026, Mayor Cr. Andrew Martin requested information from the boundaries Commission on the number of registered votes that would transfer from the Gregory Electorate to the Warrego electorate under this proposal. The following was received in reply:

From: QRCboundaries <QRCboundaries@ecq.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 3:55:04 PM
To: Cr Andrew Martin <mayor@btrc.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Information Blackall Tambo Regional Council.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Councillor,

Thank you for your email regarding the number of potential electors in the Tambo locality and surrounding area, proposed to be transferred to the Warrego electorate under the Queensland Redistribution Commission's (QRC) proposed redistribution.

Under the proposed redistribution, approximately 361 electors are expected to be impacted. This estimate has been derived from enrolment data for the two Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) covering Tambo and the surrounding areas, as published on the QRC's interactive map. These SA1s are currently within the Gregory electorate and proposed to be transferred to Warrego. As one of the SA1s is split between the proposed Gregory and Warrego electorates, the figure provided is indicative only.

The QRC has published an interactive map on its [website](#) that allows users to view enrolment data by selecting an SA1 layer.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

**Queensland Redistribution
Commission**

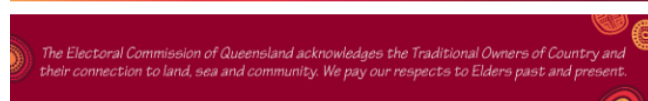
☎ 1300 881 665

@ QRCboundaries@ecq.qld.gov.au

📍 L20/1 Eagle Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000



ecq.qld.gov.au



After discussions with the WQAC, RAPAD, local State politicians and local elected representatives we dispute the figures in the attached email. We suggest the figure is closer to 261 or less. It is disappointing that researchers who have provided the information on which the Commission have based its decisions have not followed basic research methodology and ‘fact checked’ their data. Mayor, Cr. Martin has been

advised that the figure of 361, as stated above, is ‘indicative ‘only’. It is concerning that in applying qualitative measures on which a major decision is based, that ‘indicative’ rather than ‘demonstrated’ data has been used, rendering this recommendation, at worst, misleading.

Equal Partners in Government.

The process followed by the Commission and the submission publication guidelines are heavy in legislative and procedural correctness. It is presumed this stage 3 consultation submission is designed to determine those qualitative matters that the Commission must consider in its final determination.

In March 2025 the Queensland Government established the Equal Partners in Government Agreement. Central to this proposal is that Local Government should be responsible for decisions that impact their areas (Page 4, Point 3.3). In this regard, the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council should be recognised as critical stakeholders in any decisions made.

To now, the Equal Partnership intent has either been disregarded or purposefully ignored. Councils have not been directly consulted with or asked to provide any information to the Commission prior to the proposal being released to the public. The Agreement, signed by Premier, the Hon David Crisifulli MP and the Hon Ann Leahy MP, on the 11 March 2025, commences with the words “local government is a genuinely equal partner in the Australian government system”. (Page 3)

Point 4.2, of the Agreement states:

The Queensland Government will:

- Undertake timely and meaningful consultation on all policy, legislation, strategy and program initiatives where the local government has an interest where practicable, a minimum period of four weeks to allow the LGAQ to engage meaningfully with its members.
- Ensure timely and meaningful engagement with individual councils when making decisions that directly impact their local government area
- Promote awareness of the Agreement amongst all Queensland Government departments, ensuring a whole of government commitment to the agreed principles.

It is noted that this submission is a ‘proposal’ and a final decision is yet to be made. The legislative requirements of the Electoral Act 1992 do not exclude the intent of the Equal Partners in Government Agreement being applying to this decision and we respectfully request that the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council be included in any final decisions

regarding the redistribution. Legislation is designed to ensure procedural correctness, not as an instrument to limit procedural fairness.

Community Consultation:

The strict application of legislative provision in this proposal has meant that neither Council nor the broader Blackall-Tambo have been directly consulted, prior to the publication of the report.

Before embarking on this objection, Council wanted to find out what the community thought about the proposal. Whilst there was anecdotal evidence that the community was opposed to the change, Council undertook a community survey across the whole Council area. The results of that survey are contained in the **Annexure** to this objection submission. The sample size and results demonstrate a reliable sample. It clearly shows a result that demonstrates community opposition to the proposed changes:

- 109 respondents
- 90 do not agree
- 8 do agree
- 3 are unsure.

It is this survey and the results attached to this report that have allowed me to submit this report with this inclusion of ‘the community’ as objectors to the proposed redistribution.

Conclusion

This report is provided to assist the Commission in its final decision. Retaining the current electoral boundary that will continue to have Tambo and its environs in the Gregory Electoral District is both a rational and measurable outcome. It ensures that the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council area remains within a single State electorate and ensures commonality of like communities on both a Local, State and Federal level.

Further, under the terms of the Equal Partner Agreement between the State and Queensland’s Local Governments, and final decisions should be made with the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council and not for the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council.

Respectfully, the quantitative measure outlined in the Commission’s draft proposal is incorrect in the total numbers of voters considered. It is contended that the figure is closer to 261. This, together with the fully consideration of those required qualitative factors clearly indicate that leaving Tambo and its environs in the Gregory Electoral Division is necessary and measurable.

This objection is in no way aimed at any current sitting member. It is more broadly an objection to a change to electoral boundaries that will effectively divide the state membership of a like community. It simply does not make sense, particularly when

considering that leaving Tambo and its environs within the Gregory Electoral Division is within the State's tolerances.

It is with the strongest conviction that this objection is submitted to the Queensland Redistribution Commission to be considered in phase 3 of their consultation process.

Yours faithfully

Mike Lollback
Chief Executive Officer.

Annexure:

Survey results conducted by the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council regarding changes in the proposed electoral redistribution changes

Responses Overview Active



1. Where do you live?



2. Before March 2026, were you aware that electoral boundaries are being reviewed?



3. Have you looked at the proposed changes to the electoral boundaries?



4. Do you support the proposed changes to the electoral boundaries?

