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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Burnett

Submission:

**Submission to the Queensland Redistribution Commission
Re: Proposed Boundary Change – Transfer of Agnes Water and
Seventeen Seventy from Burnett to Callide**

Type of submission: Electoral boundaries

I write to oppose the proposed boundary change that would transfer Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy from the electoral district of Burnett to the electoral district of Callide.

Proposed change:

I recommend that Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy remain within the electoral district of Burnett.

1. Community of Interest

Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy share a strong economic, social and regional community of interest with the existing Burnett electorate.

Our communities are closely connected to coastal and tourism-based economies, with strong links to Bundaberg and surrounding coastal areas. These connections are reflected in business activity, service use, and community identity.

In contrast, the electorate of Callide is predominantly inland, with economic drivers focused on agriculture, mining and rural industries. The inclusion of small coastal communities with fundamentally different economic and social characteristics risks weakening effective representation of these distinct interests.

2. Communication and Travel

The practicality of communication and travel is a significant concern.

Within the current Burnett electorate, access between Agnes Water/Seventeen Seventy and other parts of the electorate is comparatively straightforward and aligned along coastal and regional transport routes.

Under the proposed change, our communities would be positioned on the far eastern edge of the vastly larger Callide electorate. Travel between key centres within Callide involves substantial distances and travel times, often requiring several hours by road.

This creates a material barrier to regular, in-person engagement between the local member and our community, as well as reduced accessibility for residents seeking assistance.

3. Physical Features

The physical geography of the proposed Callide electorate further reinforces these challenges.

Callide spans a large inland area with diverse terrain and widely dispersed population centres. Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy are geographically distinct as coastal communities separated from much of the electorate by

distance and differing landscape.

Maintaining these coastal communities within Burnett better reflects natural geographic groupings and avoids placing them on the periphery of a large inland electorate.

4. Existing Boundaries

The current boundary arrangement within Burnett already provides effective representation for Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy.

Our communities are not peripheral within Burnett; rather, they form an established and recognised part of the electorate. This continuity supports strong representation and established relationships with state services and stakeholders.

Altering this arrangement would disrupt those established connections without clear benefit to community representation.

5. Local Business and Economic Impact

Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy have a strong and growing tourism sector that relies on responsive and accessible state representation.

As a local tourism business operator, I have seen firsthand the importance of having a local member who is physically present, understands the region, and can engage directly with operators on issues such as infrastructure, visitor safety, road conditions, and seasonal demand pressures.

Tourism businesses operate in a dynamic environment where timely communication and advocacy are critical. Under the current arrangement, access to our local member supports efficient escalation of issues and meaningful engagement with government agencies.

If our community is moved into the electorate of Callide, the practical reality of distance and scale will make this level of engagement significantly more difficult to maintain. With competing priorities across a vast inland electorate, smaller coastal tourism communities risk reduced visibility and slower response times on issues that directly impact local economies.

This has flow-on effects not only for individual businesses, but for employment, visitor experience, and the broader regional economy.

6. Demographic Considerations

While I acknowledge the requirement to maintain elector numbers within the allowable quota, this objective should be balanced with the need to preserve meaningful community representation.

If adjustments are required to meet quota requirements, alternative boundary changes that do not separate coastal communities from their natural regional alignment should be considered.

Conclusion

The proposed transfer of Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy to Callide does not adequately reflect community of interest, creates significant challenges in communication and travel, and places geographically distinct coastal communities within a large inland electorate.

It also risks weakening effective representation for a growing coastal tourism economy that relies on accessible and engaged state representation.

For these reasons, I respectfully submit that Agnes Water and Seventeen

Seventy should remain within the electoral district of Burnett.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Janina Speck

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