

Submission ID: O-0264
Date Received: 18/3/26, 8:19 am
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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Burnett

Submission:

Objection to Proposed Redistribution - Agnes Water & 1770

I am writing to formally object to the proposed redistribution that would move Agnes Water and 1770 from the electorate of Burnett into Callide.

This objection is based on concerns around effective representation, accessibility to our elected member, and the practical realities of servicing a geographically large electorate.

Agnes Water and 1770 are coastal communities with distinct needs, including tourism, small business support, coastal infrastructure, and access to essential services. These needs differ significantly from those of the predominantly inland and agricultural communities that make up much of the Callide electorate.

Under the current arrangement within Burnett, our community benefits from regular, in-person engagement with our local member. This includes attendance at community meetings, direct conversations with residents and business owners, and follow-up on local issues. This level of visibility and accessibility is particularly important in regional areas where services and advocacy already face challenges.

The proposed move into Callide raises concerns about reduced access to representation due to the sheer geographic scale of that electorate. Callide covers a vast inland area, and it is reasonable to expect that smaller coastal communities on its eastern edge would receive less frequent in-person engagement simply due to travel distances and competing priorities across the electorate.

Effective representation is not just about balancing voter numbers. It also depends on a community's ability to access and engage with its elected representative in a meaningful and ongoing way. The current proposal risks weakening that connection for Agnes Water and 1770.

Additionally, our communities have stronger functional, economic, and social ties to the Bundaberg region than to the inland centres that dominate the Callide electorate. Maintaining alignment with these existing connections supports more coherent and effective representation.

I respectfully request that the Commission reconsider the proposed boundary changes and retain Agnes Water and 1770 within the Burnett electorate to

ensure continued effective and accessible representation for our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback as part of this consultation process.