

Submission ID: O-0462
Date Received: 31/3/26, 2:39 pm
Name: Bianca Maggs
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Hill

Submission:

See below

Submission Attachments

Email - Bianca Maggs - Objection to proposed Hill Electorate redistribution.pdf

From: Bianca Maggs Favaro [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 2:39 PM
To: QRC Submissions
Cc: hill@parliament.qld.gov.au
Subject: Objection to proposed Hill Electorate redistribution

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Hi,

I understand the seat of Hill has been called into question and might be redistributed into other electorates of Queensland, and another seat might open in South East Queensland (SEQ) due to the redistribution and evaluation every so many years. From what I understand this is due to the population increase in South East Queensland, however I am writing to advise why I believe the Hill Electorate should remain:

The Hill Electorate candidate already needs to communicate and liaise with multiple Shire Councils (Mareeba Shire Council, Tablelands Regional Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council and Cairns Regional Council). This is already a higher workload by having to keep updated on each of the councils happenings, compared to most candidates in SEQ.

Far North Queensland needs a seat here for food security. I couldn't find the statistics but there is a great deal of diverse agriculture on the Atherton Tablelands, which needs political attention, if the seat is redistributed into Traeger for example that is already a large area mass of land in that electorate or Mulgrave who might have some experience with sugarcane and bananas but might not have as much experience in the diversity of the agriculture in the Hill electorate. Farmers really need that voice. Farming is not for the light hearted, a successful crop hinges on so many factors (weather, pests, etc). Especially at this point in time in our history with the war in Iran having already driven up the cost of fuel which will impact farmers heavily and will also impact consumers.

By having the Hill Electorate seat remain it would be INDIRECTLY beneficial to the population in South East Queensland and Queensland by helping with FOOD SECURITY for our state.

There is a disconnect between Rural and Urban Australia in general, having another seat in Far North Queensland is helping to have a voice for the people in our community and most especially for the more vulnerable people in our community:

- Recently Tableland Regional Council went to close libraries due to higher online uptake and lower in person borrowing - when from observation many people come to use the library recreationally and might not borrow the book. Plus not everyone is privy to having reception to borrow online. This is just one of the many examples of how rural and urban life differ. <https://www.theexpressnewspaper.com.au/libraries-on-the-chopping-block-2025-07-15> The local libraries run so many programs that promote learning especially in regards to childhood development. It rains a lot in this part of the world, the library offers an affordable, dry place for connection amongst friends.
- The current candidate Shane has been a voice in regards to Tablelands Regional Council assets. This included speaking about the potential closure of swimming pools in the area being essential swimming locations especially with the current increased risk of crocodiles

moving into local swimming holes. Every child in Australia should have an equal opportunity to learn how to swim. <https://www.facebook.com/reel/887201087361048>

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/swimming-health-benefits>

- Health Services in Rural Areas - It is very hard to find a General Practitioner who hasn't closed their books to patients on the tablelands. Whilst everywhere in Australia can consult 13 HEALTH or make an online consultation, for in person consultation urban areas such as South East Queensland have more access to health services compared to those in the Hill Electorate. For example there is a bulk billing GP service in Brisbane which can see the patient in person at their home <https://hellohomedoctor.com.au/brisbane/>
- Varying infrastructure challenges in rural areas. For example a few years ago Mareeba Shire had to increase the rates due to old pipes in the town <https://www.theexpressnewspaper.com.au/rates-on-the-rise-for-mareeba-2021-06-23>
- National Parks - whilst there are many National Parks throughout Queensland, the Hill electorate contains quite a substantial amount of National Park compared to a suburban Brisbane electorate.
- Weather events - Far North Queensland sees a fair amount of rain, flooding, bushfires and cyclones. Whilst there are extreme flooding events in SEQ as well, when there are flooding events in FNQ or below it impacts the ability to travel and the availability of products. For example the closest Woolworths distribution centre to the Atherton Tablelands is Townsville. The Bruce Highway between here and Townsville gets cut often during these weather events. Whereas Brisbane has at least three distribution centres.
- Tourism - tourism is throughout Australia, however Far North Queensland has its own unique tourism places which are important parts to our economy. There would be more tourism in the Hill electorate compared to a suburban Brisbane electorate.
- I have noticed more people in town and moving to this area these past two to three years. The current candidate has raised valid transport/traffic concerns for the area - <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1GmjQohxGv/>
- To also help give you an idea of the diversity the following link is what the current candidate of Hill has achieved: <https://www.shaneknuth.com.au/achievements#:~:text=Shane%20Knuth%20MP%20has%20been,new%20community%20centre%20in%20Atherton>
- Energy - there is renewable energy on the tablelands (The Tablelands Mill, Mt Emerald Wind Farm, Paronella Park Hydro Pumps, etc) compared to a suburb of Brisbane
- There is a concept amongst some Far North Queenslanders in regards to the Kuranda Range in the Cook electorate, that if the Kuranda Range was actually in SEQ it would have been fixed by now, that the population in Far North Queensland misses out on a lot of things and that their is favouritism towards SEQ. I understand there is a higher density of population and the state government would be working towards preparing for the upcoming Olympics in Brisbane, however Far North Queensland is still really important as well and should not be forgotten about. The current candidate for Hill, has also spoken on the Kuranda Range, as even though it falls in the Cook electorate, it greatly impacts the Hill electorate. That is how complex it can be up in Far North Queensland. Many tourists visit the region via the Kuranda Range, and local people commute from the tablelands to Cairns for work and health appointments.

Kind regards

Bianca Maggs

