

**Submission ID:** O-0615  
**Date Received:** 8/4/26, 10:35 am  
**Name:** Josip Vidakovic  
**Organisation Name:** Australian Sugar Manufacturers  
**Submission Topic:** Electorate Boundaries  
**Electoral District:** Mirani

**Submission:**

8 April 2026

Queensland Redistribution Commission  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Email: [QRCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:QRCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au)

**RE: SUBMISSION TO THE QUEENSLAND REDISTRIBUTION  
COMMISSION – ELECTORATE OF MIRANI**

Dear Commissioners,

Australian Sugar Manufacturers welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Queensland Redistribution Commission regarding the proposed electoral boundary changes affecting the electorate of Mirani. We write in support of the submission made by Glen Kelly MP, Member for Mirani, concerning the proposed use of the Mackay Ring Road as a boundary marker which would separate key cane growing districts from the Racecourse Sugar Mill and associated transport infrastructure.

The proposed boundaries from the Queensland Redistribution Commission risks dividing a highly integrated agricultural and manufacturing system centred around sugar production in the Mackay region. The communities of Eton, the Pioneer Valley, Homebush, Pleystowe and Walkerston are closely connected to the Racecourse Sugar Mill through longstanding supply arrangements, shared infrastructure networks and established economic relationships. These districts operate as part of a unified production system that relies on coordination between growers, mill operators, transport providers, contractors and supporting regional services.

Throughout Queensland, sugar manufacturing is characterised by a high degree of interdependence between agricultural production and milling operations. Growers depend on reliable access to milling capacity, while mills rely on consistent cane supply across the region. This interrelationship is supported by a dedicated cane rail network and road transport corridors that connect farms directly to the mill during the annual crush season. The Racecourse Sugar Mill is a critical piece of regional manufacturing infrastructure that services growers across multiple localities within the Mirani electorate and surrounding suburbs.

The proposed redistribution would divide growers from the mill they supply and fragment the cane rail network that connects these communities. The narrow-gauge cane rail system is a defining feature of the region's agricultural landscape and operates as a single integrated freight network across farms, local roads and regional transport corridors. Dividing this network between electorates would create an artificial distinction between different components of the same production system, despite the infrastructure functioning as a unified network supporting regional manufacturing activity.

Maintaining coherent representation for interconnected agricultural and manufacturing communities is important for effective engagement with government on issues affecting regional industries. Sugar production is highly seasonal and exposed to external factors including weather events, flooding biosecurity risks, road access constraints and work force availability. Grower and mill operators frequently engage with government agencies and elected representatives on matters relating to disaster recovery, infrastructure maintenance, transport safety and regulatory settings that affect the viability of regional manufacturing operations.

Separating growers from the mill they supply risks weakening the effectiveness of this engagement by dividing responsibility for different components of the same production system across multiple state electorates. This fragmentation does not reflect the practical reality of how the sugar industry operates across Queensland.

*The Queensland Electorate Act 1992* recognises the importance of maintaining communities of interest when determining electoral boundaries. The Pioneer Valley, Walkerston, Homebush, Pleystowe and Eton districts share strong economic, social and industrial connections centred on sugar production and their ongoing relationship with the Racecourse Sugar Mill. While the Mackay Ring Road is an important transport corridor, it does not represent a logical boundary for these communities in terms of economic activity or industry structure.

Australian Sugar Manufacturers supports the alternative boundary alignment proposed by Glen Kelly MP, which follows established infrastructure corridors including Cowley's Road, the Peak Downs Highway and the North Coast Rail Line. These corridors represent clear geographic features that align with existing land use patterns and infrastructure networks. Importantly, this alternative alignment would maintain the connection between cane growing districts and the Racecourse Sugar Mill within the same electorate, preserving a longstanding economic community of interest that has existed in the region for generations.

Maintaining the integrity of established agricultural and manufacturing clusters supports coherent engagement between industry and government on policy development, infrastructure investment and disaster response management. Ensuring that millers, growers and associated transport infrastructure remain within the same electorate better reflects the integrated nature of regional Queensland.

For these reasons, Australian Sugar Manufacturers encourages the Queensland

Redistribution Commission to reconsider the proposed boundary alignment affecting the Mirani electorate and to adopt the alternative alignment outlined in Glen Kelly MP's submission.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at: [REDACTED] or via: [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

**Josip Vidakovic**  
**Government, Industry & External Engagement Manager Australian**  
**Sugar Manufacturers**

### **Submission Attachments**

ASM - Queensland Redistribution Commission Mirani Electorate (002).pdf

8 April 2026

Queensland Redistribution Commission  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

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Yours sincerely,

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**Josip Vidakovic**  
**Government, Industry & External Engagement Manager**  
**Australian Sugar Manufacturers**

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