

**Submission ID:** O-0247  
**Date Received:** 17/3/26, 8:43 pm  
**Name:** Natasha Carson  
**Submission Topic:** Electorate Boundaries  
**Electoral District:** Hill

**Submission:**

See below

**Submission Attachments**

Email - Natasha Carson - Objection to Proposed Electoral Boundary Changes – Far North Queensland.pdf

**From:** [Natasha Carson](#)  
**To:** [ORC Submissions](#)  
**Cc:** [Hill Electorate Office](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to Proposed Electoral Boundary Changes – Far North Queensland  
**Date:** Tuesday, 17 March 2026 8:43:26 AM

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I am writing to formally object to the proposed redistribution that would merge my electorate with Mount Isa and split communities on the Atherton Tablelands.

I reside in the Atherton Tablelands (Tarzali) and my objection is based on the following grounds.

### **1. Excessive geographic size and loss of access to representation**

If my electorate is merged with Mount Isa, it would create an electorate of extreme geographic scale. Travel between Mount Isa and communities such as Malanda, Tarzali and Millaa Millaa can exceed **15 hours by road**.

This would make it highly impractical for constituents to access their local Member of Parliament, and equally difficult for the MP to maintain a visible and regular presence across the electorate. Effective representation relies on accessibility, community presence, and local knowledge, all of which would be severely diminished across such a vast and diverse area.

By contrast, Members in south-east Queensland, including areas such as Moreton Bay, would continue to represent multiple electorates where travel times between communities are typically **under one hour**. This highlights a clear inequity between regional and metropolitan representation.

### **2. Disadvantage to regional and remote communities**

Regional and remote communities already experience significant disadvantages compared to metropolitan areas, including:

- Long waiting times to access medical specialists
- Limited transport infrastructure
- Fewer major roads and bridges
- Greater travel distances for essential services

Expanding electorates to an unmanageable size further compounds these challenges and reduces the practical ability of residents to engage with their elected representative on state government issues.

People in Moreton Bay and South East Qld (SEQ) have excellent access to healthcare, infrastructure and essential services. It does not make sense to take away Far North Qld representation for more representatives in SEQ.

### **3. Existing representation demonstrates the importance of local presence**

The current Member, Shane Knuth, already represents a large rural electorate. Despite

this, he is regularly visible and accessible within local communities. This level of engagement would not be realistically achievable if the electorate were expanded to stretch from Mount Isa to the Atherton Tablelands.

#### **4. Splitting the Atherton Tablelands community of interest**

The proposed redistribution would split Malanda, Tarzali and Millaa Millaa away from other Atherton Tablelands communities such as Atherton, Yungaburra and Tolga.

This division cuts directly through a well-established community of interest, separating communities that share:

- Economic ties
- Agricultural and environmental concerns
- Health, education and transport services
- Regional planning and infrastructure priorities

Splitting the Atherton Tablelands in this way weakens our collective voice and limits our ability to advocate effectively on issues that uniquely affect our region.

#### **5. Erosion of democratic fairness**

Dividing the Atherton Tablelands and merging parts of Far North Queensland with Mount Isa risks diluting regional representation and undermines the principle of fair and effective democratic participation for rural and remote voters.

#### **Conclusion**

I respectfully submit that the proposed redistribution does not adequately account for geography, travel time, community of interest, or the lived realities of regional and remote Queenslanders. I urge the Commission to reconsider the proposed boundaries to ensure that communities such as the Atherton Tablelands retain meaningful, accessible representation.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Natasha Carson

