

**Submission ID:** O-0337  
**Date Received:** 22/3/26, 11:22 am  
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**Submission Topic:** Electorate Boundaries  
**Electoral District:** Hervey Bay; Maryborough

### **Submission:**

- clearly describe the proposed change or changes

It is proposed to move the Hervey Bay hospital to Maryborough. In addition, it is proposed to move areas of the beachside coastal area currently in the Hervey Bay electorate into Maryborough which is a regional rural area. Namely, the suburb of Eli Waters.

- economic, social, regional or other community of interest factors

Maryborough is a regional, rural, country town surrounded by large areas of open space and properties on acreage. Their priorities stem from being considered famous for their well-known and maintained Queenslander houses and being the home of Mary Poppins. A significant amount of the residents have a rural background, very few have any ties to the coast. Susan River, Booral and River Heads are considered to be country coast (no commercial and no entertainments hubs) and yet show to be in the proposed Hervey Bay electorate. I understand Susan River, with its large rural properties, would prefer to remain in the Maryborough electorate.

Hervey Bay is a beachside, commercial, coastal area, a beachside tourism location, and considered the whale watching centre for Australia. Currently having 10-20 over 50s villages and retirement homes in the electorate its priorities include the well-being and health of a good number of senior citizens. Homes are on smaller blocks, there are a multiple of industries, and the electorate is considered commercial coast.

The two electorates have different priorities, and different infrastructure requirements. Splitting the boundaries the way proposed means both the Maryborough and Hervey Bay Members (no matter what their parties) will have diverse areas to deal with instead of specialist areas.

- ways of communication and travel within electoral districts

Travel from the coast to the centre of Maryborough is half hour plus, often a 1 lane road and through country areas. People living close to the coast do not often travel into the regional town, its too far for older people who make up a large chunk of the coastal area.

- the physical features of each proposed electoral district

Maryborough is a regional country town surrounded by large areas of open space and properties on acreage.

Hervey Bay is a commercial coastal area with 10-20 over 50s parks and residential homes.

The map doesn't even show Thyme Lifestyle Resort at 5 Serenity Drive Eli

Waters, only Palm Lakes, so the 500+ residents at Thyme may not have been counted in the future Maryborough electorate. In addition the proposed development the other side of Grinsteeds Road, Dundowran Beach (in the Maryborough electorate) of 536 homes plus commercial activities will substantially increase the number of voters in the electorate of Maryborough in the future.

- boundaries of existing electoral districts

Currently both Maryborough and Hervey Bay have a State hospital, this will change if the proposed new boundaries are accepted. It will leave Maryborough with two State hospitals to finance and Hervey Bay with none. Considering a large amount of the residents in the current Hervey Bay electorate are over 50 this does seem to be a little unwise.

In the current situation Maryborough covers a great deal of rural properties and Hervey Bay covers the coast and major commercial areas.

This will change. If the proposed boundaries are accepted at least 2 over 50s parks by the coast will suddenly fall into the Maryborough electorate. There is concern amongst older residents that should the Hervey Bay hospital be moved back to Hervey Bay (which makes a LOT of sense) they will be sent to Maryborough for treatment and in an emergency rather than their closest hospital. It's a difference of 8 minutes door-to-door of 30 minutes +. There is also concern that should the Hervey Bay hospital remain in its new electorate of Maryborough health finances will be stretched between the two hospitals and no-one will benefit.

- demographic trends in the State, with a view to ensuring electoral districts remain within quota.

The areas of Susan River, Booral and River Heads are expanding, River Heads in particular, as are the areas of Eli Waters currently in Hervey Bay but scheduled to be moved to Maryborough.

In fact, the Thyme Lifestyle Resort in Eli Waters does not appear on any of the maps of the future electorates suggesting the maps are not current and do not show the current actual status in either electorate. The residents of Thyme Lifestyle Resort are concerned they will not be a priority for an electorate consisting mostly of rural properties. It is felt Eli Waters will be 'cut off' from its coastal neighbours and its community in Hervey Bay, and have a Member whose priorities differ from theirs.

Susan River, which is currently in the Maryborough electorate has a number of properties on acreage and (I'm told) would prefer to stay in the Maryborough electorate as they feel an affinity with Maryborough itself.

### **Conclusion:**

Consider moving Susan River, Booral and River Heads to the Maryborough electorate as they are expanding regional, rural areas. This would compensate for the Hervey Bay hospital and Eli Waters staying as part of the Hervey Bay electorate.

Regarding Susan River, Booral and River Heads, it would make more sense to move the Maryborough boundary to the coast and then along Booral Road which establishes Susan River, Booral and River Heads, all relatively country areas, into Maryborough.

With respect to Eli Waters and the Hervey Bay hospital, both coastal cosmopolitan areas, the boundary would be better going left at Main Street (as now) and follow the existing boundary to include the current Hervey Bay hospital in the Hervey Bay electorate. Then I would suggest it turn left at Pialba-Burrum Heads Road (as now) to encompass Eli Waters and turn right at the current boundary between Dundowran Beach and Eli Waters (Grinsteeds Road), leaving Eli Waters in the Hervey Bay electorate.

In this way, those over 50s at Thyme Lifestyle Resort and Palm Lakes have easy access to the Hervey Bay hospital, and remain in the Hervey Bay electorate.

There is MAJOR concern by the older residents that being in the electorate of Maryborough their specialist needs will not be seen as a priority over the infrastructure required for regional rural areas.

I have uploaded my suggested boundary changes.

### **Submission Attachments**

Boundary Map 001.jpg

# HERVEY BAY

- Proposed state electoral district
- Current state electoral district
- Local government area (LGA)
- Locality



## OVERVIEW

