

Submission ID: O-0392
Date Received: 23/3/26, 10:47 pm
Name: Brandan Holt
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries and Names
Electoral District: Mount Ommaney; Springfield (New)

Submission:

See below

Submission Attachments

Email - Brandon Holt - QRC Objection Letter - BHolt 23March2026.pdf

Judge Gregory Koppenol

Chairperson Queensland Redistribution Commission

GPO Box 1393 Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Chairperson and QRC,

There are two parts to my submission (in objection) to the proposed redistribution:

- a) The suburbs of Darra and Sumner to stay a part of the Mount Ommaney electorate
- b) The proposed new electorate of Springfield be more accurately and recognisably named “Woogaroo”

Submission (Part a) Proposal to Re-Include Darra and Sumner in the Mount Ommaney Electorate

I am writing to provide feedback on the current review of State Electoral District boundaries. I respectfully request that the suburbs of **Darra** and **Sumner** be formally incorporated back into the **Mount Ommaney** electorate. This position is based on clear community-of-interest connections, shared infrastructure, and established geographic patterns. It also reflects the significant physical boundaries between these suburbs and the Inala electorate.

As someone who lives in the suburb of Darra, and have family and friends who have lived in this area for multiple decades, I will speak on behalf of our knowledge and understanding of the area.

1. Strong Community and Infrastructure Links with Graceville, Sherwood, and Oxley

Darra and Sumner share long-standing connections with the suburbs to their north and northeast—particularly **Graceville, Corinda, Sherwood, and Oxley**. These connections reflect daily movement, shared services, and integrated transport use.

Shared Transport Networks

- Darra Station and Oxley Station are functionally paired, with residents across Darra and Sumner relying heavily on the same rail line and feeder bus services.
- Walking, cycling, and commuting patterns show natural movement between Darra, Oxley, Corinda, and Sherwood, rather than toward Inala.

Shared Schools and Educational Links

- Families in Darra and Sumner commonly access schools in Sherwood, Corinda and Oxley.
- Sporting clubs and community education programs (such as libraries and youth groups) regularly draw participation across these connected suburbs.

Shared Commercial and Community Facilities

- Darra and Sumner residents rely heavily on the commercial precincts in **Oxley**, including Oxley Station Shopping Centre and surrounding health and community services.
- Community groups, sporting organisations, and cultural associations across Sherwood, Corinda, Graceville, and Oxley have significant involvement from Darra residents.

These shared usage patterns demonstrate that Darra and Sumner are functionally aligned with the communities already within Mount Ommaney.

2. Community-of-Interest Links with Jindalee, Jamboree Heights, and Seventeen Mile Rocks

Darra and Sumner are also strongly integrated with key western suburbs within the Mount Ommaney electorate, including **Jindalee, Jamboree Heights, and Seventeen Mile Rocks**.

Shared Recreation and Lifestyle Facilities

- Residents of Darra and Sumner frequently use the major recreational hubs of Jindalee and Jamboree Heights, such as:
 - Jindalee Fitness & Aquatic Centre
 - Jindalee DFO precinct
 - Centenary Rowing Club and riverfront parks
- The Brisbane River pathways through **Seventeen Mile Rocks** (including Rocks Riverside Park) are heavily used by Darra and Sumner families.

Employment and Industrial Integration

- Darra and Sumner share continuous industrial zones with closely linked business activity.
- Many businesses operate across both suburbs, reflecting a unified economic footprint connected directly to the western corridor.

Transport Corridors

- The Centenary Motorway provides seamless connection between Darra, Sumner, and the Centenary suburbs.
- Road networks naturally flow west and north, reinforcing shared community usage patterns.

These links clearly show that Darra and Sumner belong to the same western suburban cluster that defines the Mount Ommaney electorate.

3. Significant Geographic Barriers Between Darra/Sumner and the Inala Electorate

There are substantial physical and functional barriers separating Darra and Sumner from Inala, most notably:

Ipswich Road as a Defining Boundary

- **Ipswich Road** forms a major arterial divide that separates Darra from the suburbs to its south and east.
- It acts as a hard physical boundary, with limited cross-community movement compared to the extensive integration north and west toward the Mount Ommaney suburbs.

Distinct Community Patterns

- Community services, schooling pathways, shopping patterns, and recreation use show very little alignment between Darra/Sumner and Inala.
- The natural flow of daily activity overwhelmingly runs toward Oxley, Sherwood, Jindalee, and Seventeen Mile Rocks.

The presence of such a major physical boundary supports the view that Darra and Sumner do **not** form part of the community-of-interest served by the Inala electorate.

Conclusion (Part a)

For the reasons outlined—shared transport, schooling, commercial centres, employment precincts, and daily community usage patterns with suburbs in the Mount Ommaney electorate, combined with major separating boundaries such as Ipswich Road—I respectfully submit that **Darra and Sumner should be re-included into the Mount Ommaney State Electorate.**

Submission Part (b): Proposed Name for the New Electorate — “Woogaroo”

The Queensland Redistribution Commission has proposed the creation of a new electorate currently referred to as Springfield, arising from boundary adjustments to the former Jordan electorate. As part of this statewide redistribution, the Commission has emphasised that electorate names should clearly identify or suggest the geographical location of the district, enhance voter recognition, and avoid names that lack clarity or relevance to the area’s identity. In this context, I respectfully submit that the new electorate would be more accurately and meaningfully named **Woogaroo**, as Springfield only makes up a small proportion of the area that falls within the proposed new electorate.

The name Woogaroo is one of the oldest traditional names associated with the region and predates modern suburb development. Importantly, **Woogaroo Forest lies at the physical and cultural heart of the proposed electorate**, centrally positioned between Springfield, Springfield Lakes, Brookwater, Augustine Heights, and Redbank Plains. The forest is not a peripheral landmark—it is a defining anchor point of the local landscape, widely recognised by residents across the greater Springfield region. Naming the electorate Woogaroo would therefore reflect a place that is both geographically central and deeply woven into the region’s sense of place.

Topographically, the Woogaroo area is characterised by a series of bushland corridors, ridgelines, and interlinked creek systems that shaped both early Indigenous use of the land and later European settlement. The **Woogaroo Creek catchment** runs north-south through the proposed electorate, forming a natural spine that helps explain the pattern of suburban development around it. The elevated ridges surrounding Woogaroo Forest provide a distinct natural boundary and have long served as navigational and ecological markers in the region. These environmental features are not only well-known locally but also contribute to the ecological identity that residents frequently reference when describing where they live.

Adopting the name Woogaroo would also align with the Commission’s broader objective of returning to electorate names that represent geographic places and resonate with the public. The term is already used for forests, creeks, reserves, and historical references throughout the region, ensuring immediate voter recognition and avoiding confusion with the local government-defined “Springfield” precincts, which represent only a portion of the proposed electorate. While “Springfield” is an important and growing township, it does not capture the full cultural or environmental landscape of the electorate in the way that Woogaroo does.

Finally, the name would respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous cultural heritage of the area, reflecting a connection to Country that predates contemporary suburb names and celebrates the longstanding custodianship of the land. “Woogaroo” comes from both Jagera and Ugarapul Country languages meaning a cool/shady place, and reference to whirlpools in the creek systems. Given the Commission’s emphasis on clear, meaningful, **geographically grounded** naming conventions, Woogaroo offers a distinctive, culturally respectful, and topographically accurate identity for the new electorate.

In the **annotated map of the proposed Springfield electorate**, there are multiple natural boundaries/geographical areas that are **Woogaroo-named locations** that appear inside the proposed electorate boundary.

- **Woogaroo Creek** — clearly labelled on the northern side of the district.
- **Woogaroo Forest region** — although not annotated, this area is widely accepted by the public and by Indigenous Elders. It is positioned centrally/south-centrally within the electorate, consistent with historical geographic references, well known and accepted by the public and identified by the traditional custodians, Indigenous Elders from Jagera and Ugarapul Countries.

Other Very Important Points for Renaming to Woogaroo in Relation to QRC

Decisions:

- Naming this electorate Springfield would be confusing having BOTH Springfield AND a Springwood electorate in close geographic proximity to one another.
- Naming this electorate Woogaroo would be more appropriate, similar to the choices the QRC have made to rename Miller to Annerley and McConnell to Brisbane Central, Woogaroo would be more appropriate and less confusing than “Springfield”.
- It would also directly be in line with decisions the QRC has made in relation to renaming Maiwar to Indooroopilly (keeping cultural heritage, while also basing decisions upon geographical nomenclature). Woogaroo being a well known and culturally significant name for the area.

For these reasons, I respectfully propose that the new electorate be formally named “Woogaroo.”

Thank you for considering this submission. I appreciate the Commission’s thorough and principled approach to ensuring fair and community-aligned electoral boundaries and electoral names/nomenclature.

**Sincerely,
Brandan Holt**

References:

Woogaroo meaning: “whirlpool”; “cool or shady.”

Woogaroo District 2020 | Queensland Scout Badge History. Scouts Queensland.
Retrieved from: <https://badgehistory.scoutsqld.com.au/woogaroo-district-2020/>

Early linguistic notes: woogero meaning “cool” or “chilly.”

Correspondence Between Sydney May and F.J. Watson Concerning Aboriginal Place Names.

Queensland State Archives – First Nations Language Collection.

<https://fromthepage.com/queenslandstatearchives/first-nations-language-collection/itm489477?page=28>

Historical research identifying Woogaroo as Yugurubul meaning “cool.”

Brown, E. “*Floating About on the Wide World: William Pettigrew at Woogaroo, 1849–1853.*” University of Queensland.

<https://docslib.org/doc/4862912/floating-about-on-the-wide-world-william-pettigrew-at-woogaroo-1849-1853>