

Submission ID: O-0536
Date Received: 5/4/26, 10:45 am
Name: Mandela Symons
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Burnett; Callide

Submission:

To the Queensland Redistribution Commission,

RE: Objection to the Proposed Transfer of Baffle Creek from Burnett to Callide

Baffle Creek is a small coastal community built around the river and the ocean. Everyone here fishes, swims, surfs and boats. We have way more in common with Agnes Water and Bundaberg than any inland farming town. Moving us into Callide doesn't make sense.

My name is Mandela Symons, I am 15 years old, and I have lived in Baffle Creek my whole life.

Every weekend I go to the Baffle Creek Boat Club where I sail and kayak. The river is a big part of my life. We go to the beach every week too, and I started the Clean up Rules Beach group which encourages people to collect plastic rubbish from our local beach. Sea turtles nest on our beach and I know there aren't any turtles in the rest of Callide!

When my family needs anything important like proper healthcare, bigger shops, or services, we go to Bundaberg. A lot of people here do the same. The things I'm interested in, what I study for and the jobs I want to have in the future are all along the coast.

If Baffle Creek is moved to Callide, I think we will be overlooked. We would be the only coastal part of a huge inland electorate as big as the whole of Tasmania. Out there it's more farms and mines, we have tourism, and keeping the river and beach clean to think about, which they might not know or care about.

Right now, Stephen Bennett is well known in our area. He shows up to local events and actually talks to people. Mum tells me that Stephen has even had cuddles with me when I was a baby! If we are moved into Callide, I worry that our new representative won't even know where Baffle Creek is. I don't want Baffle Creek to be forgotten just because we don't fit in to an inland electorate.

Please keep Baffle Creek in the Burnett electorate, for the sake of the turtles if for nothing else!

Sincerely,
Mandela Symons (Age 15)

Baffle Creek Resident