

Submission ID: O-0563
Date Received: 5/4/26, 10:39 am
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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Burnett; Callide

Submission:

See below

Submission Attachments

Email - Sunirmalya Symons - Objection to the proposed transfer of Deepwater from Burnett to Callide.pdf

From: [sunirmalva_symons](#)
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Subject: Objection to the proposed transfer of Deepwater from Burnett to Callide
Date: Sunday, 5 April 2026 10:39:48 AM

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Submission to the Queensland Redistribution Commission *Objection to the proposed transfer of Deepwater from Burnett to Callide*

My name is Sunny and I've lived in Deepwater, Baffle Creek for 21 years. I want to put in my objection to Baffle Creek being moved out of Burnett and into Callide.

Sitting member for Burnett Stephen Bennett and I are on opposite sides of the political fence, but he is a great person and an outstanding local member. I've been involved in the executive of community groups in Agnes Water and Baffle Creek, and I have always been able to pick up the phone to Stephen and get genuine help. He's not just a politician who turns up at election time, he's someone who has worked hard for this region for years and made personal connections with people right across the community. Losing that representation would be felt heavily here, and I think that matters regardless of which way anyone votes.

Our community already straddles the Gladstone and Bundaberg regions across different layers of government — local government is based around Gladstone, state representation around Bundaberg, and federal representation around Gladstone again. This already creates real-world confusion, such as our state show day holidays for shops and schools aligning with Bundaberg even though by local government boundaries we sit in the Gladstone region. We are used to navigating the pull between those two coastal centres and have learned to live with it. The last thing this community needs is to add Biloela to that mix. And what about the weather forecasts, we're called Wide Bay Burnett, not Central Qld!

The best way I can describe where I live — Baffle Creek, Agnes Water, Miriam Vale — is that we are satellite communities of Bundaberg. That's just the reality of how people here live. Everyone goes to Bundaberg for shopping, entertainment, medical appointments, you name it. There is no equivalent pull toward Callide's centre in Biloela. We simply don't go there, because our lives don't point that way.

If anything, I'd say our region is the jewel of Burnett. We have a growing tourism economy, a strong community spirit and real momentum. Callide is a very different kind of electorate — probably good in its own right, but not equipped to understand or advocate for what makes this coastal strip tick.

One example that illustrates the character of this community: the Agnes Water homeschool Facebook group has over 500 members. In a town of nearly 3,000 people, that's a remarkable number, and it reflects the kind of independent, alternative-minded community that has been quietly building here. Agnes Water has something of a mini Byron Bay feel emerging – creative, lifestyle-driven, nothing like the agricultural communities of Callide. These are very different communities with very different needs and identities. The Burnett electorate has some other coastal-trendy areas around Bagara and Burnett Heads, and being around a University and backpacking town it has some cultural awareness and progressive nature. It is difficult to see how a member whose electorate is overwhelmingly inland and resource-focused would have any feel for what Agnes Water and Baffle Creek are becoming, or how they need to get there in an environmentally and socially aware manner.

I'm not the only one thinking this. A single social media post in our community generated 30 comments the day after it was posted, and I want to share a few anonymised ones because I think they speak for themselves:

"This is one of those boundary matters that doesn't make sense. The same with the people from Deepwater, Baffle Creek and surrounds falling under GRC. The majority of us all do business, medical and shopping in Bundaberg. It doesn't make sense."

"Stephen has worked so hard and tirelessly for our community for years. Not to have his representation here will be felt heavily. He has been such a support to many businesses for a very long time. This doesn't make sense."

"This is not a good move, I like most would not have been aware this was on the cards! It makes no sense to be further away from our representative. Our current electorate is fine, please community have a say, Stephen has endeavoured to be there for us all."

"This is a really important one for our region, both from a business and personal perspective. Small communities like ours rely on having a local member who actually shows up, understands the area, and advocates for what matters here. That gets a lot harder when we're part of a huge, spread-out electorate."

And this one that I think is worth taking seriously, drawing on the experience of council amalgamations:

"Bigger boundaries. Less money for infrastructure. Happened when they merged councils. Rates going up to get less infrastructure."

That last point is something the Commission should weigh carefully. Communities in Queensland have already lived through the consequences of being absorbed into larger entities that don't understand their specific needs.

Baffle Creek belongs in Burnett. Our lives, our commerce, our community connections and our history all point that way. I urge the Commission to keep us where we belong.

Sunirmalya Symons



Baffle Creek