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Name: Cr Rod Marti and Nikola Stepanov
Organisation Name: Tablelands Regional Council Electorate
Submission Topic: Boundaries
Electoral District: Hill

Submission:

See below

Submission Attachments

TRC - Submission - QRC Redistribution Hill - 16 March 2026.pdf



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File Ref GOV-GEN

Queensland Redistribution Commission
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Dear Commissioners,

TABLELANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL: REDISTRIBUTION OF HILL

Tablelands Regional Council (TRC) writes in regard to the redistribution of the seat of Hill.

TRC notes that in the Proposed Redistribution of the State Electoral Districts that the local government area of TRC is divided between two State districts: Mulgrave and the newly proposed Flinders (formerly Traeger) districts.

It is TRC's firmly held view that the community's interests are best served if the whole of the TRC local government area is placed within Mulgrave, not divided between Mulgrave and Flinders.

Solving a numerical issue by adding population numbers from affected TRC communities, where the communities have little commonality with others in the proposed district of Flinders, will make fair representation more difficult for all involved.

This is not simply a matter of lines on a map and ensuring sufficient population numbers in each district; it is about community interest alignment and the daily lives of the more than 27,600 people who call the Tablelands home.

Our TRC communities, Malanda, Millaa Millaa, Ravenshoe and TRC's communities to their west, which are proposed to fall within Flinders, do not share the same community interests as local governments which will fall within Flinders such as Mount Isa, Burke, Doomadgee, Charters Towers, Mornington, Cloncurry, McKinlay, Croydon, Etheridge, Richmond and Flinders. They look east, over the Gillies and Kuranda Ranges, to Cairns. That is where they take their children for specialist medical care, where they regularly access an airport for travel, where they send their young adults for university, where they trade their produce and welcome their visitors. The electoral districts of Cairns and Mulgrave are not just our near neighbours, they are our community's lifeline.

Geographically, Malanda and Millaa Millaa are in a wet-tropics area with natural environment, regulatory, planning and development synchronicities and obligations with Mulgrave. In contrast, Flinders is a dry tropics area with little commonality between our environments.

The strength of these ties is borne out in the numbers. In 2023/24, the Tablelands generated a Gross Regional Product of \$1.45 billion. Agriculture alone employs 16.3% of our workforce – over five times the Queensland average - and depends on Cairns for freight, logistics and market access. Tourism contributed \$275 million last year, marketed as a unique "reef to rainforest" experience in partnership with Cairns and

Port Douglas. By contrast, mining accounts for less than one percent of registered businesses in our region, underscoring how little connection exists with Traeger's current economic profile which will be similar to the proposed district of Flinders.

Our social and community ties are just as strong. Almost 88% of our workforce live and work locally, and those who commute outward overwhelmingly travel to Cairns or Mareeba. The flow goes both ways: Cairns' residents also travel up the ranges to work in many industries, from schools to hospitals and farms. Our young people pursue training and study at James Cook University and TAFE in Cairns, while families regularly rely on its hospitals for care that simply cannot be delivered locally. These connections are the daily, practical, and enduring rhythms of ordinary life in the Tablelands.

Effective representation should reflect those rhythms and those strong, existing community interest alignments.

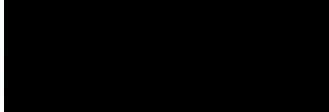
Further, as a local government elected to represent our community, we do so through our own strong and long-established ties which are already shared with Mulgrave. These include our memberships in the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, Tourism Tropical North Queensland, Advance Cairns, and our involvement with peak Far North Queensland ('FNQ') advocacy groups such as FNQ Growers. Beyond that, we have our inherent links to State FNQ District Offices/Directors based out of Cairns including those for critical information such as traffic, roads, planning, trade, and agricultural matters - among others.

Mulgrave already borders our region and shares our travel routes, planning frameworks, priorities, and everyday connections. It is the natural fit for the Tablelands therefore, that if Hill must be abolished, all of the TRC local government area is encompassed by Mulgrave.

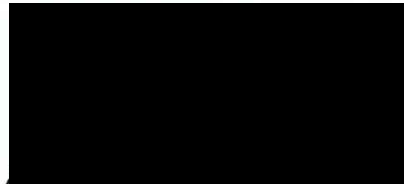
For these reasons, TRC submits that our LGA be transferred in its entirety to Mulgrave. This would preserve our communities of interest, ensure fair and practical representation, and keep the Tablelands aligned with the centres with which we already share a deep and long-standing connection.

On behalf of the people of the Tablelands, thank you for considering our concerns.

Yours faithfully



MAYOR ROD MARTI
MAYOR



DR NIKOLA STEPANOV PHD (MELB)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER