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Submission Topic: Electorate Names
Electoral District: Beaudesert (formerly Scenic Rim)

Submission:

I write in response to the Commission's *Proposal for the Redistribution of the State's Electoral Districts* released in March 2026.

I submit a suggestion regarding the proposed renaming of the electorate currently identified as "Beaudesert", replacing the existing "Scenic Rim". While Beaudesert is unquestionably a significant regional centre with notable administrative history, I am concerned that the proposed name does not adequately reflect the diversity, identity, and geography of the electorate as a whole. This name risks unintentionally overlooking communities such as those of the Fassifern Valley (Boonah, Kalbar), Tamborine Mountain, and Canungra, areas with strong cultural identities and distinct local histories.

To represent the entire electorate more inclusively and accurately, I propose the name "Wyaralong."

The name *Wyaralong* is deeply rooted in the region's agricultural and pastoral heritage. The Wyaralong locality has long been associated with farming, grazing, and early settlement patterns that helped shape today's Scenic Rim communities. The Wyaralong pastoral station, owned by a pioneering family for more than a century, played an important role in the district's development and hosted community facilities such as the Wyaralong Provisional and State Schools from 1924 to 1965. The locality also formed part of a broader early agricultural landscape documented in regional histories of the Fassifern and Boonah districts, particularly in relation to pioneering settlement, pastoralism, and local industry.

Wyaralong also holds significant historical value through its contribution to Queensland's wartime efforts, part of the Wyaralong property served as a Royal Australian Air Force bombing and gunnery range during World War II, with the area used for training exercises and air operations beginning in 1942. This unique wartime history adds further depth to the locality's heritage and its longstanding role in state and national narratives.

Lake Wyaralong, formed after the completion of Wyaralong Dam in 2011, is now one of the most prominent and unifying physical features in the region. The lake spans the electorate laterally from east to west, connecting communities across the Scenic Rim and serving as an accessible shared space for recreation, sport, and tourism.

The dam and lake are key regional assets, with the dam's construction providing flood mitigation benefits and creating a major recreational precinct supporting activities such as rowing, canoeing, mountain biking, bushwalking,

and picnicking. Lake Wyaralong has since become a recognised regional destination, widely used for outdoor recreation and community events. The lake's position, prominence, and broad public use make "Wyaralong" a geographically meaningful and unifying name for the electorate.

Why I believe "Wyaralong" is the most appropriate and inclusive electorate name:

1. It reflects the area's agricultural and pastoral heritage, including the longstanding significance of the Wyaralong pastoral station and early settlement across the region.
2. It acknowledges important historical events, including the locality's use as a military training site during World War II.
3. It represents a central, unifying geographic feature, Lake Wyaralong, whose reach and relevance extend across the electorate.
4. It avoids privileging any single population centre, instead offering a name grounded in shared history, geography, and identity.

For these reasons, I believe the name *Wyaralong* offers a more balanced, inclusive, and geographically representative title for the electorate than the proposed "Beaudesert".

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Tim Andrews

