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Name: Darcy Walsh
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Electoral District: All

Submission:

1. Introduction

I make this submission as a Queensland resident concerned about the proposed electoral redistribution currently under consultation. The redistribution process is fundamental to the integrity of Queensland's democratic system. Electoral boundaries determine how communities are represented in Parliament and must therefore reflect genuine communities of interest, allow for effective representation, and maintain public confidence in the impartiality of the redistribution process. While redistribution is necessary due to population change, aspects of the proposed boundaries raise concerns that the outcome may undermine community representation and public trust in the process.

2. Legislative Principles

Under the Electoral Act 1992 (Qld), redistributions must consider:

- Community of interest
- Means of communication and travel
- Physical features and area
- Demographic trends
- Ensuring elector numbers fall within quota

These principles exist to ensure that electoral districts reflect coherent communities rather than arbitrary or strategic groupings of voters.

3. Community of Interest Concerns

Several proposed boundary changes appear to divide existing communities or combine areas with limited social, economic, or infrastructural connection.

For example, the proposed redistribution affecting the Macalister / Beenleigh area raises concerns.

The submission from the Liberal National Party of Queensland proposes significant changes in this region, including moving Mount Cotton and Carbrook into the Redlands electorate and reconfiguring the Beenleigh/Macalister area to accommodate growth in the Logan corridor.

Under the proposal:

- Communities such as Carbrook and Mount Cotton, which share transport links and services with Beenleigh, are proposed to be moved into the Redlands electorate.

- At the same time, Yatala, Ormeau, and Ormeau Hills, which are economically and socially connected to the northern Gold Coast (particularly Coomera), are proposed to be incorporated into a Logan-based electorate.

This arrangement appears inconsistent with the community of interest principle because:

- Residents in these areas access different employment centres, schools, and infrastructure networks.
- Public transport links (such as the Beenleigh train line) and service catchments do not align with the proposed electorate structure.
- The proposed boundaries would require a single MP to represent communities with different regional priorities and limited interaction with one another.

The effect is that both groups of communities may receive less effective representation.

While the LNP submission notes that Mount Cotton and Carbrook would be linked to Redlands via the Beenleigh–Redland Bay Road corridor, transport corridors alone do not necessarily reflect shared communities of interest.

4. Use of Transport Corridors

The justification in some submissions suggests using transport corridors such as roads or highways as linking features between communities. However, major transport corridors often function as administrative or geographic boundaries rather than genuine social connectors. Where communities on either side of a corridor rely on different service hubs, school zones, shopping districts, and council planning areas, using that corridor as justification for merging them into a single electorate risks undermining the intent of the Act.

5. Public Confidence and Perception of Impartiality

Redistribution processes must not only be impartial but be perceived to be impartial. Recent public commentary has raised concerns regarding the appointment of individuals involved in the redistribution process who have previously held political or senior administrative roles connected to government. Regardless of whether these concerns are substantiated, the perception that electoral boundaries may favour particular political outcomes risks undermining public confidence in the independence of the redistribution process.

For this reason, it is particularly important that the Commission provide clear, transparent reasoning demonstrating how the proposed boundaries prioritise statutory criteria such as community of interest rather than political considerations.

6. Electoral Impact and Representation

Some proposed boundary changes appear likely to produce significant notional swings in electoral margins without corresponding demographic shifts. While political consequences are not themselves determinative, large notional shifts arising purely from boundary changes may indicate that communities are being redistributed in ways that alter representation without reflecting population movement or community structure.

Redistributions should aim to maintain stable representation of existing communities where possible, rather than significantly reconfiguring electorates unless necessary to satisfy population quotas.

7. Recommendations

I respectfully request that the Commission reconsider the proposed boundaries in the affected areas, particularly where:

- Communities with established economic and social links are separated.
- Electorates combine regions with limited shared infrastructure or services.
- Boundary changes appear inconsistent with the principle of community of interest. Specifically, the Commission should:
 1. Re-examine the redistribution affecting Macalister / Beenleigh and surrounding suburbs.
 2. Ensure suburbs connected to the Gold Coast urban area remain grouped with communities sharing the same service networks and economic centres.
 3. Provide clearer reasoning explaining how each boundary change satisfies the statutory criteria under the Electoral Act 1992.

8. Conclusion

Electoral redistribution is one of the most important mechanisms for maintaining fair democratic representation. Ensuring that electorates reflect real communities rather than arbitrary groupings will strengthen both representation and public confidence in Queensland's electoral system.

I therefore urge the Commission to reconsider elements of the proposed redistribution to better reflect genuine communities of interest and ensure fair and effective representation for Queensland residents.

Thank you for considering this submission.