

Submission ID: O-0366
Date Received: 22/3/26, 12:16 pm
Name: Pia Simonelli
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Hill; Caboolture (New); Greenbank (formerly Jordan)

Submission:

See below

Submission Attachments

Email - Pia Simonelli -.pdf

From: [Pia Simonelli](#)
To: [QRC Submissions](#)
Date: Sunday, 22 March 2026 12:16:51 PM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Good afternoon

I am an enrolled elector in the Southern Downs electoral district. I am writing to formally object to the Queensland Redistribution Commission's proposed electoral redistribution.

I am not opposed to redistribution in principle. Boundaries need to be updated from time to time to reflect population changes. My objection is to this specific proposal, because I believe it has been shaped by partisan politics rather than independent judgment — and the evidence for that is hard to ignore.

The Problem: This Redistribution Looks Like a Gerrymander

The LNP submitted a detailed proposal to the Commission. Independent analysis shows that if their submission were adopted, it would flip six currently Labor-held seats to notional LNP seats — Aspley, Bundaberg, Gaven, Ipswich West, Pine Rivers and Springwood — and also eliminate the KAP-held seat of Hill. That would take the LNP's notional seat count from 52 to 59, turning an already comfortable majority into a dominant one.

The Commission's proposed redistribution follows the LNP's submission closely on a number of key decisions — including abolishing the Hill electorate and creating new seats such as Caboolture and Greenbank, which are outcomes the LNP explicitly asked for.

This is not a coincidence that can be easily explained away. When the governing party submits a boundary proposal and the supposedly independent Commission produces a map that looks a lot like that proposal, the public is entitled to ask whether the process was truly independent. I am asking that question, and I am objecting on that basis.

The Commission's Independence Is in Question

Electoral redistribution only works as a democratic safeguard if the Commission doing it is genuinely independent of the government of the day. That means independent in structure, not just in intention. Under the Electoral Act 1992, the Commission includes a senior Queensland Government official. The current government appointed that official. I am not accusing anyone of acting in bad faith. But the structure creates a real problem: when the outcome of a redistribution so obviously benefits the governing party, the public cannot be confident the process was free from influence.

An independent process should produce outcomes that don't closely mirror what the governing party asked for. That is not what has happened here.

Regional Queensland Is Being Shortchanged

The abolition of the Hill electorate removes dedicated representation from a large and distinct regional community in North Queensland. Regional electorates already cover vast geographic areas. Eliminating them and consolidating their communities into larger seats makes it harder — not easier — for those communities to be heard.

Regional Queensland is not just a geographic inconvenience to be tidied up on a map. These are communities with real and specific needs that differ from those of South-East Queensland. Reducing their representation in the Legislative Assembly, while increasing the governing party's advantage, is a double blow.

What I Am Asking the Commission to Do

1. Reconsider the proposed redistribution with genuine independence and explain, clearly and publicly, how each significant change was determined by enrolment data and community of interest — not by the LNP's submission.
2. Restore the Hill electorate, or provide a transparent explanation of why its abolition meets the statutory criteria independently of what the LNP asked for.
3. Protect regional representation. Do not reduce regional seats unless the law requires it, and demonstrate that it does.

4. Be transparent about the submissions process. Explain how community submissions, objections from crossbench MPs and regional councils, and the LNP's submission were each weighted in reaching the proposed outcome.

Electoral boundaries should be drawn to represent communities fairly — not to entrench the power of whoever happens to be in government. The proposed redistribution does not pass that test. It looks partisan, the process that produced it is structurally compromised, and regional Queenslanders are worse off as a result.

I ask the Commission to go back to first principles, act with genuine independence, and produce a redistribution that Queenslanders across the political spectrum can accept as fair.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this issue.

Regards
Pia Simonelli