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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Mulgrave

Submission:

Andrew Tunney

To: Queensland Redistribution Commission

Subject: Objection to Proposed Redistribution Affecting the Electorate of Mulgrave

1. Introduction

I am writing to lodge a formal objection to the proposed changes to the boundaries of the Mulgrave electorate as outlined in the current redistribution review. While I appreciate the Commission's responsibility to ensure electorates remain equitable in enrolment and reflective of demographic changes, I am concerned that the proposed alterations will adversely affect the residents and communities currently located within Mulgrave.

My objection is based on principles the Commission itself sets out as central to redistribution considerations:

- community of interest,
- geographic cohesion,
- existing local government boundaries, and
- the need to minimise disruption to electors where feasible.

I respectfully submit that the proposed boundary shifts do not adequately uphold these criteria for Mulgrave.

2. Impact on Community of Interest

The Mulgrave electorate encompasses long-established communities with shared social, economic, cultural, and service-based connections. The proposed boundary changes risk undermining these ties in several ways.

2.1 Disruption to Established Service Networks

Residents in affected areas rely heavily on consistent access to shared:

- health services,
- schooling catchments,
- community organisations, and
- transport links.

Reassigning these areas to a different electorate would separate them

from neighbouring communities they engage with daily, creating administrative and representational disconnects.

2.2 Fragmentation of Local Identity

Many residents identify strongly with the Mulgrave region due to longstanding social, agricultural, Indigenous, and economic linkages. Moving sections of these communities into a different electorate does not reflect natural patterns of interaction or shared local identity.

3. Geographic and Practical Considerations

3.1 Natural Boundaries

Mulgrave's existing boundaries already align with several natural geographic features. The proposed changes cut across these natural lines, reducing clarity for residents and weakening coherence in representational geography.

3.2 Travel Distances and Accessibility

For rural and semi-rural communities, the electorate boundary plays a role in access to representation. The proposed redistribution may increase the distance between affected residents and the nearest electorate office or community engagement point, presenting practical challenges for many—particularly older residents and those with limited transport options.

4. Local Government Boundary Alignment

The Redistribution Commission notes the importance of respecting local government boundaries where possible. Portions of the proposed adjustments appear to separate residents from the local government region with which they are most closely aligned in service use and community activity.

Maintaining alignment with existing local government boundaries, where practicable, supports ease of administration and clarity for electors.

5. Minimising Disruption to Electors

Redistribution inevitably causes some change; however, unnecessary or excessive disruption should be avoided.

The current proposal would:

- shift residents away from longstanding electoral arrangements,
- weaken community cohesion, and
- require adaptation to unfamiliar representational structures.

Mulgrave has exhibited stable and coherent boundaries for a considerable period, and large adjustments risk undermining this stability without clear and compelling necessity beyond numerical balancing—an objective that could be achieved with less intrusive alternatives.

6. Conclusion and Request

For the reasons outlined—relating to community of interest, geographic logic, administrative practicality, and the principle of minimising disruption—I respectfully request that the Commission reconsider the proposed boundary

changes affecting the Mulgrave electorate.

I ask that the Commission explore alternative boundary adjustments that maintain the integrity of Mulgrave's established communities while still meeting enrolment requirements in neighbouring electorates.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincere regards,

Andrew Tunney.