

**Submission ID:** O-0502  
**Date Received:** 2/4/26, 12:53 pm  
**Name:** Cr Kelly Vea Vea  
**Organisation Name:** Isaac Regional Council  
**Submission Topic:** Electorate Boundaries  
**Electoral District:** Gregory; Mackay; Mirani

**Submission:**

See below

**Submission Attachments**

IRC Letter of Objection to State Electoral Boundary Redistribution 2026 - 1 April 2026.pdf

SENT BY EMAIL TO: [QRCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:QRCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au)

1 April 2026

Gregory Koppenol  
Chairperson  
Queensland Redistribution Commission  
GPO Box 1393  
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Mr Koppenol,

## RE OBJECTION – QUEENSLAND STATE ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REDISTRIBUTION 2026

Please accept this submission as a formal objection on behalf of Isaac Regional Council to the proposed Queensland State electoral boundary redistribution.

### Redistribution Context

Isaac Regional Council acknowledges the Commission's responsibility to ensure electoral districts remain within quota and reflect population change across Queensland. We also recognise the challenges associated with balancing geographic scale, community of interest, and voter parity, particularly in regional and remote areas.

However, while the proposed redistribution achieves numerical compliance, it does so at the expense of genuine community representation, particularly across Central Queensland's resource communities.

### Isaac Regional Council Objection

Council raises the following objections and requests the Commission reconsider elements of the proposed boundaries to better reflect established communities of interest and ensure effective representation.

#### 1. Retention of the "Coal Mining Spine" in a Single Electorate

Council strongly reiterates its position that the purpose-built mining communities of Glenden, Moranbah, Dysart and Middlemount must remain within a single electorate.

These towns:

- Were established to support the Bowen Basin coal industry
- Share aligned economic drivers, workforce patterns and infrastructure dependencies
- Function as an interconnected regional network rather than discrete communities

Fragmenting these communities across electorates dilutes their collective voice and undermines effective advocacy on critical issues such as:

- Resource sector policy
- Workforce and housing pressures
- Infrastructure investment
- Safety and regulatory frameworks

Maintaining these towns within either Gregory or Mirani ensures a unified and coherent representation of one of Queensland's most significant economic regions.

## **2. Consolidation of Mackay Sugar Cane Mills within One Electorate**

For similar reasons of shared industry and community interest, and noting the request of the local Member, Council supports redrawing the northern boundary of Mirani to ensure that all Mackay sugar cane mills fall within a single electorate.

The sugar industry:

- Operates as a coordinated regional system
- Shares infrastructure, supply chains and workforce
- Faces common regulatory and economic challenges
- Splitting these assets across electorates risks fragmented advocacy and inconsistent representation for a key regional industry.

## **3. Representation Challenges in Expanding Mega-Electorates**

Council notes with concern the proposed expansion of the Gregory electorate to approximately 480,000 km<sup>2</sup>, an increase of around 20,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

While the Commission acknowledges the representational challenges associated with electorates of this scale (as identified in its report), the proposal proceeds regardless.

Electorates of this size present significant challenges, including:

- Limited accessibility for constituents
- Reduced engagement between Members and communities
- Competing and diverse regional priorities across vast distances

This scale risks diminishing the effectiveness of representation, particularly for remote and industry-reliant communities.

Isaac Regional Council acknowledges the importance of achieving quota compliance across Queensland electorates. However, this must not come at the expense of community cohesion, industry alignment, and effective representation.

Council respectfully requests that the Commission:

- Retain the Bowen Basin “coal mining spine” within a single electorate
- Consolidate Mackay’s sugar industry within one electorate
- Reassess the practical implications of significantly expanding already large electorates

These changes would better reflect genuine communities of interest and support more effective representation for regional Queensland.

Thank you for your consideration of Council’s objection.

Yours faithfully



Cr Kelly Vea Vea

**Mayor**