

Submission ID: O-0601
Date Received: 7/4/26, 8:07 pm
Name: Jane Bellingham
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Hervey Bay; Maryborough

Submission:

See below

Submission Attachments

Email - Jane Bellingham - Objection to Proposed Redistribution – Electoral District of Maryborough.pdf

From: [Jane Bellingham](#)
To: [QRC Submissions](#)
Subject: Objection to Proposed Redistribution – Electoral District of Maryborough
Date: Tuesday, 7 April 2026 8:07:21 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dest Sor,

I write to formally object to the Electoral Commission of Queensland's proposed redistribution as it relates to the Electoral District of Maryborough.

While I acknowledge the requirement to achieve numerical parity across electorates, the current proposal places disproportionate weight on quota compliance at the expense of community of interest, geographic cohesion and service alignment. In its current form, the proposal risks weakening the integrity and identity of the Maryborough electorate.

1. Community of Interest

The proposed transfer of Hervey Bay suburbs - including Eli Waters and parts of Urraween (including the Hervey Bay Hospital precinct) - into the Maryborough electorate represents a clear disruption to established community boundaries.

Residents in Eli Waters, Urraween, Kawungan and Pialba identify strongly with Hervey Bay. These suburbs are socially, economically and functionally integrated with Hervey Bay's coastal urban centre. They share:

- common schooling zones (e.g. Kawungan State School catchments)
- health services centred on Hervey Bay Hospital
- retail and commercial hubs in Pialba and Stockland Hervey Bay
- transport and daily movement patterns within the Hervey Bay urban footprint

These are not communities that orient toward Maryborough. Moving them into the Maryborough electorate fragments a cohesive coastal community and creates an artificial boundary that does not reflect how people live, access services or engage with government.

2. Geographic Cohesion and Electorate Identity

The proposal simultaneously removes parts of Maryborough's traditional hinterland while pulling the electorate further toward the coast.

Communities such as Tiaro, Mungar, Oakhurst, Yengarie and Antigua have long-standing economic and social ties to Maryborough. These areas contribute to the electorate's regional and rural character and are closely connected through:

- agricultural and regional employment networks
- schooling and service access centred on Maryborough
- shared infrastructure corridors such as the Bruce Highway

Reducing Maryborough's connection to these inland communities while incorporating coastal urban growth areas creates an electorate that is less cohesive and more internally divided. It shifts Maryborough away from its established identity as a regional centre supporting surrounding rural communities.

3. Service Access and Infrastructure Alignment

The inclusion of Hervey Bay Hospital in Urraween within the Maryborough electorate is particularly concerning.

This hospital is the primary health facility for the Hervey Bay and Fraser Coast coastal population, including suburbs such as Torquay, Scarness, Pialba, Urangan and Kawungan. Its patient base, workforce and service network are overwhelmingly aligned with Hervey Bay - not Maryborough.

Placing this key piece of infrastructure within the Maryborough electorate:

- separates it from the majority of the population it serves
- creates confusion regarding representation and advocacy
- undermines logical service alignment between elected representatives and community needs

Electoral boundaries should reinforce clear service relationships, not cut across them.

4. Disproportionate Impact on Maryborough

While the need to reduce elector numbers in Hervey Bay is understood, the current proposal effectively uses Maryborough as a mechanism to absorb population overflow from a high-growth coastal electorate.

At the same time, Maryborough loses parts of its own established regional base. This results in:

- a net contraction of Maryborough's traditional footprint
- a shift in focus away from regional and rural communities
- increasing dominance of coastal growth pressures within the electorate

Over time, this risks eroding Maryborough as a distinct regional electorate and diminishing its ability to effectively represent its existing communities.

5. Alternative Approach

A more balanced approach would:

- retain the integrity of the Hervey Bay coastal community, including Eli Waters, Urraween and the hospital precinct
- avoid splitting natural service catchments across electorates
- preserve Maryborough's connection to its hinterland communities, including Tiaro, Mungar, Yengarie and surrounding districts
- explore boundary adjustments that follow clearer geographic or transport corridors rather than dividing established urban areas

There are alternative configurations that would achieve quota requirements without fragmenting communities to this extent.

Conclusion

The proposed redistribution does not appropriately balance numerical requirements with the equally important principles of community of interest, geographic cohesion and service alignment.

It weakens both electorates:

- by fragmenting the Hervey Bay community, and
- by reshaping Maryborough away from its regional foundations

I respectfully request that the Commission reconsider the proposed changes and adopt an approach that better preserves the integrity of both Maryborough and Hervey Bay as distinct and coherent communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours sincerely, Jane Bellingham

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)