

Submission ID: O-0278
Date Received: 18/3/26, 4:54 pm
Name: Caroline Rushton
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Hill

Submission:

See below

Submission Attachments

Submission to Queensland Redistribution Commission.pdf

Submission to Queensland Redistribution Commission

Formal Submission for Consideration re the proposed abolishment of the electorate of Hill

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally submit my views regarding the abolishment of the electorate of Hill currently under consideration by your department. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input and trust that my feedback will be considered as part of your decision-making process. The issue at hand is of significant importance to myself and many residents of the Hill electorate.

First and foremost, I strongly **disapprove** of the proposed abolishment.

After reviewing the relevant materials, I believe that the abolishment will seriously affect the electorate in the following ways:

- It will deny the people in the current electorate true and fair representation. I say this because with the proposed absorption of the current electorate into 3 other electorates namely Mulgrave, Hinchinbrook and Flinders (Formerly Traeger) the following obstacles are blatantly obvious:
 - Mulgrave is predominantly city based and the Tablelands that is predominantly rural, cannot be represented fairly by a member that has to split their representations between rural and city when the city portion of the electorate is larger
 - The sheer magnitude of the geographical redistribution is ridiculous. In the new proposal, Malanda and Millaa Millaa will be represented by a member that has offices in Mt Isa (14 hours drive away, 1100km) when now in Hill it's 20 minutes. How can they be fairly represented by someone that far away?
 - Why should the electorate of Hill be abolished when it currently meets current quotas? Why can't another electorate that does not meet quotas be abolished? Shane Knuth is the current member for Hill. He is the hardest working politician I have ever met. He has fought hard for our community and is well respected. If this proposal becomes reality, two thirds of the current Hill electorate will lose their right to be represented by Shane when neither he, nor the electorate have done anything to warrant this action.
 - Our communities belong together. We share schools, hospitals, markets, sporting clubs and industries across the Atherton Tablelands. Splitting us up like this does not reflect our real community.

- That this is politically motivated. Shane Knuth from the Katter Party is a hardworking, well respected community man who has gone above and beyond to represent the community of Hill for many years. The only submission the redistribution commission has had regarding the abolition of Hill, was from the Liberal Party. The abolishment will most certainly favour the Liberal Party but will reduce/abolish fair representation of the electorate of Hill. I can say this because the Liberal Party votes along party lines (overly represented by city views) and Shane represents rural concerns 100%. If the Commission is about representational fairness, then this proposal does not meet the mark.

There are many ways to 'redistribute' electoral boundaries and electorates. Rural Queensland deserves to have adequate and fair representation. It SHOULD NOT be denied this for more South East Qld representation. If South East Qld requires more electorates, then the Commission should either redistribute boundaries to achieve this within the South East Qld area or add additional electorates. The South East has 81 seats, rural Qld, 12. With rural Qld supplying the majority of food and minerals that sustain Queensland, surely the 12 current seats should be a minimum for rural representation as there are incredibly unique and diverse needs and requirements in these electorates.

Every Queenslanders deserves the right to be fairly represented in their respective electorates. Abolishing the electorate of Hill removes that right for every member of the Hill electorate as well as rural Queensland where their representation will be reduced from 12 to 11 seats.

Thank you for your attention to this submission. Should you require further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Rushton

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18/03/2026