

**Submission ID:** O-0368  
**Date Received:** 22/3/26, 6:47 pm  
**Name:** James Garrett  
**Submission Topic:** Electorate Boundaries  
**Electoral District:** Gympie

**Submission:**

See below

**Submission Attachments**

Email - James Garrett - Formal Objection to the Proposed Redistribution Affecting the Gympie \_ Mary Valley Region.pdf

**From:** [Jim Garrett](#)  
**To:** [QRC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Formal Objection to the Proposed Redistribution Affecting the Gympie / Mary Valley Region  
**Date:** Sunday, 22 March 2026 6:47:49 PM

---

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

Dear Redistribution Commission,

Please find attached my submission regarding the proposed electoral boundary changes affecting the Mary Valley and Gympie region.

I wish to lodge a formal objection to the proposed redistribution affecting communities in the Mary Valley and Gympie hinterland, including areas such as Imbil, Kandanga, Amamoor, Brooloo, Kenilworth and surrounding rural communities.

These communities have a clear and longstanding social, economic, cultural and geographic connection to Gympie, and there is no comparable connection to Nambour or the Sunshine Coast coastal region.

The proposed boundary changes risk separating communities that share strong common interests and identities. In doing so, they may not adequately reflect the statutory considerations outlined under Section 46 of the Electoral Act 1992 (Queensland).

### **Community of interest**

Section 46(1)(a) requires the Commission to consider economic, social and regional communities of interest when determining electoral boundaries.

The Mary Valley region forms part of the broader Gympie regional community. Residents rely on Gympie as their primary regional centre for:

- healthcare services
- education and training
- agricultural industries and rural supply networks
- government services
- employment and business
- sporting and community organisations

These connections are long-established and reflect how the region functions socially and economically. In contrast, the Nambour electorate forms part of the Sunshine Coast urban and peri-urban growth corridor, which has significantly different economic drivers, development pressures and community priorities.

Placing rural Mary Valley communities within an electorate centred on Sunshine Coast urban areas risks weakening their ability to have their rural and regional concerns properly represented.

### **Communication and travel**

Section 46(1)(b) requires the Commission to consider ways of communication and travel.

The transport network in this region clearly demonstrates that Mary Valley communities are oriented toward Gympie rather than Nambour.

Road networks such as the Mary Valley Road corridor and the Gympie regional road network link communities directly to Gympie for services, employment and daily activities.

Travel to Nambour typically requires longer and less direct routes through the hinterland and mountainous terrain. This reinforces the practical reality that Gympie functions as the natural regional hub for these communities.

Electoral boundaries should reflect the real patterns of movement and interaction within a region.

### **Alignment with local government boundaries and regional identity**

The Mary Valley communities sit within Gympie Regional Council and identify strongly with the Gympie region. Local government boundaries often reflect shared economic activity, community identity and service networks. Maintaining alignment between these communities and the Gympie electorate would therefore better reflect established regional relationships. Separating these communities from Gympie risks fragmenting a region that shares a common identity and administrative structure.

### **Cultural landscape and Traditional Owner connection**

The Mary Valley lies within Gubbi Gubbi Country of the Kabi Kabi language group, which has deep cultural and historical connections to the land, waterways and surrounding landscapes. The valley, its river systems and surrounding ranges form part of a continuous cultural landscape connected to the Gympie region rather than the coastal urban centres of the Sunshine Coast. For many Aboriginal people connected to this Country, including Gubbi Gubbi people, the Mary Valley and Gympie hinterland represent a shared cultural and geographic identity shaped by traditional pathways, waterways and community networks.

Fragmenting this region into electorates aligned with coastal urban centres risks overlooking the cultural continuity and identity of this landscape and its communities. Community of interest considerations should therefore include not only economic and social factors but also cultural connection to Country and longstanding regional identities.

### **Regional representation**

Queensland is a geographically large state, and regional communities already face challenges ensuring their voices are heard in state decision-making.

Electoral redistributions must balance population equality with the need to ensure effective representation for rural and regional communities.

The proposed changes risk placing rural hinterland communities into electorates dominated by urban coastal populations whose priorities and policy concerns may be very different.

Maintaining these communities within the Gympie electorate would help ensure that rural issues such as agriculture, water management, regional infrastructure, and land use remain central to representation.

### **Conclusion**

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Commission reconsider the proposed boundary changes affecting the Mary Valley and Gympie hinterland. Maintaining these communities within the Gympie electorate would better reflect:

- established communities of interest
- practical communication and travel patterns
- alignment with Gympie Regional Council and regional identity
- cultural connection to Kabi Kabi Country
- the need for effective regional representation

and would more closely align with the statutory considerations outlined under Section 46 of the Electoral Act 1992.

I make this submission as a Gubbi Gubbi man from the Kabi Kabi language group, with a strong connections to Country and the communities of the Mary Valley and Gympie region.

Regards

James Garrett

