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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Mulgrave

Submission:

I write to formally object to the proposed redistribution affecting the electorate of [Electoral district of Mulgrave](#) and the proposed abolition of the [Electoral district of Hill](#).

These proposed changes risk undermining effective representation, disrupting established communities of interest, and significantly weakening the voice of regional and remote communities in Far North Queensland.

1. Disruption of Established Communities of Interest

The cornerstone of fair electoral redistribution is the preservation of communities of interest. The proposed changes:

- Fragment long-established regional, social, and economic connections
- Combine communities with distinct, and often competing, priorities
- Fail to recognise the unique identity and cohesion of Far North Queensland communities

Mulgrave has historically represented a connected and interdependent regional population. Residents share common infrastructure, services, and economic relationships across the southern Cairns corridor.

Redrawing these boundaries risks forcing together communities that:

- Do not share common service hubs
- Experience different socio-economic pressures
- Require different policy focus and representation

This will dilute the ability of any one representative to effectively advocate for all constituents.

2. Loss of Regional and Remote Representation Through Dissolution of Hill

The proposal to abolish Hill electorate is deeply concerning and carries

significant consequences.

Hill represents:

- Remote and regional communities with vast geographic spread
- Populations with limited access to services, infrastructure, and transport
- Communities requiring targeted, specialised advocacy

These communities are not interchangeable with more urban or peri-urban populations.

Dissolving Hill will:

- Remove a dedicated voice for remote communities
- Absorb these areas into electorates where their needs may become secondary
- Increase the risk that critical regional issues are overlooked

Remote communities often face:

- Limited healthcare access
- Transport and infrastructure challenges
- Higher cost of living pressures
- Reduced access to government services

These issues require focused representation—not dilution across larger, more complex electorates.

3. Competing Community Needs Will Undermine Effective Representation

The proposed redistribution risks grouping together communities with fundamentally different needs, including:

- Urban vs rural priorities
- Coastal population pressures vs inland service access challenges
- Growth-area infrastructure demands vs remote service sustainability

This creates an inherent conflict in representation.

A single Member of Parliament cannot effectively prioritise:

- Rapid urban development pressures and
- Remote community service gaps
- Tourism-driven economic concerns and
- Agricultural and regional industry needs

This will inevitably lead to:

- Some communities being underrepresented
- Key issues being deprioritised
- Reduced effectiveness in advocacy

Effective electorates should be cohesive—not conflicted.

4. Geographic and Practical Representation Concerns

Far North Queensland electorates already cover large and diverse areas. Expanding or reshaping these electorates further will:

- Increase travel distances significantly
- Reduce accessibility for constituents
- Limit meaningful face-to-face engagement

For remote communities, access to their representative is already challenging. These changes will exacerbate that disadvantage.

Representation must be practical and accessible, not simply numerically balanced.

5. Inconsistency with Principles of Fair Redistribution

While numerical equality is important, it must not override:

- Community identity
- Geographic realities
- Effective representation

The proposed changes place disproportionate weight on numbers, at the expense of fair and functional representation, particularly for regional and remote Queenslanders.

6. Impact on Community Confidence and Engagement

Poorly aligned boundary changes can:

- Create confusion among voters

- Disrupt established relationships with representatives
- Reduce trust in the electoral process

For regional communities, where representation is already stretched, this impact is even more significant.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I strongly oppose:

- The proposed boundary changes to the Electoral district of Mulgrave
- The proposed abolition of the Electoral district of Hill

I respectfully request that the Commission:

- Retain the Hill electorate to preserve strong regional and remote representation
- Maintain Mulgrave's current community alignment

Closing Statement

Far North Queensland communities—particularly those in regional and remote areas—require strong, focused, and accessible representation.

These proposed changes risk creating electorates that are geographically vast, socially disconnected, and politically conflicted. This will weaken advocacy, dilute community voice, and ultimately disadvantage those who already face the greatest barriers.

Representation must reflect real communities—not just numerical targets.

The consistent outcome in these cases is a dilution of representation, particularly for smaller and remote communities, and an overextension of Members of Parliament.

Relevance to Mulgrave

The proposed changes to the Electoral District of Mulgrave risk expanding the electorate beyond a cohesive community and introducing competing needs that cannot be effectively balanced.

In particular, the redistribution of communities following the proposed abolition

of the Electoral District of Hill is likely to place additional strain on Mulgrave, weakening representation for both existing and newly included communities.