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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Burnett

Submission:

This submission is to object to the proposal of the Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy areas being removed from the State electorate of Burnett and added to the electorate of Callide.

For effective representation and regional cohesion, Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy should remain in the Burnett electorate, in my opinion.

Prior to my submission, I have read the ECQ numbers and reasons suggested for the move. I still firmly believe that the areas of Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy are best served by the Burnett electorate.

Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy are coastal communities intrinsically linked to other existing parts of the Burnett electorate, and the broad region to the south. Their economic, social, and geographic alignment is much more firmly oriented toward the Burnett electorate. These towns are driven by a tourism-based economy, supported by strong connections to coastal visitation networks, regional branding, and service delivery systems that are already aligned with Burnett. The provision of State services to Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy residents is from the south. For example education and health services are accessed in the Bundaberg and Burnett areas for over 80% of locals here.

Whereas, the Callide electorate is predominantly inland, with economic priorities centred around agriculture, mining, and rural industries. Whilst important in its own right, Callide does not provide similar or familiar or relevant aspects. I see no advantage in the 'positive' suggestions that have been made that the inclusion of Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy within Callide would mean it is the only coastal area in Callide. Being the only coastal area would create a misalignment of community interests, it would dilute effective representation for the coastal community, and pose a significantly larger portfolio and workload for the Callide representatives. Not to mention, the lack of physical alignment. Local residents from the coast are not traveling to Gayndah, Gin Gin, Monto, Biloela and the many other parts of the Callide district to access any State related services, or to align and improve their coastal living experience.

To confirm, my reasons for this objection do include topics that the Commission must consider as these decisions are weighed up:

- the economic and social impact of Callide being the designated State electorate would be very high. In the current situation, being within the Burnett electorate, there is a high level of relativity and familiarity with the

economic and social needs of Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy, as compared to the remainder of the Burnett electorate. This provides representation of a high standard as the understanding of ALL the Burnett electorate residents' needs. The coastal residential precincts of Burnett, which also have Tourism as a driving economic force, provide a practical and tangible relevance with regard to services, infrastructure and regional identity. Coastal visitation, supply chains, and workforce movement are all aligned in the present situation of being in Burnett.

-the ways of communication and travel for Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy residents is a large factor in my submission opposing the move to Callide. Geographically, the Callide electorate does not include towns with services that residents of Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy residents frequent. The eastern towns of the current Callide electorate, Gin Gin, Boyne Valley, Calliope for example are not towns which provide a significantly larger service level than Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy itself. Therefore the residents of Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy will still require the Bundaberg-sized services to be accessed for health, education and similar State services. Whilst I realise the Bundaberg itself is not in the current Burnett electorate, the neighbouring areas which are, around Bargara provide central meeting points and services for all. I am unaware of where the proposed services and meetings points would be in the future, if Callide was the designated electorate? Surely not the larger centres of Biloela, Monto or Gayndah which are much further in travel time and distance? If the suggestion is made of Gladstone being the main centre, I need to point out that would also have minimal relativity to Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy residents. The Gladstone and Callide electorates are important in their own right, yet they are not similar to, or familiar to, Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy residents. Their focus and therefore their residents' and lifestyles are vastly different. There is no doubt that in the present circumstances where residents of the Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy area can travel to Gladstone or to Bundaberg for some services, as both centres offer that service, the very very large majority choose Bundaberg. It is not half / half, it is clear that Bundaberg is the go-to. The communication and travel choice being to the south is relevant to this boundary change for community of interest factors.

- as mentioned, the physical features of each proposed electoral district are very different. Already, there are obvious and difficult differences with the features, needs, services and infrastructure between Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy, vs Gladstone where the Local Government is based. A clear community divide exists, where ethos and priorities are not aligned. Gladstone Regional Council local government services to Agnes Water, Seventeen Seventy and the entire southern section of the local electorate, are very different to services for the Gladstone, Tannum Sands type areas. Again, the Tourism economy, the high proportion of small businesses and low number of large industry, and the relaxed coastal environment are obvious differences which do impact current residents. Ideally, our State boundary would be within a supportive and similar community. Shifting Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy into the Callide electorate would disconnect them from their natural regional alignment. With Callide being inland-focused and having different economic drivers the change would equate to stalling and lack of collaborative

lobbying for greater community outcomes.

I hope the electorate boundary remains in Burnett and I hope that consistent representation of our coastal tourism interests can remain, plus strong advocacy for infrastructure that supports the visitor economy and coastal communities, and the preservation of the community identity and established service networks.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Commission to retain Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy (1770) within the Burnett electorate.

Regards,
Amber Rodgers

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