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Electoral District: All
Related Submissions: O-459, O-503, O-571, O-627, O-685, O-719, O-724, O-752

Submission:

Please find attached my comments on the redistribution objections.

Submission Attachments

Comments on objections.pdf

27 April 2026

Dear Commissioners,

The objections of the proposed electorate boundaries have made for interesting reading. For the most part, the objections are limited to the abolition of Hill, a few boundary locations, most notably, but not limited to, between Hervey Bay and Maryborough and the names of some electorates. I wish to address the most common issues raised.

Abolition of Hill

This has rightly attracted vitriol in the direction of the redistribution committee. I noted in my objection (O-627) that the removal of Hill was a bold move and will most likely attract anger. This was clearly an understatement. While I am resigned to this decision as a *fait accompli*, I believe this was unnecessary. In my original suggestions, I noted that there was no need to redistribute the five far north Queensland electorates given they were all in quota and were projected to remain so. This was a comment noted by several other submissions independently of my own assessment. It defies logic that a district that was right on quota and going to remain so would be abolished, especially when the only notable submission to suggest a move was from the LNP. I generally agree with the sentiment of Bob Richardson's objection (O-571) that this was solely designed to remove an electorate because the LNP has repeatedly failed to win the seat in the Atherton Tablelands area since the 1998 election. The 'if I (LNP) cannot have it, no one will' approach is no way to run a redistribution. It smacks of a gerrymander. The fact that the Atherton Tablelands district votes in Kennedy at the federal level should have zero influence on putting places like Ravenshoe, Herberton, Malanda and Milla Milla into proposed Flinders. If the numbers allow an electorate to be drawn closer to Cairns, then it should be focused on that area, not on Mt. Isa. It takes a special decision to even annoy the QCWA (O-503), a naturally conservative organisation, so much that they also submit an objection on this nonsense. Mining groups, local governments, Independent MPs, engaged individual LNP voters, Indigenous groups, KAP all present the same arguments and they are very sound. The most conspicuous silence comes from the three main political parties: ALP (O-724), LNP (O-719) and Greens (O-685). I don't think the ALP really cares because they weren't going to be a beneficiary of any decision one way or the other. This is probably a result of apathy that comes from newfound opposition. The Greens are Brisbane centric (mind you, if it affected Barron River, I am sure they would cry foul) and the LNP had the audacity to opine about how a boundary with Cook would change community of interest in Mareeba, literally less than half an hour down the road, as a direct result of the redistribution committee giving them what they want. The community has a right to feel betrayed with this decision. Regional Queenslanders should not be having their voices diluted, especially if the change should have occurred south of Townsville. If there was any justice or fairness in this decision, the committee should go back to the drawing board and reinstate Hill to the electoral map and look to make changes where there are significant deficiencies between Townsville and Rockhampton. I know that this will not happen because such a decision will draw out the redistribution process longer than what it needs to be. The state and the voters of the Atherton Tablelands and Cassowary Coast deserve so much better from a supposedly non-partisan, independent authority. The decision made here is likely to have the LNP lose Mulgrave to KAP (if Mr Knuth is a candidate) or even One Nation (if Mr Knuth is not a candidate) at the next election, an outcome that they were clearly trying to engineer not to happen.

Minor boundary changes

Electorate	Comment
Hervey Bay	It does seem curious as to why the boundary between Hervey Bay and Maryborough is drawn the way it is. Hervey Bay is growing and has a distinctive urban footprint that is orientated east-west, not north-south. The removal of Hervey Bay hospital from the community it serves is curious at best, careless at worst. Given Maryborough already has significant rural localities, it would make more sense to put the rural communities around Hervey Bay into Maryborough and let the MP of Hervey Bay focus on a purely urban electorate. I am sure the argument for having River Heads in Hervey Bay is so there is the continuity with K'gari. Any swaps of areas including River Heads will likely include K'gari. Given these would be easy swaps to accomplish, they should be considered given the logic of placing as much of urban Hervey Bay orientated east-west as possible into the Hervey Bay electorate.
Gregory	Given the arguments presented by local councils in Central West Queensland and other local stakeholders, the movement of a few hundred electors in Tambo should be a no brainer given Gregory will always be on the hunt for additional electors. If there are flow on deficiencies in Warrego, the first place to find replacement electors will be in Miles from Callide.
Nambour	Objections mainly stem from Eumundi and the Mary Valley. Eumundi-based objections generally want to be part of the Noosa electorate. I believe this is highly optimistic given electors in Cooroy that are already in the Noosa LGA have been fighting for this change for several redistribution cycles but hasn't happened. Eumundi, while preferring to look to Noosa, is linked to the Sunshine Coast LGA and so would be more likely to be in an electorate anchored in this LGA. As a result, these objections should be noted but not acted on. Mary Valley-based objections are more understandable, given the obvious links with the Gympie region. Sometimes I think the Gympie area likes to have its cake and eat it too when it comes to how it interacts with the Sunshine Coast. The region around Gympie, including the Mary Valley, like to engage with Sunshine Coast tourism and economy but try to position itself outside of it to try and retain their distinctive rural flavour – all the benefits, none of the responsibility. This is fine however, as southeast Queensland and the Gympie urban area continue to grow, something will have to give with the representation in the Mary Valley. If Gympie continues to grow, areas such as Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach will have first option at being in the Gympie electorate due to limited links and Maryborough already having to absorb growth around Hervey Bay. Unfortunately, this means that the valley towns are left out. This redistribution is the first instance of this issue coming to a head. I know it is far from ideal for these communities that have genuine and real ties to Gympie however, there are limited options as to where to place them. Given the Mary Valley Way stretches all the way down to Kenilworth and Kenilworth does have political and geographical links to areas west of Nambour, this is the next best fit.
Callide	The objections from the Agnes Water and Baffle Creek communities should be noted as Callide is fast becoming an electorate with no real anchor community. It may end up that the next redistribution will abolish Callide as the electorate becomes too incoherent. It is not logical that communities on the Discovery Coast are lumped with western Darling Downs communities (an issue that I have raised many times in submissions) however, the presence of Gin Gin in Callide for many years is the only justification I would have to keep these coastal communities in Callide.

Greenbank	You know something is off when the politically diverse Ipswich City Council votes unanimously to write an objection (O-459) in addition to many other similar objections including a former speaker of the Legislative Assembly (O-752). Ripley South has no place in Greenbank given the significant geographic disconnect with communities closer to Flagstone. The simplest swap could be with Ipswich West given identified links to Yamanto and Amberley and could be offset with changes in the areas north of Ipswich placed into Moggill (see below with Moggill).
Gaven	Other than with Hill, objections with Gaven seemed to have the word gerrymander attached to it (including my own). Objections consistently cite the addition of Merrimac into Gaven while Nerang is split between Gaven and Mudgeeraba. The objections that have offered suggestions for improvement (including my own) would be swaps around Nerang, Mt. Nathan and Highland Park into Gaven to preserve a community of interest and move Merrimac and parts of Carrara out into Mudgeeraba.
Mirani	Objections concerning the exclusion of Racecourse Mill can easily be remedied given minimal enrolment transfer. This change will allow three out of the four sugar mills in the Mackay district (Racecourse, Marian and Plane Creek) to be in one district as opposed to four in three different electorates (Farleigh in Whitsunday). Ooralea should remain in Mackay with any change, but the boundary will end up being less neat.
Moggill	As mentioned with the comment on changes between Greenbank and Ipswich West, any addition of Ripley South to Ipswich West could be offset by giving Pine Mountain and Muirlea to Moggill using the Brisbane Valley Highway and Warrego Highway as well-defined boundaries. This is consistent with several submitted objections.
Aspley and Kurwongbah	Objections on these two electorates should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. My observation is that this is the first time suburb splitting has come to their suburbs. Given the significant disruption caused by the abolition of Hill, I don't have a lot of sympathy for these objections in comparison. Suburbs around Brisbane have been split for many years, including down arbitrary side streets, with the best example of the boundary between the soon to be defunct Miller and Toohey. That had Miller's electorate office literally on the electorate boundary and split the Moorooka shopping district straight down the middle. It was a truly appalling decision in the last redistribution and will be corrected in this distribution. The Moorooka community dealt with it for the last seven years. They survived. It is far from ideal to split a suburb down the middle, but at least it is down a main road. If there is a workable adjustment, it should be made. If not, the Geebung and Narangba community will survive, and the boundary will likely be corrected at the next redistribution.

Electorate names

The draft report's return to geographical names is a move I support as I noted in my objection. I did find it curious that there was the need to change the names of some electorates because they overlap with local government names, yet there are still many that retain local government names. This is inconsistent with the report's rationale. The best example was the reason of changing Scenic Rim to Beaudesert yet not change an electorate's name like Whitsunday which does not have a large part of its namesake LGA within its boundaries. Logan is one where the rationale fails as well. I am not too concerned with most of the proposed names but if there is a rationale for names, it needs to be applied consistently.

Proposed electorate names that are inconsistent with naming rationale with LGAs as identified by the commission:

Bundaberg	Burdekin	(North and South) Burnett
Cairns	Cook	Flinders
Gladstone	Gympie	Hinchinbrook
Ipswich (and West)	Lockyer (Valley)	Logan
Mackay	Noosa	Redlands
Rockhampton	(South) Brisbane (Central)	Southern Downs
Toowoomba (North and South)	Townsville	Whitsunday

Comments on proposed name changes

Proposed Name	New Name	Comment
Beaudesert	Scenic Rim or Wyaralong	I saw no reason to change from Scenic Rim given it contains the Scenic Rim LGA and is an inclusive name of the district. I did like the suggestion of Wyaralong from several of the objections. The arguments presented for this name are very compelling if the name needs to be changed.
Springfield	Woogaroo	The reasons provided by several objections are compelling given the centrality of Woogaroo Creek and Forest in the electorate and provides another indigenous place name which is familiar to many locals.
Coolum	Ninderry	There were minimal changes to the electorate. While I am being indulgent pushing my own proposed change, I find myself in agreeance with the LNP with probably their most reasonable contribution to the process. Mt. Ninderry is more central to the electorate than Coolum.
Flinders	Flinders	This highlights an example of the inconsistency in the argument of not naming electorates after LGAs. I have no issue with the name Flinders given the Flinders River forms a major geographical feature in the electorate and was the name used for the electorate in the area that a certain Mr. Bob Katter Jr. represented during his tenure in state parliament. Objections from Flinders Shire Council and local stakeholders appear just a little self-indulgent.
Eight Mile Plains	Sunnybank or Runcorn	It is curious that an electorate named for a suburb in the area does not contain a significant part of the said suburb. Given the English as an Additional Language or Dialect demographic of the area, a triple name electorate may confuse some electors. Suggestions of Sunnybank would be suitable due to its centrality and has recently been used as an electorate name. Runcorn is also wholly contained in the proposed electorate and would also be suitable.
Mirani	Broadsound	A geographically central name for an electorate where the main population centres are at the northern and southern ends. See comments made in my objection submission (O-627)

Regards,

Andrew Kamler