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Electoral District: South Brisbane; Toowoomba North; Toowoomba South; Brisbane Central (formerly McConnel); Eight Mile Plains (formerly Toohey)

Submission:

See below

Submission Attachments

Email - Mark Yore - Review of Draft Boundaries by the Queensland Redistribution Commission 2025 Mark Yore.pdf

Queensland Redistribution Commission

Review of Draft Boundaries of the Queensland Redistribution 2025

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Introduction

The QRC has approached this redistribution with a degree of professionalism that has been previously absent.

While it isn't identical to my submission it does provide defensible alternatives. The QRC properly identifies issues, reflects the concerns of all of the submissions and provides a clear explanation of why the draft boundaries are placed where they are.

It also fulfils the objectives I outlined in my response - to meet the numerical requirements under the Electoral Act; to keep communities together as much as possible; to draw boundaries that use clear, defensible demarcations between electorates; and to remove partisan considerations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my thoughts on the draft boundaries.

Naming of Electorates

The QRC has not only reversed the naming changes introduced in the 2019 Redistribution, it has provided a clear template for future redistributions.

I am grateful that the QRC has made it easier for voters to understand which electorate they are in, following the submissions that called for certainty in the names of seats. While decisions made in this redistribution don't necessarily bind future Commissions, they do provide a process and a roadmap where any changes can now be limited to those areas where boundary changes invalidate the name.

I made a strong objection to the 2017 redistribution process of introducing new names, many of which were spun out of whole cloth by the Commission itself, without reference to submissions. The fact that these were introduced at the latest possible stage removed the opportunity to effectively raise concerns about the naming process.

However the suggestions I have made below are relatively simple and the Commission also has the opportunity to seek public comments on any prospective changes.

There are a few minor suggestions to be considered:

A. Lytton

The suburb of Lytton has almost no permanent population, dropping from 6 in the 2011 Census to 3 in the 2021 Census. As an industrial area containing historic Fort Lytton there is no opportunity for residential growth. It runs the risk of being downgraded to a locality, in much the same way that the State Electorates of Ithaca and Merthyr were renamed when their eponymous suburbs were absorbed.

Changing the name to Wynnum at this time would remove the necessity of doing it later. Wynnum is not only the central area, it has the largest population of all of the suburbs within Lytton (14,036 in the 2021 Census).

Brisbane City Council has also identified Wynnum as a strategic growth area in the current Wynnum Centre Suburban Renewal planning area.

“Wynnum is one of Brisbane's most popular bayside suburbs. Wynnum Centre is well serviced by infrastructure – the precinct plan area is surrounded by excellent open space facilities including Kitchener Park and the Wynnum foreshore. The centre is also well connected with rail, bus and active transport corridors, linking the precinct to the foreshore and wider Brisbane region. The draft Wynnum Centre Suburban Renewal Precinct Plan outlines an exciting long-term vision to enhance the heart of Wynnum - from Byrneside Terrace to Clara Street, along Tingal Road, Colina Street, Bay Terrace, and the area surrounding Wynnum Central Station.”

Wynnum will continue to be the central hub of the electorate in any future boundary changes.

B. *Repetition of names - Brisbane Central and South Brisbane; Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South*

I take guidance from the current Proposal for the Redistribution and the Commission's approach to electorate names. In particular:

"The Commission considers that voter recognition of an electorate's location is essential. Electorate names which do not identify or suggest the location of an electorate may cause unnecessary confusion. That is also likely if an electorate were named after a geographical place but the name lacked voter recognition or is no longer suitable (for example, because of boundary changes or to differentiate it from a local government area)."

While almost all of the draft electorate names are unique, there are still names that have been retained to minimise change. I believe that these directional names are not significantly distinctive to the locality but also run counter to the desire to *"differentiate it from a local government area."* A number of suggestions were made to rename each of these electorates and I believe that these four electorates can be renamed without much dispute.

Issues Raised in the Draft Boundaries

I believe that the Commission has made an error in their assignment of the seat to be abolished on Brisbane's south side. My view is that the determination of which existing seat formed the new electorate of Eight Mile Plains, and which was abolished, are two separate questions.

My understanding is that the QRC appears to have taken the new seat of Eight Mile Plains and assumed that the previous seat that contributed the most to it was the seat that was abolished. Eight Mile Plains consists of 23,165 (projected 23,592) previous Stretton voters and 17,278 (projected 18,296) previous Toohey voters.

However that is a separate question compared to which seat was removed.

While Stretton was split between Eight Mile Plains, Algester and a tiny area to Marsden; Toohey was carved off into Annerley, Mansfield, Algester and Eight Mile Plains as detailed below.

Current Electorate	Draft Electorate	Current Enrolment	Future Enrolment
Toohey	Algester	995	1,049
Stretton	Algester	11,595	12,020
Toohey	Annerley	11,444	11,882
Toohey	Eight Mile Plains	12,179	12,946
Stretton	Eight Mile Plains	23,165	23,592
Toohey	Mansfield	5,292	5,676
Stretton	Marsden	333	357

The fact that Toohey contributed the least to the new seat of Eight Mile Plains is also an indication that it was the electorate that was most fragmented.

Recap of Post-Redistribution issues for consideration by the QRC

There are a number of issues outside the scope of this redistribution, however I believe they can be raised as additional items in the final QRC report as well as forming a reference for the QRC and ECQ during future Estimates Committee Hearings. As the Electoral Commissioner of Queensland is one of the QRC Commissioners there is an opportunity for that role to provide continuity outside of the redistribution cycle.

Time available for submissions

In 2025 there were numerous comments regarding the shortage of time available for submissions to be made by members of the public. Much of that was due to the increased detail of many of the submissions compared to 2017 changes, as well as the need to validate their work. One of the major issues this time around has been patching up holes introduced by the 2017 redistribution.

Support and resources for submissions

I was fortunate this time to be able to use the Queensland State Redistribution Tool developed by Angus () as well as a range of other data analytics. I would like to suggest that the QRC and ECQ collect and make available other helpful tools to enable a consistent approach to best-practice submissions. Providing some familiarity to these types of tools will also assist the QRC in evaluating the impact of multiple submissions.

Queensland electorate numbers

There's a valid argument that the additional four seats created in 2017 did not adequately prepare Queensland for the significant growth we are facing. However the process of expanding Parliament is long and uncertain. As we head towards another Federal electorate, either at the 2026 redistribution or four years later, we have an opportunity to match population growth. With 31 Federal electorates the proportions match the 93 State electorates at exactly 1:3. An option would be to define the number of Queensland seats as exactly three times the number of Federal seats, providing a degree of consistency with how Queensland addresses governance.

Large Area weighting and the future of oversized electorates

At the beginning of this process I was agnostic on the Large Area weighting provided to oversized electorates. I have come to the view that this is not the best solution to resolve the extreme distances within Queensland. After all, people vote – not land. The excessively large electorates could be pared to two – one containing the remote sections of Tragear and Cook, and the other being the electorate of Gregory. In my submission I detached Warrego from the western state border; not just to create a better community of interest based on Roma, but also to provide a directional approach to this change.

The question of servicing these large electorates was raised on a number of submissions. I believe that that could easily be resolved while keeping the basic tenets of democracy intact. Providing additional resources for electorates based on size – additional electorate offices, staff, increased transport budgets and increased communications into remote areas would have a more meaningful impact.