

Submission ID: CO-0008
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Name: Hamish McDowall
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Gympie; Hill; Hinchinbrook; Ipswich; Ipswich West; Lockyer; Moggill; Mulgrave; Beenleigh (formerly Macalister); Flinders (formerly Traeger); Greenbank (formerly Jordan); Nambour (formerly Nicklin); Pimpama (formerly Coomera); Redbank (formerly Bundamba)
Related Submissions: O-002, O-240, O-194, O-160, O-370, O-347

Submission:

I am writing these comments with regards to the five submissions that also have many similar submissions about similar topics. I will address them separately.

South Ripley

Many objections raised, including (O-0002) are right to oppose the transfer of South Ripley to Greenbank, given the very strong connections to Ipswich and Springfield that just don't exist with the Logan LGA. However, this may effect enrolment numbers in Redbank, and Springfield, both above average by 2032 (especially Redbank). South Ripley and White Rock should be in the same electorate, probably Ipswich. The same can be said of Ripley itself. However, I can still suggest some boundary changes to balance numbers better, namely by including Booval, Silkstone, Bundamba, and Dinmore in Redbank, now possible as Redbank loses Ripley. To further help things, Woodend, West Ipswich, Sadlier's Crossing, and Coalfalls should join Ipswich West, with Pine Mountain and Muirlea going into Moggill as suggested in O-0370.

Mary Valley

O-0194 has reasons to oppose the inclusion of the Mary Valley area in Nambour, given the historic links to Gympie in towns like Kandanga and Imbil. However, I would advise against this as while local government boundaries should be considered very much, seats still have to be in quota as best as possible. While Gympie could theoretically lose some territory to Maryborough around Glenwood to allow for the retention of the Mary Valley, it only increases pressure on enrolment numbers in Maryborough and surrounding seats like Burnett and Hervey Bay.

Abolition of Hill

There are many objections, including, opposing the abolition of Hill. I understand the opposition, given the relatively compact nature of the electorate and the fact it remains in quota. However, given the many seats in North Queensland that are underquota or close to it, such as Mundingburra, Thuringowa, Flinders, Burdekin etc. it was inevitable that a seat would have to go fit enrolment numbers. I suggest that this was the least bad option as it would allow 3 seats for Townsville to be retained, while bringing Hinchinbrook back into its traditional territory between Townsville and Cairns. In addition,

connections are stronger between the Atherton Tablelands and Cairns, rather than Innisfail or the outback areas in Flinders, as identified in O-0240, where inclusion of the Tablelands Regional Council in Mulgrave was proposed. However, Mulgrave has traditionally been a coastal seat and so, drastic changes would have been needed, such as Cairns moving farther than south than it traditionally occupied, otherwise, the electorate would be cut into two. As interpreted, the enrolment in Tablelands would be about half of a state electorate, making balancing it out difficult. The Commission's proposal, while imperfect and obviously more inconvenient than keeping the whole Tablelands in one electorate, take into account the requirements of the Electoral Act and also try to keep communities connected.

Northern Gold Coast

Finally, O-0347 raises objections to the move of Ormeau Hills and Yatala into Beenleigh. It is understandable, because of the different local government areas. However, the Gold Coast is growing quickly and is struggling to accommodate 11 seats, and so a stopgap is needed, meaning this inclusion, while unwelcome and I would have much rathered Beenleigh be entirely in Logan, is necessary to balance enrolment numbers in Pimpama and neighbouring Oxenford, both rapidly growing areas.

Overall, while there are many problems with regards to shared interests of communities, I still think that other than what I have mentioned, most of the objections mentioned in other areas should be considered in their entirety and these recommendations are worth listening to, because even if problems remain, there is always a next time, so can be fixed then.

Kind regards,

Hamish McDowall