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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries and Names
Electoral District: Burdekin; Hill; Mansfield; Mirani; Stretton; Thuringowa; Toohey
Related Submissions: S-110-Liberal-National-Party-of-Queensland and S-112-Queensland-Greens

Submission:

To the Queensland Redistribution Commission,

I am writing in response to the Submissions of the LNP and Greens to the commission. Not unmindful of their respective agendas, I agree with both proposals in the matter of establishing new electorates in the Logan-Ipswich corridor and between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. The latter of these electorates is dubbed Caboolture by both proposals which is a name difficult to disagree with, as it enables easy location of the new electorate to a significant number of Queenslanders. The former electorate is named Greenbank in one proposal and Jimboomba in the other. On this front, Jimboomba seems a better name, as it is more distinctive (Greenbank is somewhat generic) and - in my opinion - Jimboomba is more easily locatable.

I have a mixed level of agreement with these submissions on their proposal abolishments. I agree with both that one electorate south of the Brisbane River and one electorate in rural Queensland would make sense to be abolished. However, I do not find that either party has proposed the most sensible electorate to be abolished. For the electorate south of the Brisbane River, one proposal advises abolishing Stretton and the other Toohey. Stretton borders three electorates (Algester, Woodridge and Waterford) that are over quota, albeit slightly, but nonetheless provides area to the south that it can gain to move into quota. Stretton would need to move into Toohey to reach quota. In this sense, it looks quite reasonable to abolish Toohey, but not the most logical. I find that abolishing Mansfield makes the most sense for future projections. Under current boundaries, Chatsworth, Capalaba and Springwood will be a combined -45% under quota in 2032 and these are three of the five electorates bordering Mansfield. Most concerning is Chatsworth, which may very well need to gain the suburb of Mansfield to remain at quota, which would require the renaming of the electorate of Mansfield even if not abolished. Mansfield is surrounded by such a large number of under-quota electorates that it has great opportunity to redistribute.

My opinions surrounding the electorate to be abolished in rural Queensland are less strong but I still feel evidence exists that neither Hill nor Thuringowa should be abolished as the submissions proposed. Burdekin would be better suited to be abolished. In the same way it is nonsensical to abolish a district with significant borders (such as Cook, Traeger or Gregory) it makes little sense to me to abolish Thuringowa, as even though Townsville's electorates are under-quota, it requires three districts as the city cannot at all be

contained in two. Simultaneously, abolishing Hill removed an electorate that is one of the most stable in meeting quota in the area based on projections. Burdekin, like Mansfield, is entirely surrounded by under-quota electorates while being under-quota itself. With no true space to expand, abolishing Burdekin instead allows the surrounding electorates to gain needed voters. Mirani would likely need to be significantly reworked to the north, but the town of Mirani is already located in the north of that district which likely saves renaming it.

In summary, these submissions have decently reasonable proposals in terms of new electorates and the area of abolishment, but somewhat lacking in the specifics of their abolishments.