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Name: Tim Bortoli
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Hill

Submission:

Submission regarding the proposed abolition of the electorate of Hill and its merger with Flinders

I wish to express my concern regarding the proposal to abolish the electorate of Hill and merge it into the much larger electorate of Flinders.

Residents of the Atherton Tablelands and surrounding communities already live in a regional area where access to services, infrastructure and government attention can be more limited than in metropolitan centres. Effective and accessible local representation is therefore especially important. Removing a dedicated electorate for this region risks weakening the ability of local communities to have their voices heard in the Queensland Parliament.

The Tablelands is not a declining region. It is a growing and developing area with its own economic base, infrastructure challenges and community priorities. Population growth and regional development should strengthen the case for maintaining strong local representation rather than reducing it.

Merging Hill into the very large electorate of Flinders would create an electorate covering an enormous geographic area. Such large electorates make it more difficult for Members of Parliament to maintain meaningful engagement with all communities they represent. Communities on the Tablelands could easily become peripheral to the broader priorities of a much larger electorate, particularly when competing with distant regions that have different needs and challenges.

The Tablelands community has distinct interests relating to agriculture, regional development, tourism, water security and local infrastructure. These priorities differ in meaningful ways from other areas that would be included in an expanded Flinders electorate. Maintaining representation that understands and focuses on these local issues is important for effective governance.

If boundary adjustments are required, a more logical alternative would be aligning the Tablelands communities more closely with the Mareeba region. These areas share similar economic structures, regional challenges and community interests. Grouping communities with comparable needs would provide more coherent and effective representation.

Regional Queenslanders deserve the same quality of representation afforded to residents in metropolitan areas. Expanding electorates to the point where they become geographically vast risks diluting the democratic voice of regional

communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to reconsider the proposal to abolish the electorate of Hill and merge it with Flinders, and instead preserve strong local representation for the Tablelands region.

Thank you for considering this submission.