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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Hill; Hinchinbrook; Mulgrave; Flinders (formerly Traeger)

Submission:

Submission on the "Proposal for the Redistribution of the State's Electoral Districts March 2026"

I reside in Peeramon, part of the Tablelands Regional Council and currently in the Hill electoral district.

I am concerned about the proposed:

1. removal of Hill as an electoral district
2. moving parts of Hill to Mulgrave and parts to Flinders electoral districts
3. impracticality of moving parts of Hill to Flinders

Removal of Hill

Reducing the number of North Queensland electoral districts from 13 to 12 clearly lessens the voice of North Queensland while increasing the remaining districts to 60.

Queensland's annual growth rate for the 12 months ending March 2025 was 1.8%, driven by interstate migration and high net overseas migration.

The Commission decided to balance the number of electors in each district across the State, requiring North Queensland districts to be reduced by one.

However, if districts were solely based on numbers, then eventually there would only be one district for all of regional Queensland.

Brisbane absolutely needs multiple seats — it's a big, dense area with lots of people close together. But regional Queensland should have more seats than it does, because it covers a massive area and has far more varied needs. It shouldn't matter if an area has 1,000 people or 100,000 — the Act says electorates must be based on all the factors in the Electoral Act, not just population.

The Proposal states that the number of electorates is set by "Queensland Parliament" and changing it from 93 is therefore out of scope for the Commission. Should the issue of reducing the number of seats for North Queensland not be taken to the Queensland Parliament then?

North Queensland's voice should not be reduced just because Queensland's overall population is increasing.

Splitting Hill

The district of Hill is proposed to be absorbed into the surrounding districts of Mulgrave, Hinchinbrook and Flinders (formerly Traeger).

Although the Proposal suggests that the Commission took Section 46 of the Electoral Act into consideration, this does not appear to have happened, particularly in the case of moving the western portion of Hill into Flinders.

The Tablelands Regional Council (TRC) area should be kept together in the same electoral district as its residents have a lot more in common with each other than with those living in Flinders.

The Proposal splits towns in Hill that rely on the same schools, hospitals and services. It draws lines through areas that clearly belong together.

I am not opposed to moving all of the TRC area into Mulgrave as long as TRC is kept together.

Impracticality of moving western parts of Hill into Flinders

The Proposal makes some regional electorates even larger than they already are — which makes proper representation almost impossible.

It does not appear to have given honest consideration to the '*matters to be considered in preparing proposed electoral redistribution*' at Section 46 of the Electoral Act 1992.

Simply applying a 2% adjustment as allowed in the Electoral Act for areas greater than 100,000km² does not resolve the distance issue.

Regional Queensland covers most of the state, with huge distances and completely different needs from town to town. One electoral district can include farming, mining, water issues, disaster zones, remote health, bad roads, and dozens of communities spread hundreds of kilometres apart.

Expecting one MP to cover all of that is not just unrealistic — it's negligent. You can't overload one person with the work of ten while someone else has a much smaller workload. But that's exactly what's happening with regional electorates.

Expecting Peeramon residents to travel to Mt Isa to see their 'local' MP is ridiculous.

A fairer system would be to draw electoral districts based on area, communities and real-world boundaries first. Then adjust for population second — not the other way around.