

**Submission ID:** O-0677  
**Date Received:** 8/4/26, 10:46 pm  
**Name:** Katie Cole  
**Submission Topic:** Electorate Boundaries  
**Electoral District:** Hill

**Submission:**

See below

**Submission Attachments**

Email - Katie Cole - Objection to Proposed Abolition of the Electoral District of Hill.pdf

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [ORC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to Proposed Abolition of the Electoral District of Hill  
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 April 2026 10:45:47 PM

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Dear Queensland Redistribution Commission,

I write to formally object to the proposed abolition of the Electoral District of Hill in Far North Queensland.

The electorate of Hill represents a unique and diverse region encompassing the Tablelands and Cassowary Coast—areas with distinct geographic, economic, and community needs that require dedicated and consistent representation. The removal of this electorate risks diluting the voice of rural and regional Queenslanders whose interests differ markedly from those in more urbanised centres.

A central concern in this proposal is the loss of representation by Mr Shane Knuth, the current Member for Hill. Mr Knuth has served his constituents with integrity and dedication since 2004. Over more than two decades, he has built a strong reputation as a genuine and accessible representative—one who listens carefully, engages openly, and acts decisively on the concerns of his community. His service has never been driven by political ambition, but rather by a sincere commitment to the people he represents.

What distinguishes Mr Knuth is his consistent presence within the community. He is widely known across the Tablelands for his willingness to meet with constituents, hear their concerns firsthand, and advocate on their behalf. His accessibility and authenticity have fostered a high level of trust, which is essential in regional representation.

His record of advocacy and delivery demonstrates the tangible benefits of maintaining the Hill electorate. Among many achievements, his persistent efforts—alongside strong community support, including a petition of nearly 6,000 signatures—have contributed to the commencement of the \$70 million upgrade of Atherton Hospital. He has also been a longstanding advocate for improvements to the Palmerston Highway, raising the issue in Parliament on numerous occasions and securing ongoing funding to address safety concerns on this critical transport route.

Mr Knuth's contributions extend across multiple sectors vital to the region:

**Agriculture:**

Advocacy for funding to combat Navua Sedge, support for Panama disease TR4 response, and legislative initiatives such as the Fair Milk framework and marketing reforms for cane growers.

**Health:**

Securing major investments in hospital upgrades, primary healthcare facilities, and specialist services across the region.

**Education:**

Facilitating substantial funding for school infrastructure, upgrades, and air-conditioning across numerous regional schools.

**Infrastructure and Roads:**

Delivering funding for critical road upgrades, intersections, bridges, and regional transport networks.

**Community Safety and Services:**

Supporting police, fire services, and domestic violence initiatives, alongside investments in community facilities and wellbeing programs.

**Business and Regional Development:** Assisting local industries, securing funding for regional projects, and supporting job creation initiatives.

These outcomes are not incidental—they are the result of sustained, effective advocacy grounded in deep local knowledge and strong community relationships.

The abolition of the Hill electorate would not only remove a well-functioning and effective representative structure, but it would also undermine the ability of communities in Far North Queensland to have their voices heard. Regional electorates require focused representation due to their scale, remoteness, and unique challenges. Absorbing Hill into larger or differently aligned electorates risks marginalising these communities and weakening democratic representation.

Mr Knuth has consistently demonstrated that he is a strong and independent voice for the people of the Tablelands and Cassowary Coast. Removing the electorate he represents would effectively silence a trusted advocate and diminish the representation of the region as a whole.

I respectfully urge the Commission to reconsider this proposal and retain the Electoral District of Hill to ensure continued, effective representation for the people of Far North Queensland.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Yours sincerely,  
Katie Cole