

**Submission ID:** S-00049  
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**Name:** Lidewij Koene-Sloss  
**Organisation Name:** Western Downs Regional Council  
**Submission Topic:** Electorate Boundaries  
**Electoral District:** All  
**Multiple Signatories:** No

## Submission:

### Submission Summary

**Title:** *Electoral Redistribution Reform for Rural and Regional Representation*  
**Proponent:** Western Downs Regional Council

### Overview:

*That the Queensland Government give consideration to amendments to the Electoral Act 1992 to enhance equity in rural and regional representation prior to the upcoming redistribution. Specifically:*

- Amend **Section 45(1)(c)** to introduce a **minimum electorate size of 75 km<sup>2</sup>**.
- Amend **Section 45(2)** to increase the **additional large district number from 2% to 5%** for electorates exceeding 50,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

### Supporting Rationale:

*Queensland's regional and remote electorates are among the largest in the world, both in size and complexity.*

*Electorates such as Gregory (approx. 459,000 km<sup>2</sup>) span vast distances that pose significant logistical, cultural, and service delivery challenges, yet they are bound by the same quota-based redistribution mechanisms as inner-city electorates, such as McConnel (approx. 12 km<sup>2</sup>), where community access, transport, and infrastructure needs differ fundamentally.*

*The current 2% allowance for electorates over 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> does little to offset this disparity. A more graduated and proportionate approach, beginning with a 5% allowance for electorates over 50,000 km<sup>2</sup>, would more fairly represent the burden placed on elected representatives and better support democratic engagement in rural and remote communities.*

*Additionally, the absence of a minimum electorate size threshold permits the excessive clustering of electorates within high-density metropolitan areas. Establishing a minimum size of 75 km<sup>2</sup> would preserve geographic diversity within the Parliament and ensure all Queenslanders are represented not just in number, but in place.*

*These reforms do not seek to undermine the principle of one vote, one value.*

*Rather, they aim to strengthen the broader democratic objective: ensuring that every Queenslanders, regardless of postcode, is meaningfully represented by a Member of Parliament capable of reasonably reaching and serving their constituents.*

*This submission represents a pragmatic recalibration, not a radical redistribution, and aligns with the State's ongoing commitment to robust, inclusive democracy across a geographically diverse landscape.*