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Submission:

I believe the suggestion of the Queensland Greens to redraw the electorate of Woodridge so that it only includes areas south of the Logan Motorway should be accepted by the Commission. This is a more accurate reflection of communities of interest in the affected suburbs. As a Marsden resident, it would never occur to me to travel north to Woodridge or Logan Central for shopping, to access government services or for any other reason associated with daily life. Everything I could want or need is accessible at either end of Browns Plains Road. The natural east-west orientation of the communities south of the Logan Motorway is confirmed by the existence of the parallel Green/Bumpstead Road corridor which would form the southern boundary of the revised electorate under the Greens' suggestion. The Logan Motorway represents a hard physical and psychological barrier between suburbs to its north and south which is currently ignored by combining them in the same electorate. An east-west configuration of the electorate to the south of the motorway will eliminate this and ensure that the electorate is geographically and functionally coherent.

As the suburb of Woodridge will no longer be within the boundaries of the electorate, a name change is required. Berrinba, as suggested by the Greens, is a reasonable suggestion as it comes from the natural feature of the Berrinba Wetlands and would be fairly central to the redrawn electorate.

However, the Greens' suggestion still does not rectify the situation of the suburb of Regents Park, which has been split between Algester, Logan and Woodridge for many years. Regents Park is a compact suburb with clear boundaries: Mt Lindesay Highway to the west, Green Road to the south and Waller Road to the east. Regents Park is a logical part of the natural east-west community of interest parallel to Browns Plains Road identified above. It makes no sense for it to be distributed piecemeal and its residents flung to the fringes of much larger electorates (such as Logan) where they only serve to make up the numbers. It makes even less sense when the point where the three electorates meet is at the intersection of Emerald Drive and Lambeth Road, on the door step of the always busy Regents Park State School polling station. To this day this tripartite partition of a single suburb causes huge confusion among voters. No one can understand how "Regents Park" is not treated as a single unit for electoral purposes and those voters who do not follow state politics are always confused as to how they end up voting in a different electorate to someone across the road or around the corner.

Therefore, I strongly urge the Commission to take the Greens' suggestions for the redrawing of the Woodridge electorate to its logical conclusion by fixing the

western boundary of the new electorate at the Mt Lindesay Highway. This will ensure that the entirety of Regents Park from Browns Plains Road to Green Road falls within a single electorate consistent with its geographical and functional connections to surrounding suburbs.

As an alternative, Algester could be redrawn so that its boundaries extend south to Green Road to take in the small part of Regents Park currently in Logan. This would not be ideal as Regents Park would still be divided between two electorates along Scrubby Creek; however this would be an improvement on the current untenable three way split.

My final comment relates to the general approach taken towards naming electorates. I do not think it appropriate to use Aboriginal names for electorates where those names are not already in use for places and geographical features. For example, the Greens' suggestion includes renaming of Macalister to Dugulumba on the basis that voters find electorates named after people confusing and Macalister had nothing to do with this particular area. I submit that Dugulumba would be just as confusing to voters. "Logan River" is used universally to describe the waterway, not Dugulumba. A Google Maps search identifies zero results for Dugulumba. In the absence of existing community use and acceptance of Dugulumba, how would voter confusion be addressed by such a change? If the Greens were serious about helping voters better understand where this particular electorate is located they should suggest renaming to Beenleigh.