

**Submission ID:** O-0687  
**Date Received:** 9/4/26, 9:58 am  
**Name:** Tanya Tuttle  
**Organisation Name:** Babinda District Community Association Inc  
**Submission Topic:** Electorate Boundaries  
**Electoral District:** Hill

**Submission:**

See below

**Submission Attachments**

Email - Tanya Tuttle - BDCA QRC Submission 9 April 2026 Final.pdf

# BABINDA DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN: 69 217 884 006



## Submission of the Babinda District Community Association (BDCA) to the 2025 Queensland Redistribution Commission.

BDCA welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the QRC in response to its proposed redistribution. Our organisation's submission will note **two objections** to the Queensland Redistribution Commission's proposed redistribution of the State's electoral districts.

### **Objection One: The proposed abolition of the seat of Hill. We propose the seat of Hill be retained.**

North Queensland currently has eleven state electorates. We are deeply concerned about any proposals that dilute the voice of North and Far North Queensland. Progressing regional priorities and ensuring adequate advocacy pathways are critical for a state that is as decentralised as Queensland. Any changes that reduce the number of electorates in North and Far North Queensland would reduce regional representation, further centralising political power in the southeast. We do not believe that this is in the interests of the state as a whole and therefore urge the Queensland Redistribution Commission not to abolish Hill.

### **Objection Two: Shifting Babinda and Surrounds to the electorate of Hinchinbrook. We propose that Babinda and Surrounds move to the electorate of Mulgrave as this directly aligns with the boundaries of the Cairns Regional Council Local Government Area.**

While the Queensland Redistribution Commission must ensure each electoral district remains within plus or minus 10 per cent of the average enrolment quota (as per the Electoral Act 1992) the available data does not support the need for the southern part of the Cairns Local Government Area to be shifted to Hinchinbrook instead of to Mulgrave. As our 2025 submission (S-103) stated, in addition to considering the enrolment data, the Commission must also consider physical geography, communities of interest, local government boundaries, travel and communication, regional identity and demographic trends.

Our region's primary social and economic connection is to the city of Cairns and the LGA of Cairns Regional Council. Furthermore, aligning electorates with LGAs where possible supports more efficient public administration and less confusion for citizens.

For communities such as ours, alignment between state electoral and local government boundaries is particularly important as the current misalignment (our region being in the electorate of Hill) creates practical problems. Babinda acts as the key service and disaster management coordinator for the southern rural part of Cairns LGA during significant weather events (of which there are many). Our township is regularly cut off from communities to the south due to flooding along the Bruce Highway. When this occurs, access from the south becomes limited. Additionally, we are deeply concerned that extending the boundaries of the Hinchinbrook electorate to create a 300km stretch of high-risk areas like Babinda and Ingham, would create significant challenges for disaster management.

Our township and the broader region does not solely rely on connections to Cairns during times of disaster; day-to-day, Cairns is the hub for our residents in relation to health, transportation, education, social service provision and planning frameworks.

BDCA is unaware of any submissions that did propose putting our region in the Hinchinbrook electorate. Both the *Katter's Australian Party* submission (S-105) and the *Liberal National Party* submission (S-110) proposed extending the seat of Mulgrave past Gordonvale to include our region.

It is also worth noting that the then member for Hinchinbrook Nick Dametto submitted that "should the Commission determine that changes must occur to meet enrolment targets, I strongly suggest that any boundary movement (for Hinchinbrook) be made southwards, toward the northern suburbs of Townsville."

We acknowledge that Queensland's geography presents a unique set of challenges for the redistribution commission but in this instance, the inclusion of Babinda and Surrounds in the electorate of Mulgrave is effortless.

Yours sincerely

Tanya Tuttle  
Manager

