

**Submission ID:** O-0679  
**Date Received:** 8/4/26, 8:05 pm  
**Name:** Nigel Hassell  
**Submission Topic:** Electorate Boundaries  
**Electoral District:** Hill

**Submission:**

See below

**Submission Attachments**

Email - Nigel Hassell - URGENT SUBMISSION\_ Opposition to Proposed Abolition of the Electoral District of Hill.pdf

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [QRC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** URGENT SUBMISSION: Opposition to Proposed Abolition of the Electoral District of Hill  
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 April 2026 8:05:35 PM

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Dear Queensland Redistribution Commission,

I am writing to formally submit my strong opposition to the proposal to abolish the Electoral District of Hill in the upcoming redistribution of Queensland state electorates.

This proposal represents a significant threat to the democratic representation of North Queensland. By reducing the region's seats from 13 to 12 while creating two new seats in south-east Queensland, the Commission risks diluting the voice of regional communities and ignoring the unique geographic and economic realities of the Tablelands and Cassowary Coast.

#### Why the District of Hill Must Be Retained

The District of Hill is not merely a collection of voters; it is a cohesive community of interest spanning distinct regions that share specific challenges and economic drivers. Abolishing this seat would fracture these communities and scatter them across neighbouring electorates that cannot adequately represent their needs.

#### 1. Distinct Community of Interest The electorate encompasses two primary regions with shared identities:

**The Atherton Tablelands:** Including Atherton, Yungaburra, Malanda, Herberton, and Ravenshoe. These towns share a history of mining, a thriving dairy and coffee industry, and a reliance on rainforest tourism.

**The Cassowary Coast:** Including Innisfail, Tully, Babinda, Mission Beach, and Silkwood. These communities are bound by the sugar industry, cyclone recovery efforts, and a heavy dependence on Great Barrier Reef tourism.

#### 2. Critical Economic Interdependence The industries within Hill require coordinated advocacy that would be lost if the district is dissolved:

**Agriculture:** From the sugar mills of Tully and Innisfail to the coffee and macadamia farms of the Tablelands, these sectors rely on specific infrastructure and policy support.

**Tourism:** Communities ranging from the waterfalls of Millaa Millaa to the beaches of Mission Beach depend on a unified voice to protect the environment and manage visitor access.

**Mining & Heritage:** Towns like Mount Garnet, Etheridge, and Irvinebank rely on representation to address the legacy of mining and future exploration potential.

#### 3. Unique Geographic and Infrastructure Challenges Representing Hill requires an understanding of the vast distances and specific infrastructure needs that differ vastly from urban Brisbane:

**Disaster Management:** The region is prone to cyclones (e.g., Cyclone Larry, Yasi, and recent events).

Communities like Innisfail and Tully require dedicated advocacy for disaster recovery funding and resilient infrastructure.

**Transport Links:** The Gillies Highway, Kennedy Development Road, and Palmerston Highway are lifelines for remote towns like Dimbulah and Mount Garnet. Their maintenance requires focused attention that a representative covering a larger, mixed-area electorate may not prioritise.

**Environmental Stewardship:** The electorate includes the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, Girringun National Park, and critical Southern Cassowary corridors. Balancing conservation with agriculture requires a representative deeply familiar with these local ecosystems.

#### The Impact of Abolition

If Hill is abolished, the communities listed above will be absorbed into neighbouring districts. This will result in:

Reduced Accountability: Representatives will be unable to physically visit or understand the specific needs of remote Tablelands or coastal villages.

Diluted Voice: North Queensland will lose a dedicated seat, reducing its influence in the Legislative Assembly relative to the rapidly growing south-east.

Fragmented Advocacy: Issues like sugar price fluctuations, cyclone insurance, or reef water quality will no longer have a single champion who understands the full scope of the region's challenges.

#### Conclusion

The Queensland Redistribution Commission's guidelines emphasize "community of interest," "physical geography," and "means of communication." The proposed abolition of Hill fails to meet these criteria. The people of the Atherton Tablelands and the Cassowary Coast share a distinct identity and set of challenges that warrant dedicated representation.

I urge the Commission to reject the proposal to abolish the Electoral District of Hill and retain it in its current form to ensure fair and effective representation for North Queensland.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical matter.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Hassell.