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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Callide
Multiple Signatories: No

Submission:

This submission proposes a strategic realignment of the Callide electorate boundaries to better reflect the region's economic structure, service corridors, and community interdependencies. Rather than drawing lines based solely on population count, we advocate for boundaries that unlock regional investment, enable infrastructure coherence, and ensure equitable service delivery across towns and LGAs.

Key recommendations include:

Redistribution of boundaries to align with shared freight, digital, energy, and health corridors;

Designation of Mundubbera as the electorate's Digital Infrastructure Hub, complementing Gayndah's administrative role;

30-year regional development plan focused on energy autonomy, agri-tech, renewable industries, circular economy, and Indigenous enterprise;

Balanced roles across towns to avoid centralisation and promote regional equity;

Integration of enrolment data, acknowledging Callide's deviation from current and future quotas, underscoring the need for redistribution.

I urge the Commission to use this redistribution not as a corrective measure, but as a generational opportunity to redesign governance structures that empower rural Queensland and position Callide as a national model of sustainable regional development.

Submitted by:

Kent Burchard

Harmonic Futures Pty Ltd

Resident of the Callide Electorate

Submission to the Queensland Redistribution Commission

23rd July, 2025

Subject: Electoral Redistribution – Strategic Boundary Alignment and Regional Development for Callide

To the Queensland Redistribution Commission

Thank you for providing community residents the opportunity to contribute to the review of electoral boundaries impacting the Callide electorate. This submission proposes a future-focused redistribution model for Callide, one that not only reflects demographic change but activates economic potential, decentralises opportunity, and positions the region as a blueprint for rural regeneration.

I outline a staged 30-year development strategy that ties boundary realignment to infrastructure ecosystems, funding efficiency, and regional equity, ensuring that representation becomes a lever for prosperity, not just a numbers game.

1. Foundational Principle: Representation Must Unlock Resourcing

Callide is one of Queensland's most geographically expansive and economically diverse electorates. It includes agricultural heartlands, mining regions, energy infrastructure corridors, and rural towns that frequently fall outside the scope of centralised planning.

If boundaries are redrawn purely on population density without accounting for economic ecosystems or service equity, structural disadvantage will persist. I propose a boundary model that:

- Aligns catchments, freight routes, and resource corridors;
- Groups LGAs and communities with shared economic realities;
- Enables infrastructure investment by forming viable, precinct-scale development zones.

Strategic boundary design can cluster high-output industries including mining, agribusiness, renewable energy, digital infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and sustainable resource management under coherent representation. This provides a governance framework capable of unlocking scalable investment and service delivery.

2. Long-Term Vision: A 10 / 20 / 30 Year Regional Development Plan

2025 to 2035: Infrastructure Activation

- Micro solar grids in all major towns across Callide (Monto, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Biloela, Moura, Theodore, Biggenden, Mount Perry);
- Inland freight and logistics upgrades (Eidsvold, Moura, Banana, Biloela);
- Tourism, heritage, and nature trail infrastructure (Biggenden, Mount Perry, Theodore);
- Roll-out of high-value protected cropping and water management in agricultural zones;
- Establishment of regional waste-to-resource facilities for circular economy initiatives.

2035 to 2045: Economic Diversification

- Regional data centre in Mundubbera to serve as a digital services hub for agtech, health, and civic data;
- AgTech innovation zones in the Mundubbera–Eidsvold corridor and Banana district;
- Regional health and resilience colleges in Monto and Biloela, including aged care training;
- Renewable energy training and deployment centres in Monto and Theodore;
- Development of advanced agri-processing hubs to add value to local produce;
- Expansion of Indigenous cultural tourism and economic development, particularly in Eidsvold.

2045 to 2055: Sovereign System Completion

- Energy-autonomous towns powered by renewables and microgrids;
- Rural AI and data infrastructure embedded in local governance;
- Federated governance models for LGA collaboration and shared service delivery;
- Fully integrated circular economy loops for rural waste and resource management;
- Callide positioned as a national leader in sustainable, high-tech agricultural production.

3. Balanced Infrastructure and Industry Strategy by Region

To ensure development is equitably distributed across the electorate, I propose the following strategic roles:

LGA / Town	Strategic Role
Mundubbera	Digital infrastructure and AgTech hub
Biloela	Resource industry coordination, emergency response, circular economy innovation
Monto	Renewable energy training, aged care and rural health services development
Moura and Theodore	Inland freight, mining logistics, renewable energy production
Banana and Taroom	Advanced agribusiness corridor with renewable energy integration
Biggenden	Anchor for heritage tourism and ecological trails
Gayndah	Administrative headquarters (not sole focus of investment)
Eidsvold	Freight and agricultural staging, Indigenous cultural enterprise
Mount Perry	Environmental observatory and regional emergency coordination
Central Highlands fringe	Bowen Basin corridor, coal and freight exports

This model ensures that infrastructure and services are distributed based on regional strengths rather than legacy centralisation patterns.

4. Redistribution as a Catalyst for Systemic Equity

As of May 2025, Callide sits at approximately 7.86 percent below the enrolment quota, and is projected to fall further to 13.91 percent below quota by June 2032. This deviation places the electorate outside the allowable range under the Electoral Act 1992. Redistribution is essential to ensure the district returns to quota and maintains fair and equitable representation.

No strategic project outlined above will reach full potential if the Callide electorate remains fragmented by unnatural boundaries, overextended in landmass, or disproportionately focused on a single administrative town.

Redistribution must be used as a tool to:

- Align service ecosystems and governance structures under shared representation;
- Enable regional precincts to access targeted funding and support;
- Establish functional development corridors tied to boundary-defined investment logic.

For example, aligning LGAs such as Banana Shire, North Burnett Regional Council, and the Central Highlands fringe within one redistributed electorate would support

coordinated investment across Biloela's mining and agribusiness industries, the Bowen Basin coal corridor, and Mundubbera's emerging digital precinct.

5. Strategic Recommendations to the Commission

I respectfully request that the Queensland Redistribution Commission:

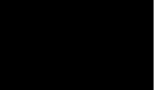
- Consider economic equity, infrastructure logic, and service access alongside population density;
- Enable clustering of service and industry corridors across key sectors: Digital, Freight, Energy, Health, Sustainable Agriculture, and Circular Economy;
- Designate Mundubbera as the Digital Infrastructure Hub for the redistributed Callide electorate – Why Mundubbera? Mundubbera is geographically positioned to support connectivity across the entire North Burnett region. It has available land, emerging digital infrastructure, and the spatial separation needed to complement, not compete with Gayndah's administrative function. Its designation as the Digital Hub will distribute opportunity rather than concentrate it.
- Where applicable, realign boundaries to group regions with shared economic realities and service dependencies;
- Ensure that boundary structure enables funding mechanisms for microgrid deployment, freight upgrades, agri-processing precincts, and circular economy infrastructure.

Closing Statement

Callide is not a problem to be managed. It is an opportunity to be unlocked. With intentional redistribution and forward-thinking service design, this electorate can become a national model of rural resilience, technological adoption, sustainable resource management, and community-powered economic transformation.

I thank the Commission for its leadership and for recognising that the boundaries you draw today can shape the prosperity of generations to come.

Faithfully,



Kent Burchard

Harmonic Futures Pty Ltd

Resident of the Callide Electorate