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**Submission Topic:** Electorate Boundaries  
**Electoral District:** All  
**Multiple Signatories:** No

**Submission:**

Please see attached submission.

## Submission to Queensland Redistribution Commission Discussion paper: Invitation for suggestions on the State redistribution, July 2025

### Introduction

Katter's Australian Party (KAP) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Queensland Redistribution Commission's (QRC) consultation on the 2025 state electoral redistribution. This submission responds to the QRC's *Discussion Paper* (July 2025).

KAP's submission is focused on the fair and effective representation of Queenslanders in the state's four geographically largest electorates: Traeger, Cook, Gregory, and Warrego, as well as ensuring equitable and cohesive boundary changes around Townsville. Our recommendations are driven by a commitment to regional representation, geographic equity, and the proper recognition of the vast and remote nature of these electorates.

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### Submission Summary

- **Key Recommendation 1:** Increase the Area Allowance weight from 2% to **4%** to better reflect the challenges of vast electorates.
- **Key Recommendation 2:** Ensure the geographic footprint of Queensland's four largest electorates does **not significantly expand** in the 2025 redistribution.
- **Key Recommendation 3:** Address under-quota seats in the Townsville region by adjusting boundaries **within urban and peri-urban areas**, not just by pushing large electorates further east.
  - Adjust the **Hill–Hinchinbrook boundary southward**.
  - Move Babinda to Mulgrave
  - Expand **Hinchinbrook's boundary further into northern Townsville**.
  - Allow **Traeger** to move marginally eastward if required, but restrict significant eastward expansion.
- **Key Recommendation 4:** Ensure the seat of Cook is **focussed on Cape York**, to ensure a socially and economically cohesive electorate
- **Key Recommendation 5:** Apply weighted enrolments for each Indigenous Council in an electorate.

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### Response to the QRC Discussion Paper

The QRC's *Discussion Paper* rightly identifies the growing divergence in enrolment numbers across the state's electoral districts and the importance of balancing numerical equity with the "additional factors" listed in section 89A of the *Electoral Act 1992 (Qld)*. KAP believes more weight must be given to **paragraph (1)(b)** of the Act – "the area of each proposed electoral district."

We note the paper's observation that three of the four largest electorates—Traeger, Gregory, and Warrego, are projected to be beyond 90% of the electoral quota, and that most under-quota seats are in southeast Queensland and around Townsville. This demographic pressure must not be addressed by **unfairly expanding already vast electorates**, which undermines the principle of equitable representation.



## Justification for Recommendations

1.

### Increase the Area Allowance Factor to 4%

The current 2% weighting for large electorates does not adequately reflect the realities of representing geographically remote and sparsely populated communities. MPs in these districts must service thousands of kilometres, dozens of small communities, limited transport infrastructure, and significant cultural and economic diversity.

A modest increase to 4%:

- Is consistent with the intent of Section 89A of the *Electoral Act 1992*.
- Better compensates for logistical and resourcing burdens.
- Helps preserve community cohesion in remote regions.

2.

### Prevent Expansion of Traeger, Cook, Gregory, and Warrego

Each of these districts already spans hundreds of thousands of square kilometres. Any further expansion would:

- Sever community linkages;
- Reduce constituents' practical access to their elected representative;
- Impose unsustainable demands on local members;
- Undermine effective electoral participation.

We strongly recommend the Commission draw redistribution boundaries with an explicit intention to **limit growth in landmass** for these electorates.

3.

### Management of Townsville Under-Quota Seats

The three Townsville-based electorates are all below quota, but the solution lies in minor adjustments within and between urban and peri-urban districts—not by shifting boundaries significantly of remote seats.

We propose the following:

- The **shared boundary between Hill and Hinchinbrook** be shifted **southward**,
- Move **Babinda to Mulgrave**, which logistically is much better serviced from its North, and is part of the Cairns Regional Council
- **Hinchinbrook's southern boundary** be moved further into **northern Townsville**



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- **Traeger** could shift **slightly eastward** if necessary, but expansion must be limited to avoid diluting regional representation.

4.

#### **Focus Cook on Cape York**

Cape York is a vast and unique part of Queensland. Currently, the inclusion of Mossman and Port Douglas in the electorate of Cook drives significant division across the electorate, fundamentally failing the goals of section 46 of the Electoral Act to consider social and community interest.

5.

#### **Weighted Enrolment for Indigenous Council Areas**

We propose that like the Large Electorate 'weighted enrolment' based on land mass, any electorate with Indigenous Councils receives a 'weighted enrolment' based on the number of Indigenous Councils. Indigenous Council areas and their communities present unique and complex challenges for elected members.

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### **Conclusion**

The redistribution process is critical to preserving electoral fairness. For Queensland's most remote and sparsely populated regions, fairness must reflect not only the number of electors, but also geography, infrastructure, and community identity. KAP respectfully urges the Commission to:

- Raise the area weighting to 4%,
- Avoid significant expansion of Traeger, Cook, Gregory, and Warrego,
- Balance urban enrolments by reallocating populations within city fringe electorates, especially around Townsville,
- Focus the electorate of Cook on Cape York,
- Apply a weighted enrolment for each Indigenous Council in each electorate across the state.

We appreciate the Commission's work and stand ready to provide further information as required.



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