

Submission ID: CS-0212
Date Received: 16/9/25, 3:03 pm
Name: Ian Matheson
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: All
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16th September 2025

The Electoral Commissioner
Queensland Redistribution Commission
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the process of reviewing electoral boundaries in Queensland.

I wish to raise concern with the current guidelines governing the positioning of electoral boundaries where such consideration is based on voter numbers alone - "one vote, one value". I support this ideology in fairness of all residents of Queensland. The practicalities of this policy become a concern when elected members in rural and remote areas are faced with the task of communicating face to face with their constituents.

Urban electorates are concentrated areas of voters covering relatively small areas. Elected representatives can easily move/drive around their electorate in a day to attend various face to face meetings with constituents and be home for dinner that night and put their children to bed.

Members representing rural constituents are often away overnight or even longer, when they attempt to meet face to face with their constituents. This involves driving long distances for many hours, often into the night to arrive at their next destination. Some elected members can justify needing to use light aircraft to move around their electorate. I believe this creates significant workplace safety issues. It also creates an inequality of work/life balance with their urban elected members. Travel costs are consequently elevated for the citizens of Queensland to pick up the tab.

Further, it does not sit well with me that the member of parliament may be a woman who has the company of female staff when performing said trips to service their electorate. It is a totally unacceptable expectation that this circumstance should exist as a possibility when carrying out their duties.

For the reasons outlined, I believe that when considering electoral boundaries for

rural and remote areas of Queensland, significant consideration needs to be put in place to ensure that members of parliament can safely perform their role, providing equal opportunity and service to constituents, that is afforded to urban residents.

Moving lines around on a map to include adequate voters and subsequently represent electoral boundaries is a crude and impracticable practice satisfying only ideology. Government is about providing fair representation and opportunity for all inhabitants of the State. The process used to achieve this outcome must demonstrate a sensitivity to those living in rural and remote areas and their chosen parliamentary representatives. One vote, one value does not truly represent practical justice to these residents.

The voting process occurs once every four years, the consequence of that process plays out over the remaining 1,460 days - a very significant amount of time where inequalities impact the lives of those disadvantaged by the current distribution system.

A second guideline needs to be implemented that sets a maximum area an elected member is asked to serve. The consequence of this would be that some other electorates will have slightly larger enrolments thus maintaining the current 93 seat parliament.

I hope that in future reviews of electoral boundaries, due consideration can be given to ensuring that all Queenslanders are treated fairly and justly and that one rule should not apply to all.

Yours sincerely

Ian Matheson


