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Submission Topic: Electorate Names
Electoral District: Flinders (formerly Traeger)

Submission:

I would like to voice the strongest possible disagreement with the committee's decision of the name of Flinders for the electoral district formerly known as Traeger and would strongly advocate for the name Carpentaria instead.

The reasoning the committee gave behind changing the names of electorates named after famous Queenslanders makes sense: while they themselves are notable, there is no way for a person to know where that district might be. While most names make it far easier to locate the district, Flinders makes it harder on three counts.

Firstly, many locations around the state bear the name of Flinders, such as Flinders View in Ipswich and Flinders College on the Sunshine Coast. Given the electoral boundaries in these areas have seen significant changes, especially in Ipswich, it is unwise to choose a name as confusing as this.

Secondly, the location is not a well-known one even in the area. It is named not after a landmark, such as Barron River, or a region, such as the Burdekin, but a shire. I have spoken to a former resident of the region whose house was adjacent to the Flinders Highway and even she was of the opinion that Flinders Shire was not a well-known location.

Thirdly, the name Flinders first and foremost refers to Matthew Flinders, a notable person and exactly the sort of name the committee has stated they wish to avoid.

I advocate for Carpentaria to be the name of the electorate as it solves these problems. Carpentaria clearly refers to the Gulf of Carpentaria and does not overlap with another location in the state and is a well-known geographical feature allowing all Queenslanders to easily understand where the electorate is. As such, per the committee's own criteria, Carpentaria should be accepted as a more appropriate name for the electorate.