

Submission ID: CS-0340
Date Received: 20/9/25, 3:48 pm
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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Hill
Related Submissions: redistribution of boundaries. Do not abolish the seat of Hill.

Submission:

Submission to the Redistribution Commission: Opposition to the Abolishment of the Seat of Hill

I write to formally oppose the proposed abolition of the federal seat of **Hill**, which would remove representation from the people of rural and regional Queensland, particularly Far North Queensland (FNQ).

This proposal is both unjust and detrimental to fair and equitable representation in our state.

Representation in FNQ vs. Southern Queensland

Currently, the southern end of Queensland contains **60 electorates**, which collectively fit three times into the geographical footprint of the **single electorate of Hill**. Meanwhile, FNQ is represented by just **13 seats in total**. To abolish one of these 13 would be a direct attack on regional representation, while simultaneously adding yet another seat to the already overrepresented South-East.

Such a move would **further centralise political power in the urban south-east** at the expense of regional communities, who already face significant challenges in being heard in Brisbane and Canberra.

Importance of Rural and Regional Representation

The electorate of Hill and the broader FNQ region encompasses diverse communities with distinct challenges not shared by the metropolitan south. These include:

- Vast distances and poor transport connectivity
- Unique economic drivers (agriculture, mining, tourism, Indigenous enterprise)
- Complex environmental management responsibilities
- High proportions of First Nations communities with specific needs

These are issues that **cannot simply be absorbed into neighbouring electorates without diminishing representation**. Reducing the number of FNQ seats sends a clear message that the voices of regional Queenslanders matter less than those living in the south-east corner.

Principle of Fairness and Democracy

The principle of redistribution should be to ensure **fair and effective representation for all Queenslanders**, not to punish communities on the basis of geography. Abolishing Hill ignores the reality that representation is not only about raw population numbers but also about geography, accessibility,

and community of interest.

The proposed redistribution is an **injustice against the people of FNQ** and risks alienating communities who already feel disconnected from political decision-making.

Request

I strongly urge the Redistribution Commission to **retain the seat of Hill** and to ensure that any redistribution process respects the unique needs of regional Queenslanders. If an additional seat is required in the south-east, this should not come at the expense of FNQ.

Every Queenslanders deserves to be fairly represented in Parliament. Abolishing Hill undermines that principle.

Yours faithfully,

Bernadette Nielsen

