

Submission ID: CS-0466
Date Received: 22/9/25, 4:59 pm
Name: Ben Driscoll
Organisation Name: Australian Labor Party (State of Queensland)
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries and Names
Electoral District: All
Related Submissions:

Submission:

See below

.....

**Comments on
Suggestions from the
Australian Labor Party
(State of Queensland)**
to the 2025 Queensland
Redistribution Commission

.....





Please address correspondence to:

THE STATE SECRETARY, ALP (Qld.) PO Box 5032 West End Q 4101
1st Floor, TLC Building, 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane Q 4101

Tel: 07 3844 8101

Email: info@qld.alp.org.au

Mr Gregory Koppenol
Chairperson
Queensland Redistribution Commission

By email: QRCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au

Dear Chairperson,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a further submission to the review of the State's electoral boundaries by the Queensland Redistribution Commission (QRC) and respond to other public submissions.

If the QRC requires any further information or clarification of matters contained in this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The ALP will participate in the further rounds of consultation as part of the redistribution process.



Ben Driscoll
ACTING STATE SECRETARY

S-110-Liberal-National-Party-of-Queensland

1. SUMMARY

In almost every case where the LNP have suggested a change in boundaries they are:

- not considering the communities of interest,
- making no effort to minimise the disruption to voters.

This is despite their assertion that in all cases their submission represents the “**lightest effective touch**” (emphasis added by the LNP).

1.1 Contrived Boundaries that Defy Communities of Interest

The LNP submission proposes a number of electoral boundaries that defy existing communities of interest and is unashamed in their engineering of boundaries that advance their partisan political interests.

Their submission errs in their assertion that it is based on “**coherent communities of interest**” (emphasis added by the LNP). The ALP submits that in several key examples below, their submission proposes contrived electoral boundaries that serve their interests, not those of voters.

1.2 Voter Disruption

An objective under section 46(1)(d) is to have regard to existing boundaries and therefore minimise voter disruption. The LNP claim a central philosophy of their submission is “minimising voter disruption” and proposing boundary changes only where they are unavoidable.

The ALP submits both these statements have not been fulfilled in their submission as claimed.

The LNP have proposed significant changes to a number of electorates where there exists no legislative requirement to do so. Additionally, changes proposed by the LNP result in over 600,000 electors, approximately 16% of electors, having their electorates changed.

While claiming to minimise disruption, the LNP submission in many places does the opposite. Some of the most significant examples of maximising voter disruption occur in seats currently held by Labor members of parliament, including for example, Bundaberg, Cooper, Ferny Grove, Gaven, and Ipswich West.

The LNP propose to remove a third of electors from Bundaberg, over 40% of the electors in Gaven and almost third of electors in Cooper, Ferny Grove and Ipswich West.

2. PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

2.1 Ipswich West Electorate

The LNP submission for alterations to the Ipswich West electorate seem designed to remove Ipswich from the Ipswich West electorate. The ALP objects to this on the basis that Ipswich West should remain an Ipswich-based electorate.

The LNP submission would create a north-south profiled electorate to the west of Ipswich, disregarding the established communities of interest that run east-west along the Warrego Highway connecting with Ipswich’s north.

Rather than connect the communities on Ipswich's western outskirts with the education, health and community services of Ipswich along established transport routes, the LNP submission stretches from south of Peak Crossing to north of Fernvale, taking voters from three different local government areas, but does not include key urban Ipswich communities in between.

2.2 Bundaberg Electorate

The LNP proposal for the Bundaberg electorate provides an electorate that defies all communities of interest in the region.

They have used the Burnett River and Takalvan Street as boundaries to split the electorate of Bundaberg, opting to remove the suburb of Bundaberg North and the western suburbs of the greater Bundaberg. This area, comprising a third of its electors, includes both the Bundaberg Hospital and Airport.

The LNP's own submission states their proposed boundaries have a "visitor-economy narrative". In objecting to the LNP submission and having regard to section 46(1)(a), the ALP submits electoral boundaries shouldn't be used to tell a story, rather connect established communities of interest with regard for the established boundaries that define them.

Not only is Bundaberg an electorate that requires no adjustment under section 45(1)(a), it is also completely contained within another electorate requiring no adjustment to meet legislative criteria. Without Bundaberg needing adjustment under section 45(1)(a), the ALP submits such a significant change is not justified, with emphasis on section 46(1)(d).

Further, the communities of interest consequentially proposed for Burnett, connecting urban Bundaberg with rural areas as far north as Bororen and as far south as Torbanlea is particularly contrived.

2.3 Pine Rivers Electorate

The LNP proposal for Pine Rivers starts in urban areas surrounding Brendale and stretches to D'Aguilar. No normal observer would place Brendale in the same community of interest as D'Aguilar. As a consequence of this contrived proposal for Pine Rivers, the LNP also propose a bizarre salamander-shaped boundary for the electorate of Kurwongbah.

The Pine Rivers electorate is defined by the communities nestled in the Pine River's tributaries, the North Pine River and the South Pine River. The LNP proposal for Pine Rivers suggests boundaries that extend far to the northwest as to include communities connected with Caboolture instead.

Strathpine has long been the centre of Pine Rivers, dating back to the old Pine Rivers Shire Council and the deep and historic community connection that flows from that. Strathpine is the meeting place, business centre and services hub for communities to the immediate west.

The LNP's proposed removal of Strathpine, Lawnton and Bray Park from Pine Rivers strips away more than 25 community groups, service groups and landmarks with Pine Rivers in their name. It also largely splinters what is the 4500 postcode, an indicator of the cohesiveness of these three suburbs to their western surrounds.

The LNP is proposing that the meeting place for the redrawn green rural and semi-rural electorate would be an industrial centre. In addition, the remaining western communities have no cohesion between them with all their communities of interest and services further east.

There is no existing community of interest or argument for the connection of the communities, including and north of Mount Mee, with the southern suburbs of the Pine Rivers proposal.

2.4 Gaven Electorate

The LNP's proposed changes to the Gaven electorate ignore existing communities of interest and attempt to group suburbs that have no existing community connection.

Nerang Mall and My Centre Nerang are central hubs not just for Nerang but Mount Nathan, Highland Park and Worongary with supermarkets, medical centres and the post office connected at these hubs. Highland Park and Worongary both fall within the Nerang State High School catchment, with many families sending their kids to sporting clubs in Nerang. Furthermore, the catchment for William Duncan State School (based in Highland Park) includes parts of Nerang.

Highland Park and Worongary, both on the west side of the M1, provides a clear line of transportation for these suburbs to those central hubs in Nerang. This transportation link is further emphasised by *Roam zone B – Nerang/Highland Park and parts of Worongary* of the On Demand Transport network named after the areas it connects.

Not only do the LNP propose breaking existing connections within the electorate, they disregard the natural inclusion of the remainder of Pacific Pines in favour of crossing the strong boundary of the M1 and train line to include suburbs to the east.

Pacific Pines is a master planned development on the west of the M1 with several shopping precincts used by residents of both the Gaven and Theodore electorates. It has long been confusing for Pacific Pines residents to be divided into two electorates. The Pacific Pines State High School catchment encompasses all of Pacific Pines and Studio Village reiterating its presently divided economic connection.

The On Demand Transport Service *Roam zone A* connects Pacific Pines with Gaven, as well as the suburbs Maudsland and Oxenford, further demonstrating the connection of these western suburbs with transport.

The LNP also propose splitting Nerang between electorates to include the eastern portion of the suburb into Southport ignoring that the Nerang-Broadbeach Road leading into the Ferry and Price Street intersection forms the heart of the suburb. Dividing it at the M1 would separate residents' connection to key transportation routes into Brisbane or the rest of the Gold Coast, and split the central hubs that service residents on both sides of the Nerang River.

The ALP refutes the LNP's proposed set of boundaries that suggest the eastern portion of Nerang is more closely linked with the communities of Southport.

Deciding the M1 should now establish a boundary in the southern portion of Gaven after breaking that same physical boundary in the north is obviously contrived and divides distinct residential communities. The LNP deliberately make a point to acknowledge the nuance of natural boundaries being both breaks in community as well as connectors but fail to demonstrate their understanding by suggesting the opposite of what they outline as their "guiding view".

2.5 Aspley Electorate

The LNP submission to remove Geebung and parts of Zillmere from the electorate of Aspley is contrived for political reasons.

The LNP claims, without substantiation, there is voter confusion in the suburb of McDowall. No other public submissions provide this claim, and the ALP objects to this unsupported claim. The suburb is largely residential without any significant community centre, sporting facilities or shopping districts, and the ALP submits they have a more significant community of interest with Albany Creek along Old Northern Road, than with other suburbs in Aspley that has Gympie Road as the connecting spine.

The ALP notes the determination of the QRC in the 2017 redistribution, where it was determined that boundary changes at that time between Aspley and Nudgee created boundaries that "respect communities of interest." In objecting to the LNP submission, we note our support for the previous determination of the QRC.

Residents of Geebung and Zillmere west of the North Coast line shop, go to school, play sport and socialise with residents of Aspley (the suburb and electorate) to a far greater extent than those to the east.

In contrast to the North Coast line, using Murphy Road as the LNP propose does not form a logical, natural or acceptable boundary.

Additionally, major local sporting groups like Aspley Little Athletics (based in Geebung) would be removed from Aspley, as would the Geebung-Zillmere-Bald Hills RSL and RSL sub-branch, whose membership catchment stretches to the north-west, almost exactly matching the existing Aspley electorate profile and is a major unifying element in the local community.

2.6 Cooper, Ferny Grove and McConnel Electorates

The radical alteration of the Cooper electorate as proposed by the LNP submission would break the natural Waterworks-Musgrave Road community of interest which has underpinned Cooper and previously Ashgrove over the past three decades.

The LNP's proposed creation of the Victoria Park electorate to replace Cooper cites a community of interest around the 2032 Olympics and proposed stadium, which is not yet in existence. The ALP submits that section 46(1)(a) refers to existing communities of interest, not hypothesised ones.

The proposed inclusion of Kelvin Grove and Herston in the electorate of Cooper includes suburbs which have no connection to the established Waterworks-Musgrave Road community of interest.

The value of the Waterworks-Musgrave Road community of interest is evidenced by the major east-west bound traffic route which flows through the community and the bus routes that utilise this transport corridor being the primary form of public transport for those same suburbs.

Conversely, Herston and Kelvin Grove have their own distinct north-south transport routes which heavily link them to the CBD and Fortitude Valley area, primarily via traditional bus networks but also the new Brisbane Metro.

The community of interest factor further supports retaining Kelvin Grove and Herston in McConnel. Herston is the state's leading health and research precinct centred on the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Kelvin Grove is a university campus and creative industries hub with QUT and the Urban Village. Both suburbs are culturally and economically tied to the CBD and Valley, which again align with the profile of the seat of McConnel rather than the seat of Cooper, which is predominantly residential communities along the Waterworks-Musgrave Road corridor.

Furthermore, the suggested transfer of The Gap from Cooper to Ferny Grove in the LNP submission is opposed for the same reason, being that suburbs which share deep historical community ties such as The Gap and Ashgrove, would then be divided. The Keperra Bushland acts as a significant natural physical divide between the Gap and Keperra.

For these reasons, the transfer of Kelvin Grove and Herston into Cooper and the transfer of The Gap from Cooper to Ferny Grove, would fragment established communities, undermine clear transport networks and geographies as well as disregard previous consensus on state electoral groupings of suburbs.

2.7 Greenbank (new) Electorate

The ALP objects to the LNP submission regarding boundaries for the new Greenbank electorate.

Their contrived boundaries are nonsensical because they stretch around from Logan localities, as far south as Flagstone, to include Ipswich based suburbs such as Camira, Gailes and Carole Park. There has been significant commentary since the initial creation of the Jordan electorate with criticism of this profile and this proposal does not seek to solve this. There is no shared community of interest and they are geographically separated by the large nature reserves/lowlands between Logan (Greenbank) and Ipswich.

Additionally, the LNP submission describes their proposal as an electorate that "centres on Greenbank". This is not correct with their proposed boundaries leaving Everleigh, a large and still growing development in Greenbank, in the Logan electorate.

2.8 Ipswich, Bundamba and Jordan Electorates

Following our objection to the LNP's proposed Ipswich West boundary, the ALP also has concerns with consequential proposed adjustments to other Ipswich-based electorates.

The ALP objects to the removal of locations in the northern area of the existing Bundamba electorate. The suburb of Goodna, for example, has an established community of interest with Redbank as a shopping and services hub.

The ALP also notes that the Ipswich LGA currently has 5 electorates representing the region, however the LNP's proposed adjustments could cause unnecessary voter confusion by having 6 electorates representing the Ipswich LGA.

2.9 Algeester, Stretton, Woodridge, Waterford and Logan Electorates

The ALP objects to the LNP submission relating to Logan electorates due to a clear lack of understanding of communities of interest in Logan.

The LNP submission in relation to the Logan electorate describes their proposed boundaries as "retaining its civic and hospital precinct at Logan Central."

For the avoidance of doubt, the Logan electorate cannot retain Logan Central; it is in the Woodridge electorate. In addition, the Logan electorate cannot retain Logan's hospital precinct because it is neither in the electorate or in Logan Central; Logan Hospital is in Meadowbrook, in the Waterford electorate.

Any LNP submissions relying on their understanding of communities of interest in the Logan area should be rejected. The LNP submission makes clear they couldn't even point to Logan on a map.

The LNP proposed boundaries include a very disruptive exchange where Algester gains electors from Stretton and loses electors to Woodridge, Woodridge gains electors from Stretton and loses electors to Waterford, and Waterford loses electors to Stretton.

This contrived four-way swap proposal creates boundaries that disrupt established communities of interest and maximise voter disruption.

The LNP's proposed boundaries for the Woodridge electorate are entirely incompatible with the communities of interest and the traditional and deep connections held within the current boundaries.

The removal of the suburb of Crestmead from Woodridge is a drastic change. There is a very significant community of interest aligned with the suburbs of Crestmead and Marsden. The communities of Crestmead and Marsden are undeniably and emphatically linked, and have been so for many years. Browns Plains Road is the main thoroughfare through both suburbs, connecting them to the larger suburbs surrounding, and to each other. The arbitrary boundary lines drawn by the LNP further disconnect hubs from their community of interest.

The suggested addition of the suburb of Drewvale into the Woodridge electorate, taking it in from the Brisbane-based electorates of Algester and Stretton is not sensible. Its proposed inclusion in Woodridge by the LNP threatens to isolate that community from its true communities of interest such as Calamvale and Parkinson.

There is no discernible connection between the suburbs of Woodridge, Logan Central, Berrinba, Kingston and Marsden with the proposed new western suburbs of Browns Plains and parts of Park Ridge. Park Ridge is a suburb that is traditionally anchored with the communities of Greenbank, Boronia Heights and Park Ridge South. Similarly to the proposed inclusion of Drewvale from the suburbs of Brisbane, this would risk isolating residents in Park Ridge from their communities of interest.

2.10 Toohey, Miller, Stretton, Algester and Mansfield Electorates

The ALP objects to the proposed abolition of the Toohey Electorate, and as such, other consequential boundary adjustments to neighbouring electorates proposed by the LNP.

The ALP again notes electorates in this region, particularly with respect to Toohey, Stretton and Mansfield, contain substantial migrant communities on citizenship pathways and objects to proposals to reduce representation in this region.

The initial submission provided by the ALP outlined the basis for boundary adjustment that preserve the region's representation and therefore sought to minimise voter disruption.

2.11 Capalaba, Redlands and Springwood Electorates

The LNP proposal for the Redlands electorate puts the current enrolment very close to the allowable deviation from quota. This is despite the proposed transfer of voters in Thornlands to Oodgeroo. Noting the closeness to section 45(1)(a), the ALP objects to the proposed expansion of the Redlands electorate to the west and south.

The ALP also objects to the proposal to split the suburbs of Sheldon and Mount Cotton into separate electorates. These peri-urban suburbs historically share a close community of interest and co-dependence on services and education.

The ALP notes the contradiction in the LNP proposal to move the suburbs of Sheldon and Mount Cotton into electorates within the Redland LGA, but then also expanding the Redlands electorate to include suburbs in the Logan LGA.

2.12 Burdekin, Gregory and Mirani Electorates

There is no reasonable justification to split the historical, geographical and socioeconomically similar resource communities in the manner suggested by the LNP. Splitting Moranbah and Nebo between two seats with an arbitrary line through the Isaac Regional Council highlights this. Moranbah in particular is an economic powerhouse that will disappear if placed in the LNP's proposed Gregory electorate.

It is more practical, noting the changes required across the Central Queensland and North Queensland regions, and in line with uniting communities of interest, that these resource towns are united in one electorate given their shared industries and infrastructure. The challenges they will face in the future as resource towns will need a consistent approach and treatment by all levels of government, which would be best served keeping resource towns together.

Despite the LNP's stated aim of unifying coal communities in the Bowen and Galilee Basins, their contrived proposal actually further divides coal communities.

S-112-Queensland-Greens

The Greens' submission only details boundary adjustments for a small selection of electorates centred around Brisbane and without consideration for the cascading effects this would have to the rest of Queensland. The ALP submits it is difficult to give weight to their submission in the absence of fulsome consideration of these impacts.

The ALP notes their submission disregards 2,372,161 electors in regions they ignore. For the 1,372,424 Queenslanders in the electorates they provide submissions on, they propose non-sensical changes including, but not limited to, extending the south-eastern boundary of Macalister over the Albert River. This change breaks the well-established physical and LGA boundary between Logan and the Gold Coast, and splits the suburb of Yatala between two electorates.

The Greens' submission also proposes extending the Capalaba boundary west into Chatsworth. This change breaks the Brisbane and Redlands LGA border established by the natural boundary of Tingalpa Creek, and ignores the opportunity for more sensible exchange of electors within the Redlands LGA to balance enrolment.

Others

Many public suggestions highlight the need to move Calliope into the Gladstone electorate. The ALP submits that, given that Calliope is effectively a satellite suburb of Gladstone and to unite urban areas, we support suggestions 2-7, 9-12, 34-35, 38-39, 100, 101, 115 and 117.

In relation to other submissions concerning Moggill and Maiwar, suggestions 32, 77, 95, 99, 100, 101, 112, 115 and 117 propose Fig Tree Pocket being transferred to Moggill. Moggill must gain electors and the logical place it can take electors is from Fig Tree Pocket, uniting the western suburbs of Brisbane.

Suggestions 77, 81, 95, 100, 101, 112 and 117 propose Milton moving into Maiwar, which would unite the denser corridor along Milton Road and Coronation Drive with Auchenflower and Toowong, leaving the Cooper electorate as a less dense Waterworks Road based electorate.