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Electoral District: Hill
Related Submissions: Redistribution of Hill Electorate

Submission:

Business Case: Opposing Redistribution of the Electorate of Hill to Create a New Seat in Brisbane

This business case argues against the proposed redistribution of the regional electorate of Hill to create an additional seat in metropolitan Brisbane. It outlines the economic, social, and democratic consequences of such a move, emphasizing the importance of regional representation, equitable resource allocation, and long-term strategic planning for Queensland's diverse population.

1. Strategic Importance of Regional Representation

- Hill covers critical agricultural and mining zones in Far North Queensland, including Innisfail, Tully, and parts of the Atherton Tablelands. These areas contribute significantly to Queensland's GDP through sugar, bananas, cattle, and emerging renewable energy projects.
- Redistribution risks underrepresenting regional priorities, such as infrastructure resilience, disaster recovery, and workforce development in remote areas.
- Brisbane already holds disproportionate representation relative to its geographic footprint. Further urban concentration undermines the principle of balanced governance across Queensland's diverse regions.

2. Economic Impact and Investment Risk

- Regional electorates like Hill anchor investment certainty for industries reliant on stable policy advocacy—particularly agriculture, tourism, and mining.
- Redistribution could destabilize long-term planning, affecting projects like inland freight routes, biosecurity initiatives, and regional education hubs.
- Loss of dedicated representation may deter private investment, especially in sectors requiring tailored regulatory support and local engagement.

3. Equity and Democratic Integrity

- Electoral redistribution should reflect population growth and geographic equity, not just urban density. While Brisbane's population is growing, regional Queensland faces unique challenges that require sustained political attention.
- Hill's geographic size and diversity demand dedicated representation to ensure voices from remote and Indigenous communities are heard.

- Reducing regional seats risks disenfranchising voters who already face barriers to political participation due to distance, infrastructure, and digital access.

4. Infrastructure and Service Delivery

- Hill's MP plays a critical role in advocating for regional infrastructure, including flood mitigation, hospital upgrades, and transport connectivity.
- Redistribution could dilute accountability for service delivery, shifting focus away from regional needs toward urban priorities.
- Brisbane's infrastructure challenges are better addressed through urban planning, not by reallocating regional representation.

5. Long-Term Sustainability and Regional Futures

- Queensland's future depends on resilient regional communities, especially as climate change, migration, and economic shifts reshape the state.
- Maintaining Hill as a distinct electorate supports decentralization, encourages regional settlement, and aligns with national strategies for balanced development.
- Redistribution risks reinforcing urban sprawl, contrary to sustainability goals and regional revitalization efforts.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The proposed redistribution of Hill to create another seat in Brisbane is economically shortsighted, socially inequitable, and democratically unsound. Queensland's strength lies in its geographic diversity and the unique contributions of its regional communities. Preserving Hill as a standalone electorate ensures that regional voices remain central to the state's future.

Recommendation: Retain the electorate of Hill in its current form and explore alternative methods for addressing urban representation—such as boundary adjustments within Greater Brisbane or enhanced local governance mechanisms.