

Submission ID: CS-0481
Date Received: 22/9/25, 9:30 pm
Name: Rachael Cruwys
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Cook; Gregory; Traeger; Warrego
Related Submissions: Electoral Boundaries

Submission:

Please see attached submission

Submission Attachments

Rachael Cruwys - QLD Electoral Boundary Redistribution Submission
22.9.25.pdf

Queensland Redistribution Commission
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001
Via email: QRCboundaries@ecq.qld.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

RE: Electoral Boundary Redistribution – Rural, Regional and Remote Representation

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the 2025 Queensland State Redistribution process.

I am writing to formally submit concerns regarding the current electoral redistribution process, with specific reference to the electorate of Gregory and other rural, regional, and remote electorates in Queensland. This submission highlights several critical issues that must be considered to ensure fair and effective representation.

Gregory is Queensland's largest state electorate, covering 459,681 km², which is more than a quarter of the entire state and larger than Victoria and Tasmania combined. Despite its vast size, Gregory had only 26,368 enrolled electors as of August 2025. Under the Electoral Act 1992, electorates over 100,000 km² receive a 2% large district allowance, which adds 9,194 notional electors to Gregory's enrolment, bringing its weighted enrolment to 35,562.

Even with this allowance, Gregory remains 11.63% below the average enrolment quota of 40,264, placing it outside the permitted range and at risk of boundary changes or abolition. This highlights the inadequacy of current quota mechanisms in capturing the true representation needs of remote electorates.

The Central Highlands Regional Council area, which falls within Gregory, hosts approximately 5,555 non-resident workers (FIFO/DIDO) as of June 2024. These workers contribute to the local economy and place demands on infrastructure and services, yet they are excluded from enrolment figures, leading to underrepresentation and misalignment between population and parliamentary representation.

Redistributions often combine disparate communities with little shared economic, social, or regional interests. This undermines the principle of community of interest and weakens local advocacy. In rural electorates, maintaining coherent communities is essential for effective governance.

Rapid population growth in urban and coastal areas drives redistributions that favor these regions. Seats in rural areas risk being abolished or merged, reducing the number of rural MPs and diluting the voice of regional Queenslanders in Parliament. This trend exacerbates the rural-urban divide.

Rural and remote areas already face significant challenges in attracting government investment. Even when funding is secured, the sheer geographic scale of electorates like Gregory means that priorities often differ widely across communities. As electorates grow larger to meet population quotas, the ability of elected members to effectively canvas their electorate diminishes. This not only limits meaningful engagement with constituents but also reduces the visibility of local issues in parliamentary decision-making.

The reliance on enrolled voter numbers fails to capture the true population and service demand in rural electorates. FIFO/DIDO workers, seasonal laborers, and transient populations are excluded, despite their significant presence. This results in electoral boundaries that do not reflect actual community needs.

To address these concerns, I recommend that the Commission consider alternative metrics such as full-time equivalent (FTE) population or service demand indicators when determining electoral boundaries. Greater flexibility should be applied in quota thresholds for large and remote electorates. The impact of non-resident workers must be recognized in redistribution calculations. The principle of community of interest should be preserved and strengthened.

Furthermore, I propose that the current 2% large district allowance specified in the *Electoral Act* for electorates over 100,000 km² be increased to better reflect the challenges of representing vast areas. Additionally, the introduction of minimum and maximum geographic area thresholds for electoral boundaries should be considered to prevent excessive expansion or compression of electorates.

Electoral fairness requires more than numerical equality— it demands recognition of geographic, demographic, and economic realities. I urge the Commission to address these concerns in the current redistribution process to ensure equitable representation for all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Rachael Cruwys.

Rachael Cruwys