THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Submission CS25

Gorrinju

Dear Chair,

As a Member of Maranoa, I write to comment on the suggestions lodged for the redistribution of Queensland, in particular the Australian Labor Party's suggestion (S60) that the Somerset Region be transferred to Maranoa.

Maranoa is a Darling Downs and South West Queensland division, and the institutions that serve our region recognise it as one. Maranoa, Toowoomba, Western Downs, Goondiwindi and six other councils make up both Regional Development Australia Darling Downs and South West and the Darling Downs and South West Queensland Council of Mayors. Those mayors meet to pursue shared priorities: freight routes for agriculture and energy, water security, rural connectivity and disaster recovery. Toowoomba Hospital is the main referral hospital for the Darling Downs.

The Somerset Region belongs to none of these. It is a member of the Council of Mayors (SEQ), one of the 12 councils covered by the South East Queensland regional plan, Shaping SEQ, and its residents are served by West Moreton Health alongside Ipswich. Labor's own description of Somerset's links to the South Burnett relies on the D'Aguilar Highway and a recreational rail trail. Neither reflects how Somerset residents live, work or reach services.

The alternative in S62 restores Maranoa from the rural communities of the Toowoomba Regional Council, such as Pittsworth, Jondaryan, Cambooya, Clifton and Rosalie. These communities share Maranoa's grain, cattle and cotton economy, are part of the same regional organisations, and already look to Toowoomba for services.

I ask the Committee to reject the transfer of the Somerset Region to Maranoa and to adopt the approach in S62.

Yours sincerely

Gorrinju, a Member of Maranoa