



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Submission CS30

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COMMENT ON SUGGESTIONS S60 AND S62
Queensland Federal Electoral Redistribution | Division of Dawson
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To the Redistribution Committee for Queensland
Australian Electoral Commission

1. Executive Summary & Core Recommendation

I write to formally register my *strong support for Suggestion S62* and my *opposition to the alternative framework proposed in Suggestion S60*.

As a long-term owner and operator of an accommodation and hospitality business in Collinsville, my perspective is grounded in direct commercial and community experience rather than lines on a map. My daily operations involve coordinating accommodation for mining contractors, essential workers and regional industries. I see firsthand how our regional economy moves and interacts.

The Committee should prefer **S62** because it correctly recognises that Collinsville shares an undeniable, functional community of interest with Bowen, the Whitsundays, and Mackay. Furthermore, **S62** resolves Dawson's enrolment shortfall through a compact and logical adjustment, whereas **S60** triggers an extensive and unnecessary domino effect across three separate federal divisions.

2. The Case for Collinsville: An Unmistakable Community of Interest

Collinsville's current placement within the division of Capricornia forces it into an artificial electoral relationship with Rockhampton and communities hundreds of kilometres to the south.

This existing boundary fails to reflect modern economic and geographic realities:

- **The Coastal Lifeline:** Collinsville sits a mere 85 km from the coast. Our primary logistical, social, and economic gateway is the Bowen Developmental Road, pointing directly east to Bowen and the Whitsunday corridor.
- **Industrial and Workforce Realities:** Collinsville's industrial and mining sector relies heavily on contractors and service providers based in the Whitsunday and Mackay Local Government Areas. Rather than looking south toward Rockhampton, our major commercial supply lines, engineering support, and specialized workforce are structurally tied directly to these key hubs within the Dawson electorate.
- **Electoral Alignment:** Moving Collinsville into Dawson perfectly aligns the federal boundary with the existing Queensland State Electorate of Burdekin, creating a more unified and recognisable geographic voice for local voters.

Treating an 85 km distance as a hard barrier between an inland town and its natural coastal partners ignores how regional Queensland actually functions. **S62** addresses this misalignment, while **S60** completely overlooks it.

3. Why S62 Offers a More Measured, Non-Disruptive Approach

The Australian Electoral Commission historically seeks to minimise unnecessary voter displacement where practicable. **S62** achieves statutory compliance through a small, highly targeted set of changes. It brings Dawson comfortably within permitted enrolment tolerances by drawing on areas that naturally look to it: urban Mackay extensions (Ooralea and Bakers Creek) and Collinsville.

Crucially, **S62 does not move a single existing elector out of Dawson**, preserving the historical identity of the division.

4. The Disruptive Impact of the S60 Proposal

In stark contrast, the alternative proposal (**S60**) requires extensive boundary alterations at both ends of the division to correct a single electorate's shortfall:

- **Severing Townsville Links:** **S60** cuts long-established communities like Annandale, Oonoonba, and Wulguru out of Dawson and places them into Herbert—even though Herbert is already within its quota and requires no modification to comply. This severs longstanding electoral and community connections.
- **The Regional Chain Reaction:** Because **S60** strips southern Townsville electors away, it creates an artificial deficit in Dawson. To refill the division, it absorbs the entire Mackay Regional Council area, pulling in separate, distinct agricultural and rural districts like Sarina, Walkerston, and the Pioneer Valley.
- **Wider Electoral Instability:** This expansion forces Capricornia to look for numbers by reaching deep into the Central Highlands, fracturing Flynn.

The **S60** approach turns a localised shortfall into a sweeping regional reshuffle, moving over 39,000 electors to achieve a net correction of just 13,000. It overemphasizes local government boundaries at the expense of maintaining established, organic regional relationships and forces an unnecessary enrolment surplus on Dawson (+2.54% projected) where a smaller, stable correction is entirely feasible.

5. Conclusion

Regional businesses and families need stability and logical federal representation. Decisions regarding regional roads, resource industry investment, and essential services bind Collinsville and the Whitsunday coast together.

Suggestion **S62** respects these realities, unifies a clear community of interest, and builds a compact, compliant electorate. Suggestion **S60** treats regional voters like mathematical puzzle pieces, causing widespread and unnecessary disruption across North and Central Queensland.

I respectfully urge the Redistribution Committee to adopt the balanced approach of **S62** and integrate Collinsville into the Division of Dawson.

Yours sincerely

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