



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Submission CS76

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Australian Electoral Commission

Comments on Submissions to the Queensland Federal Redistribution 2026

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Submission on Queensland Federal Electoral Boundary Redistribution 2026

Thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Queensland Federal redistribution. While there will be a number of submissions that detail the exact boundary changes, I believe it is best to outline a set of guidelines that provide consistency for the redistribution process.

I have started with a statement of principles, outlining my thoughts on the underlying rules that should guide the submissions and their evaluation.

The issue of community of interest guidelines is a vexed one, and there are a number of current seats in Queensland where this has not been a priority. I have attempted to provide ways to address this and I am sure that many other submissions will raise their own local concerns.

In particular the splitting of regional cities in North Queensland has to stop and I note that a number of the submissions that have been made that share this view.

Statement of principles

Boundaries must respect physical limits to borders including where possible;

- Natural geographic boundaries – coastlines, rivers, mountain ranges, national parks
- Existing physical boundaries – main roads, railway lines
- Existing administrative boundaries – Local Government boundaries, including internal boundaries, and State electorate boundaries.

Ideally electorates should not cross SA1 boundaries, unless there is no other choice. In some cases boundaries set by the Australian Bureau of Statistics have not kept up with population growth or stretch across physical boundaries.

Boundaries must demarcate “community of interest”, and not unduly place areas together that do not share common interests. If the population can be contained within one seat then major urban areas should not be split.

Boundaries must not create seats that become excessively difficult to maintain, such as creating excessively large seats and seats that do not follow transport corridors.

Seats should not create transport exclaves where the only access to an area in a seat is to transit another seat.

Changes to electoral boundaries should minimise the effect on existing seats wherever possible.

If two (or more) existing seats can be realigned on a common boundary then this should be the preferred method.

New seats should be formed from seats which are significantly oversized in areas where the surrounding seats are also significantly over sized.

Same State, Different Outlooks

Queensland's population and economic growth is happening at a different rate between South East Queensland and the rest of the state.

Ideally the current redistribution should be treated as two separate activities.

For North and Regional Queensland it is an opportunity to correct some of the electorates that have been broken by previous redistributions which have split electorates between different cities and ignoring any community of interest concerns.

From Maryborough to Cairns there is not a single regional city that is united within a common electorate. There is only one city – Townsville – where the population requires that.

This has been raised in submissions S9, S15, S16, S17, S23, S24, S31, and S39. It is also consistent with submissions from the ALP and significant individual submissions.

Where possible Local Government boundaries and natural borders should clearly delineate electorates.

However, the majority of the growth is in South-East Queensland and it is evident that after this redistribution we will be preparing for another one. Consequently I proposed that the AEC take a light touch to electorates that are easily within current and future quotas.

It must be acknowledged that in the event of an additional seat in Queensland the projected quota will reduce by 3.3%.

Limitations and Constraints of Mapping

It is important to ensure that all parts of an electorate can be reached from within that electorate, whether by road or sea.

However there are limitations with SA1s. Some of them cross roads where they shouldn't and have not caught up with significant housing development and are consequently oversized. They generally have extreme growth projections and are in drastic need of an update.

Sometimes it's because the entire area is significantly overloaded and bringing them to a balanced quota would break transport or community-of-interest considerations. In extreme cases the only option is to remove an existing seat or and create a new seat.

Quotas – Under and Over

Ideally quotas should pass through a zero deviation point during the life of the current redistribution – over-quota seats should become under-quota seats and vice versa, within the limitations of population forecasts.

However, this redistribution is relying on a Census that is significantly out of date. The electorate boundaries for the 2028 election will be designed around growth expectations that are 8 years old.

My other concern is that there are some areas where the AEC guidelines can't be complied with because of the growth. The Queensland Redistribution Committee acknowledged that 5 state seats were not able to meet enrolment conditions due to this.

Significant expansion will occur in the Ipswich – Moreton Bay – Sunshine Coast area. For example SA1 *31602158001* located in Caloundra West - Baringa has 5,603 current electors and a projected enrolment of 8,303.

Naming Conventions

In the last Queensland State Redistribution the Commission addressed many significant issues with the naming conventions and took the opportunity to provide a consistent, coherent naming schema.

While I only wish to make two changes at the next redistribution, I believe there is an opportunity for the AEC to consider the way electorates in Australia are named.

A. Electorate names not open to challenge – this includes electorates named after former Prime Ministers who are deceased.

B Capital City electorates – while there is a convention that an electorate be named for the capital city of each state, this does not apply to the Northern Territory or Tasmania

C. Federation seats, seats named after geographic place names and seats named after individuals. This group is one where naming changes should be considered. I do not believe that Federation seats should be granted any particular preservation if the only reason for keeping them is that they're old. Many of them were named after those known at the first sitting of Parliament.

125 years and 24.2 million Australians later there's an opportunity to consider whether there might be worthier names to recognise. The AEC has also acknowledged that Federation seats are not sacrosanct, although they reversed their original decision to remove Corangamite,

I believe that electorates closely associated with an individual should be kept within the same State and preferably within the same locality. This is especially true for seats with Indigenous connections.

At the following redistribution I propose the renaming of the seat of Oxley to Bonner, reflecting Senator Neville Bonner's deep connection to Ipswich; and the

former area of Bonner be renamed to Oodgeroo, following the release of the name in the last Queensland State Redistribution.

Recognition of John Oxley in the naming of a Federal seat should be open to review.

Objectively he spent a month in Brisbane in late 1823 and another month in late 1824. He was tasked as New South Wales Surveyor-General to discover a suitable site for a penal colony. Thomas Pamphlett and John Finnegan, who were shipwrecked on Bribie Island, provided directions to the Brisbane River on his first trip. Local indigenous people provided directions for his trip further up the Brisbane River. On that basis I am not sure whether his endeavours require the recognition of a Federal seat.

The 2029 Redistribution

Queensland is very close to hitting the 30.5 quota trigger for a new seat and it's likely to occur within the next term of Parliament.

This is an opportunity for the AEC to minimise future changes. Firstly, by correcting the Regional boundaries so they will hold their shape across the next couple of elections; and secondly by planning where the new seat is likely to go, what areas have to be patched up now and what indicators can they provide ahead of the next redistribution.

Ideally I would like the AEC to include some thoughts on future developments as part of this redistribution. By that time the 2026 Census data should be available.

Submissions summary

I do not believe that the following submissions provide a meaningful contribution to the redistribution process..

	Name	Reason
S3	Anonymous 1	No details required to support maps
S4	Anonymous 2	Outside of scope of redistribution
S7	Callan	Naming after a State Member
S8	Emily and Lisa Ravaillion	Outside of scope of redistribution
S18	Thomas - Liff Studio	Outside of scope of redistribution
S19	Anthony	Outside of scope of redistribution
S21	Brad Miller	Outside of scope of redistribution
S22	Ray Thurlow	Outside of scope of redistribution and HREOC issue
S25	Hamish McDowall	Unable to be implemented
S29	The Lizard Queen	Outside of scope of redistribution
S30	Douglas Catchpole	Outside of scope of redistribution
S40	Anonymous	Outside of scope of redistribution

Of the remaining submissions 32 dealt with multiple boundaries and were generally of a high standard. This also included submissions from the ALP, LNP and Greens providing varying degrees of detail.

The remainder of the submissions covered names, localities and joint boundaries.

In some instances I have mentioned specific parts of a submission, but in the majority of cases I have done my best to provide my thoughts on how those suggestions can be best implemented.

North Queensland Urban Reunification

There is substantial support for taking the opportunity to correct many of the broken northern electorates. While some of the changes may look substantial, especially in Kennedy, the population impact is much less than the current disruption. While there is no coherent design, I believe the following can act as a guide.

- Leichhardt (-1.36%)

  Based on Cairns, it adds Kuranda from the Mareeba Local Government area and passes the northern section to Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands to Kennedy.

- Herbert (-2.98%)

  Based on Townsville, it continues to include Palm Island due to transport links, the Army base and the majority of Townsville suburbs.

- Dawson (-7.30%)

  Dawson loses the area previously in Townsville. It now adds the entirety of Burdekin, The Whitsundays and Mackay. Collinsville is now in Dawson instead of Capricornia.

- Capricornia (-7.81%)

  Capricornia is based on the city of Rockhampton and adds a substantial amount of the northern and western areas of the current Flynn. It loses the remainder of Mackay and The Whitsundays.

- Flynn (-5.46%)

  Flynn is based on Gladstone but also adds Bundaberg from the Fraser Coast Regional Council. It loses Banana Regional Council to Maranoa and a substantial area to the west and north to Capricornia,

- Hinkler (3.03%)

  Hinkler is based on Marybourough and the growth area of Hervey Bay, losing Bundaberg to Capricornia and the entirety of Banana Regional Council to Maranoa. It also extends further west and includes K'Gari.

- Wide Bay (-0.90%)

  Wide Bay is the boundary between Regional and South East Queensland, including Noosa, Gympie and parts of the Sunshine Coast area. This is the boundary point between Regional and South-East Queensland and I believe thiis seat will split to provide the new seat. I also believe the this would be one of the first seats to be renamed.

Far North and Far West

- Kennedy (-0.42%)

  Kennedy adds the area North of Cairns from Leichardt. continuing to surround Townsville but maintaining a distance from the remainder of the regional cities. The arguments tradionally used are that most of the indigenous communities fly down to Cairns anyway, Kennedy is too big and it makes more sense to continue popping in and out of other cities.

- Maranoa (-7.34%)

  Maranoa should maintains its existing boundaries but can add the entirety of Banana Regional Council from Flynn to bring it’s enrolment within quota.

SEQ Electorates that don't require boundary changes

- Moncrieff (0.08%)

  Moncrieff has a fixed border west and has consistent boundaries.

- Brisbane (0.31%)

  Brisbane has significant planned growth but there is the potential for it to cross the Brisbane River to create a unified inner city seat in future redistributions. This will also make minor boundary adjustments to seats in the north and south much easier.

  I note that the ALP submission, once again, warns of the perils that will occur if an electorate should ever straddle the North and South of the River. While the "*Brisbane River is a clear physical divider of two distinct parts of metropolitan Brisbane, particularly in areas closer to the central business district*" was true up until Expo '88, the River is now a major transport corridor for ferries, trains, buses and pedestrians. The number of existing and proposed bridges comes perilously close to paving over that stretch of the river. The ALP warning against uniting common communities is grounded in politics, not policy.

- Bowman (-0.84)

  Bowman is self-contained within the Redlands, has a fixed border to the east and would require dislocation of existing communities for no benefit.

SEQ Electorates that are required to undergo change

The following electorates are all significantly under or over quota now or projected to be. They will have knockon effects on adjoining electorate and in at least one case will form part of any new electorate.

- Blair (16.92%)

  While Blair should be an Ipswich seat, over many years it has crept up into the Sunshine Coast hinterland. There's an opportunity to pull the top end further south in preparation of a new seat.

- Longman (16.47%)

  Longman is over quota with more development to come. It's core areas are Caboolture and Bribie Island, and a number of submissions argue for it to move further north or west. This would mean shedding areas in the south to Dickson.

- Wright (16.28%)

  The difficulty with Wright is the number of high-growth areas surrounding it. It's a demographic minefield as high growth areas pop up like mushrooms.

- Fisher (13.02%)

  Fisher has problems with extreme growth in the Priority Development Areas in Caloundra South. Losing some of it's current coastal area north of Lake Currimundi to Fairfax would maintain the traditional Caloundra area and allow it to take some of the low-growth areas west of the Bruce Highway. As Fisher stabilises there's an opportunity to return that Western area to a new seat.

- Forde (9.98%)

  Forde could lose lose Boronia Heights to Oxley and gain the higher-growth area of Yarrabilba from Wright. At a future redistribution the area of Logan Village can transfer as well, with Bonner and Bowman eventually pushing down on the eastern side of the freeway to take Carbrook and Loganholme.

- Fadden (9.21%)

  Fadden is significantly over quota, mainly due to the growth in the northern end of the electorate. This could be resolved by moving the entirety of the Pacific Pines area into Wright, This is the area west of the M1 and south of Bumstead Road. As the developments in Fadden are reaching their end I believe that future boundary adjustments can be made by incrementally removing those areas west of the M1.

- Petrie (8.14%)

  There seems to be general agreement that Petrie should become an entirely Moreton Bay seat by shedding all of it's current Brisbane City Council suburbs and extending across the Highway along Anzac Avenue to Murrumba Downs. The Eastern side would be very similar to the old Redcliffe Council boundaries prior to amalgamation.

- Ryan (-9.14%)

  Growth in the Western Suburbs is always going to lag compared to the rest of Brisbane. Ryan also has some natural boundaries that limit where changes can be made, such as the squiggly Brisbane City Council boundary in the North West. I can see the arguments for all submissions and the biggest difficulty is going to be the knock on effects.

- Bonner (-9.98)

  Bonner is remarkably similar to Fadden in 1984 – part Brisbane, part Redlands and being drawn south into Logan and the Gold Coast. However continuing down the eastern side of the M1 provides an opportunity for Griffith to eventually take the northern part, especially if Brisbane recentres to become an inner-urban seat.

- Moreton (-13.85%)

  The seat of Moreton right now is fragmented. I note a number of submissions including S1 argued that Moreton could be aligned based on culture. Seats based on ethnicity, such as Watson, are not unknown. The electorate of Moreton has changed significantly over the past 30 years and I'm sure that there will be many submissions once the draft boundaries for Moreton are released.

SEQ Electorates affected as a consequence of neighbouring changes

- Fairfax (4.62%)

  Both the ALP and LNP submissions argue that Fairfax should lose some of it's northern area which is more aligned with Noosa, and gain the coastal strip from Fisher.

  I argue that the Lake Currimundi boundary is more natural, forming part of the old Caloundra Shire Council area. The core areas for Fairfax are Buderim and Maroochydore, while areas such as Yandina, Perigian Springs and parts of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland have fewer commonalities. Adding the coastal area from Alexandra Headland to Lake Currimundi provides a natural boundary with Fisher.

- Oxley (-1.82%)

  Removing those parts of Brisbane from Oxley makes sense, and it brings it back to being an Ipswich electorate again.

- Griffith (-2.73%)

  Griffith could be left until the next redistribution except for the significant problems with Bonner and Moreton. There are competing views on which areas belong where, which are likely to be rearranged at the next redistribution.

- McPherson (-3.11%)

  While McPherson could be left alone, there's an opportunity to transfer some of Wright to unite Springbrook and Mudgeereba.

- Groom (-4.50%)

  Groom is centred on Toowoomba and could take sections from adjoining seats in the Lockyer Valley to bring it up to quota. There are a number of changes that could be justifiably made, and the best way to judge public opinion is to add it in the draft maps.

- Dickson (-4.80%)

  Whatever happens at this redistribution in Dickson it's unlikely to survive without major changes. However it's a good opportunity to lock in those areas that will remain in Dickson after the next redistribution.

- Lilley (-6.01%)

  In the long run I believe Lilley can regain some of it's old boundaries, adding back Ascot, Hamilton and Clayfield from Brisbane, the northern areas from Petrie and losing some of the areas it hold west of Gympie Road to Ryan or Dickson. I did note one suggestion to remove Pinkenba and the Airport from Lilley, an option that would create considerable unnecessary disruption.

- Rankin (-7.83%)

  In future redistribution Rankin is more likely to lose the area East of the Freeway to Bonner and become a Central Logan seat. While that's not an option this time, losing the area north of Springwood Road would provide an easy path to future changes.