



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Submission S31

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To: The Redistribution Committee for Queensland
Australian Electoral Commission

RE: Public submission – 2026 Queensland Federal Redistribution

Divisions referred to- Groom, Maranoa & Wright

Please refer to the below suggestions and comments regarding the 2026 Queensland Federal Redistribution for your consideration. My submission focuses mainly on the division of Groom with suggestions that impact the boundaries between Groom and Maranoa and Groom and Wright.

I believe that the electoral boundaries of the division of Groom should be amended to better reflect geographical features of the electorate and maintain a focus on the primary populated area of Toowoomba. By amending the boundaries to include parts of the region that share similar characteristics and shift portions of the electorate that are incompatibly different, into the neighbouring electorate of Maranoa, better representation of local interests can be achieved. Additionally, by relocating a small number of localities into the Division of Groom, greater representation for residents can be achieved.

Localities to be included in Maranoa

I believe that a small number of small rural localities towards the northern and western edge of the electorate should be shifted into the division of Maranoa. These localities generally include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Acland
- Bowenville*
- Brookstead
- Evergreen
- Jondaryan*
- Kulpi*
- Peranga
- Nangwee
- Quinalow*

Localities marked with * had a polling booth in the 2025 Federal Election ('FE25').

These above-mentioned localities share many similar characteristics. This includes a shared agricultural cropping and grazing economic interest, rural lifestyle, similar climates and environmental challenges and shared community interests.

These characteristics are in common with the majority of localities within the boundaries of Maranoa. As it stands, Maranoa has a largely decentralised, rural and remote base of electors, which is notably different to the division of Groom's primary elector base which centres around the Toowoomba region.

The division of Groom should be strictly focused on the broader Toowoomba region and exclude localities currently on the fringes of the electorate that cannot be effectively represented and have an insignificant impact on the total number of electors with the division of Groom.

Toowoomba is a high-growth area that since Queensland's last redistribution has grown significantly. Additionally, the nearby localities of Highfields and Meringandan have grown exponentially and become thriving communities. This general area makes up the vast majority of electors within Groom, as noted by AEC supplied 2025 Federal Election data. In FE25, there was 103,219 votes cast for the division of Groom. This equates to approx:

- 24,921 Postal, Provisional and Absent votes
- 42,211 Early voting period pre-poll votes
 - All 5 pre-poll voting centres were located within the Toowoomba and Highfields area.
- 36,087 ordinary polling day votes
 - Only 674 were cast at polling booths located within the suggested localities to be redistributed;
 - 28,049 were cast in polling places within Toowoomba, Highfields and Meringandan areas.
 - 8,618 were cast in polling booths within the broader Toowoomba region/ at booths not captured by the suggested list of localities to be shifted in Maranoa (i.e. Cambooya, Greenmount, Oakey, Pittsworth, Wyreema etc).

On the basis of this polling data, it is evident that the suggested localities to be included within the Maranoa division contribute an insignificant number of total votes to the total for the division of Groom. Whilst this does not consider the number of electors in the suggested localities to be relocated who voted by post or contributed to the total number of pre-poll votes, it does provide some context.

The electorate of Groom covers a number of surrounding smaller communities. I believe that many of these rural townships are inadequately represented by a member of parliament whose attention and efforts are focused around the broader Toowoomba area, which makes up the vast majority of voters within the electorate.

As regional areas with unique challenges and interests, the outlined rural localities deserve a member of parliament who can adequately understand and advocate for their needs. These localities deserve to be part of a division that shares similar characteristics across a majority of the electorate, rather than being tacked onto a division such as Groom for the sake of achieving a target number of electors or maintaining a particular shape to the division.

These suggested localities to be included in the next iteration of the division of Maranoa share many similarities with the division of Maranoa. As an entirely rural and remote division with no single primary populated area that the division centres around, Maranoa is a vast and unique division. Despite being a large electorate, each community and township included in the division shares the same common interests and challenges associated with being in rural and remote Queensland. This includes a heavy focus on agricultural interests. By expanding the electorate to include the suggested localities currently located in the Groom electorate, both the divisions of Groom and Maranoa will be able to receive stronger and fairer representation in parliament.

When considering the connection these localities and communities have with Toowoomba, the focus point of the Groom electorate, location of the Groom divisional office and all of the pre-poll voting centres offered during recent elections, it is reasonable to assert that residents would not identify a significant connection to Toowoomba, nor hold significant reliance on wider Toowoomba region. With the exception of Brookstead, each of the suggested localities to be shifted are geographically closer to Dalby, one of the larger communities within the Maranoa division and base for many essential services. Many of the impacted electors by this suggestion would already associate a connection with Dalby for many aspects of life, with far more reliance on townships and communities within the Maranoa electorate.

Localities to be included in Groom

To assist with repositioning and balancing the division of Groom, a small number of boundary amendments should be considered along the North-East and Eastern boundaries of the electorate. I believe that the following amendments should be made:

1. The locality of Hampton should be wholly included in the division of Groom
 - Currently, Hampton is split equally into Groom and Maranoa. Hampton holds a small population, however, is far more aligned in common characteristics and interests as the wider Toowoomba area.

2. The locality of Crows Nest should be generally included in Groom
 - Reasons are similar to the suggested inclusion of Hampton. Crows Nest is covered by the same council area, has many environmental characteristics similar to the wider Toowoomba area and far less of an agricultural rural focus. Many residents of Crows Nest work within Toowoomba and contribute to the wider Toowoomba community and economy.
3. Minor Changes should be made to the boundary along Preston-Boundary Rd, Preston/ Top Camp, in order to minimise the splitting of residents along the same street being part of separate electorates.
 - Currently, homes located on the 'Preston' side of the road are included in the division of Wright. Electors along this portion of the boundary included in Wright are largely disconnected from the remainder of their division due to geographical features and distance.
 - Residents of this area consider Toowoomba their main centre and contribute heavily to the Toowoomba community and economy.
 - This only impacts a very small number of residents, however, adjusting this portion of the Eastern boundary would provide greater representation and consistency and minimise confusion among residents.

The geography of the Toowoomba region and more broadly the division of Groom is unique. It allows for a heavy concentration of electors within one area that can be wholly included in one division with minimal splitting of localities and communities between divisions. As such, wherever possible, boundaries should be amended to ensure fewer streets are split between divisions (i.e. above example Preston Boundary Rd in Preston/ Top Camp).

I eagerly anticipate the Committee's proposal and final recommendations. I hope that adequate weight and consideration is given to my submission when deciding the future boundaries for the division of Groom.

Regards,

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South Toowoomba, QLD, 4350 | Elector enrolled in division of Groom