



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Submission S42

Nicholas Weston

Introduction

This is a whole-of-state suggestion. I will begin by discussing a holistic statewide approach, then outline the changes I suggest, and finally summarise my suggestions at a high level. At the end of the document, I have included maps. (I had to downscale and compress the maps very aggressively because of the 5 MB upload limit.)

Statewide approach

A useful starting point for this redistribution is to consider two questions: whether any divisions should cross the Brisbane River, and whether the northern boundary of MARANOA should change.

For this purpose, the state can be divided into two regions:

- a southern region consisting of all divisions south of the Brisbane River, together with BLAIR, GROOM, and MARANOA (a total of 14 divisions); and
- a northern region consisting of the remaining 16 divisions.

The projected enrolment of the southern region is around 14.04 quotas, while that of the northern region is 15.96 quotas. A transfer of around five thousand projected electors from the southern region to the northern region would therefore bring both regions approximately into line with their respective numbers of divisions.

The simplest and most obvious way to achieve this is to transfer the Karana Downs area, containing 4,643 projected electors, from BLAIR to RYAN. This is the approach I have adopted, as I believe it produces the best boundaries overall. On this basis, no division needs to cross the Brisbane River, and the northern boundary of MARANOA can remain unchanged.

I considered a number of alternative approaches:

- I considered transferring the northern end of MARANOA, along the Capricorn and Landsborough highways, to CAPRICORNIA, which would also gain the Central Highlands from FLYNN. While the Committee could reasonably pursue this approach, it would produce an undesirable flow-on effect further down the coast. It would then be necessary either to divide Bundaberg awkwardly or to place Banana Shire in a division containing none of Rockhampton, Gladstone, or Bundaberg.
- I considered transferring part of the Somerset Region from BLAIR to LONGMAN. However, LONGMAN will itself need to shed electors at its northern end to FISHER, making this option less attractive. Compared with the approach I have adopted, it would also require more substantial changes to the Greater Brisbane divisions north of the Brisbane River, as these under-quota divisions would need to extend further north.
- I do not believe it is either necessary or desirable for MARANOA to undergo a radical expansion, such as extending to Mount Isa. MARANOA is already a large and diverse division, and such an expansion would cause it to span too many disparate communities of interest.
- Other crossings of the Brisbane River are unnecessary and would make it harder to satisfy the numerical requirements of the redistribution.

The numerical requirements therefore suggest three broad trends:

- Divisions north of the Sunshine Coast will generally need to move southwards. This will create an opportunity to consolidate each of Townsville, Mackay, and Rockhampton more effectively within a single division.

- Divisions in Greater Brisbane will generally need to move outwards.
- MARANOA will need to move closer to Toowoomba, and GROOM will in turn need to gain part of the Lockyer Valley from WRIGHT.

North Queensland

I have left LEICHHARDT unchanged.

The numbers allow DAWSON to shed its electors in the Townsville urban area to HERBERT. The western boundary of HERBERT can then be moved to the Bohle and Alice rivers. I have also moved the southern boundary of HERBERT to the southern boundary of Townsville LGA for the following reasons:

- Alice River and Rangewood share a clear community of interest and should be located in the same division.
- Gumlow and Pinnacles, currently located in KENNEDY, are effectively cut off from the remainder of that division.
- New housing estates are planned south of the Little Bohle River. These should form part of HERBERT.

I have also aligned the boundary between DAWSON and KENNEDY with LGA boundaries. The existing boundary divides a new housing estate at Jullago and unnecessarily cuts through the locality of Alligator Creek.

The projected enrolments also allow urban Mackay and the Pioneer Valley to be united within DAWSON.

Central Queensland

Having lost most of Mackay LGA to DAWSON, with the exception of Sarina SA2, CAPRICORNIA can expand west along the Capricorn Highway to take in Gracemere and the Central Highlands. This has the additional advantage of uniting most of the Bowen Basin within CAPRICORNIA.

Turning to FLYNN and HINKLER, I contend that a more substantial realignment of these two divisions is desirable.

Numerical requirements necessitate that FLYNN gain part of Bundaberg. However, if FLYNN sheds no electors beyond those transferred to CAPRICORNIA, the Bundaberg urban area would be divided almost in half between FLYNN and HINKLER. I believe it is preferable to unite as much of the Bundaberg urban area within a single division as possible.

To achieve this, I propose an exchange of territory between FLYNN and HINKLER. The North Burnett Region, the former Wondai Shire, and Gin Gin SA2 are transferred from FLYNN to HINKLER. FLYNN is then able to take in almost all of the Bundaberg urban area, together with the nearby coastal localities.

HINKLER must then gain additional electors from WIDE BAY. This can be achieved by transferring the balance of the Fraser Coast Region, including Maryborough, together with Cherbourg and the former Murgon Shire.

Sunshine Coast and northern Brisbane

WIDE BAY must consequently move further into the Sunshine Coast. I have transferred Kenilworth, Eumundi, Yandina, Peregrine Springs, and Coolumb from FAIRFAX to WIDE BAY. I have generally followed SA2 boundaries, but have retained Mapleton in FAIRFAX because of its strong links to Nambour.

The boundary between FAIRFAX and FISHER can then broadly follow the boundary between the former Maroochy and Caloundra shires.

FISHER will need to extend into Moreton Bay LGA. I have therefore transferred the Woodford area from LONGMAN to FISHER.

LONGMAN forms the point at which the southward movement of divisions from the north meets the northward movement of divisions within Greater Brisbane. It is therefore able to contract on all sides, losing the Woodford area to FISHER, the balance of Burpengary East to PETRIE, and Dakabin and the balance of Kurwongbah to DICKSON.

The remaining boundaries north of the Brisbane River then more or less draw themselves. The small part of Brisbane LGA currently within DICKSON can be transferred to LILLEY, while PETRIE can also shed electors to LILLEY. The existing boundary between BRISBANE and LILLEY can remain unchanged. BRISBANE can shed its western protrusion to RYAN by aligning the boundary with Jubilee Terrace, allowing RYAN simply to expand.

MARANOVA, GROOM, and WRIGHT

This redistribution presents an opportunity for WRIGHT to shed the Lockyer Valley. MARANOVA can then gain territory from GROOM, which can in turn expand into the Lockyer Valley. This allows MARANOVA to be restored to quota without a dramatic increase in its geographic extent. MARANOVA already contains most of the Darling Downs, excluding Toowoomba itself. GROOM can take the western half of the Lockyer Valley, broadly corresponding to the former Gatton Shire.

This change leaves WRIGHT a few thousand projected electors below tolerance, which I address below in considering its other adjoining divisions. At this stage, however, it is clear that WRIGHT becomes a division centred on the Scenic Rim and the south-western parts of Logan.

Gold Coast

McPHERSON is slightly below tolerance and can gain Miami from MONCRIEFF.

MONCRIEFF can then gain Parkwood from FADDEN. I have also transferred the new Skyridge estate at Worongary from WRIGHT to MONCRIEFF.

FADDEN could be brought within tolerance simply by shedding electors at its northern end, but I believe a somewhat broader realignment produces cleaner boundaries. The boundary with FORDE will need to cross the Pacific Motorway in any event. A cleaner division of the northern Gold Coast is achieved by consolidating Ormeau, Pimpama, and the canefields within FORDE, while uniting Coomera and Upper Coomera within FADDEN. I have also made a minor change to the boundary with WRIGHT, transferring the balance of Oxenford to FADDEN.

FORDE is then able to shed its western wing west of Logan Reserve. I have transferred Chambers Flat, Munruben, and Park Ridge South to WRIGHT, and Boronia Heights and Park Ridge to RANKIN. I have also transferred most of Maudsland and the balance of Wongawallan from FORDE to WRIGHT. The remainder of FORDE's boundaries with RANKIN and BOWMAN can remain unchanged.

Southern Brisbane

The final change to WRIGHT is the transfer of Forestdale to RANKIN. Although Forestdale's semi-rural character is consistent with much of WRIGHT, it is relatively disconnected from the remainder of the division. With RANKIN moving south to take in Boronia Heights and Park Ridge, I believe this transfer is appropriate.

The only other change I have made to RANKIN is the transfer of Algester to MORETON, which is necessary to satisfy numerical requirements.

The remaining divisions from BOWMAN through to BLAIR then more or less draw themselves.

No changes are required to BOWMAN, which can remain coterminous with Redlands LGA.

BONNER expands into GRIFFITH, and GRIFFITH in turn expands into MORETON.

After the westward adjustments involving BONNER and GRIFFITH, MORETON, already substantially below quota, must gain a considerable number of electors to its west. The numbers allow MORETON to gain all of the Centenary suburbs from OXLEY. The Ipswich Motorway can then form the boundary as far as the locality boundary with Wacol.

I have also transferred the balance of Pallara and Willawong from OXLEY to MORETON. The existing boundary predates the development of Pallara and now cuts awkwardly through the suburb.

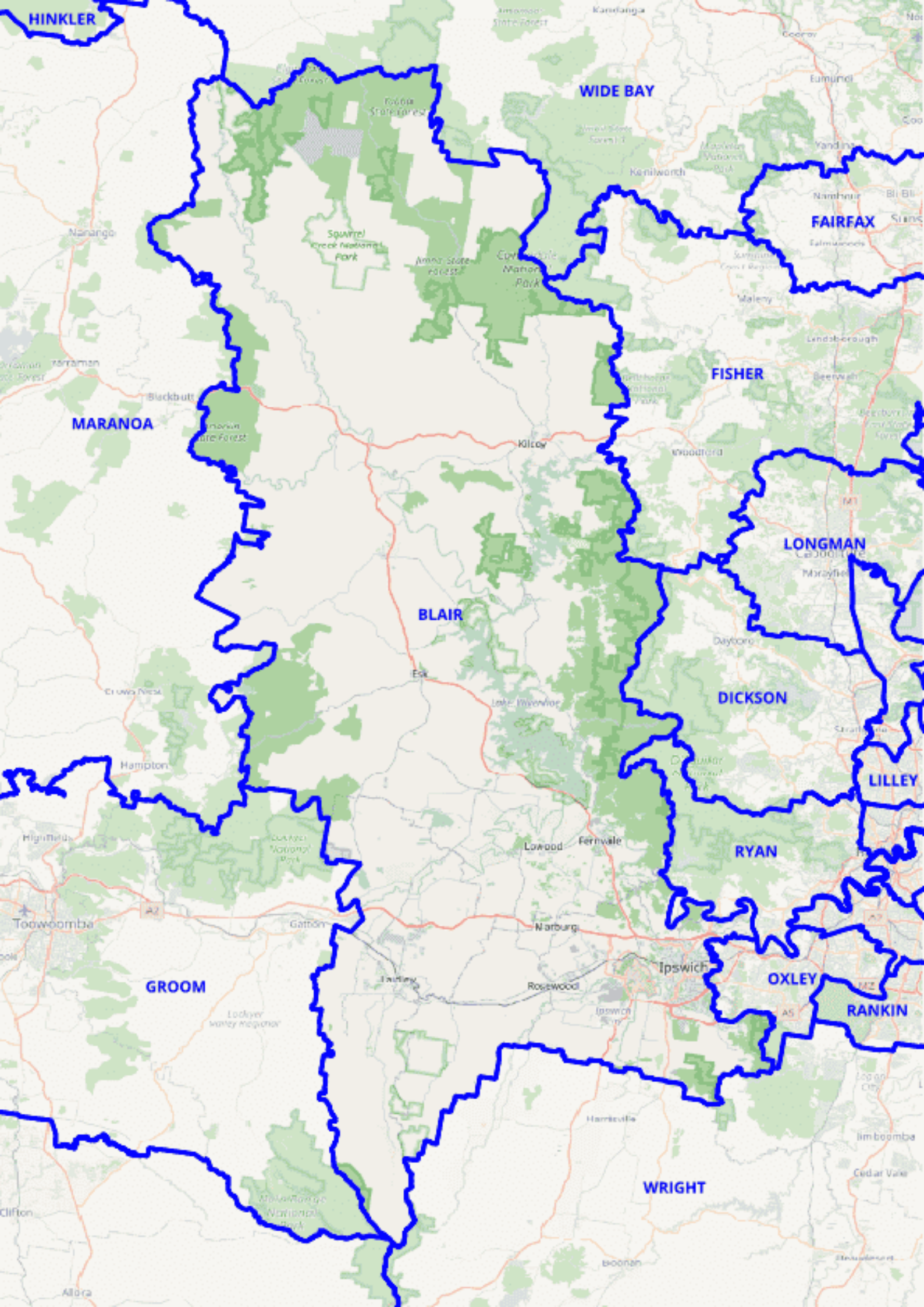
OXLEY is then able to unite all of Greater Springfield, which is a highly desirable outcome. Even after doing so, however, it must gain a substantial number of additional electors. It is important that the Ripley Valley remain united within a single division, so I propose that OXLEY expand into Bundamba. The Bremer River, Bundamba Creek, and the Centenary Highway provide suitable boundaries.

Finally, BLAIR gains the eastern end of the Lockyer Valley.

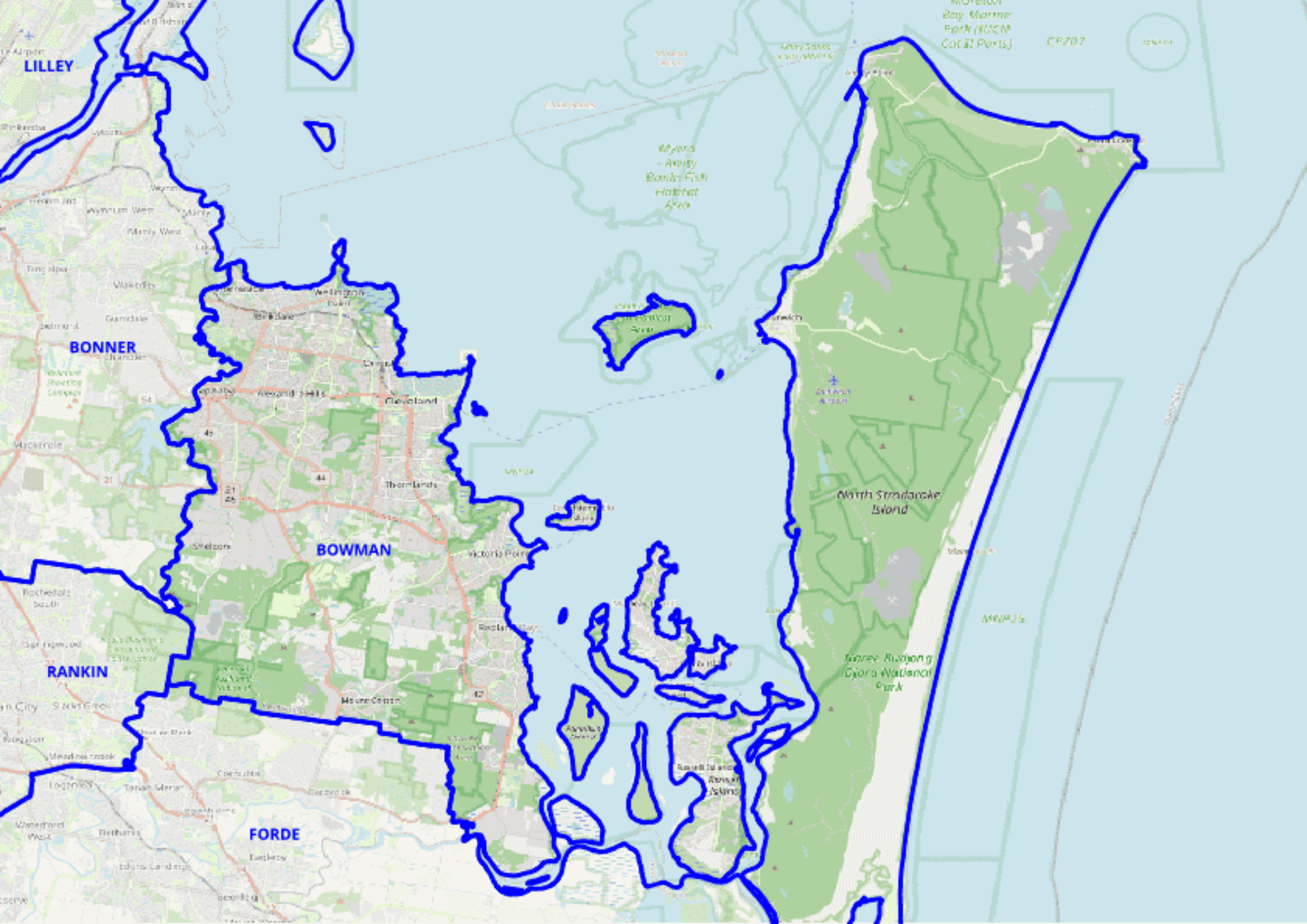
Summary

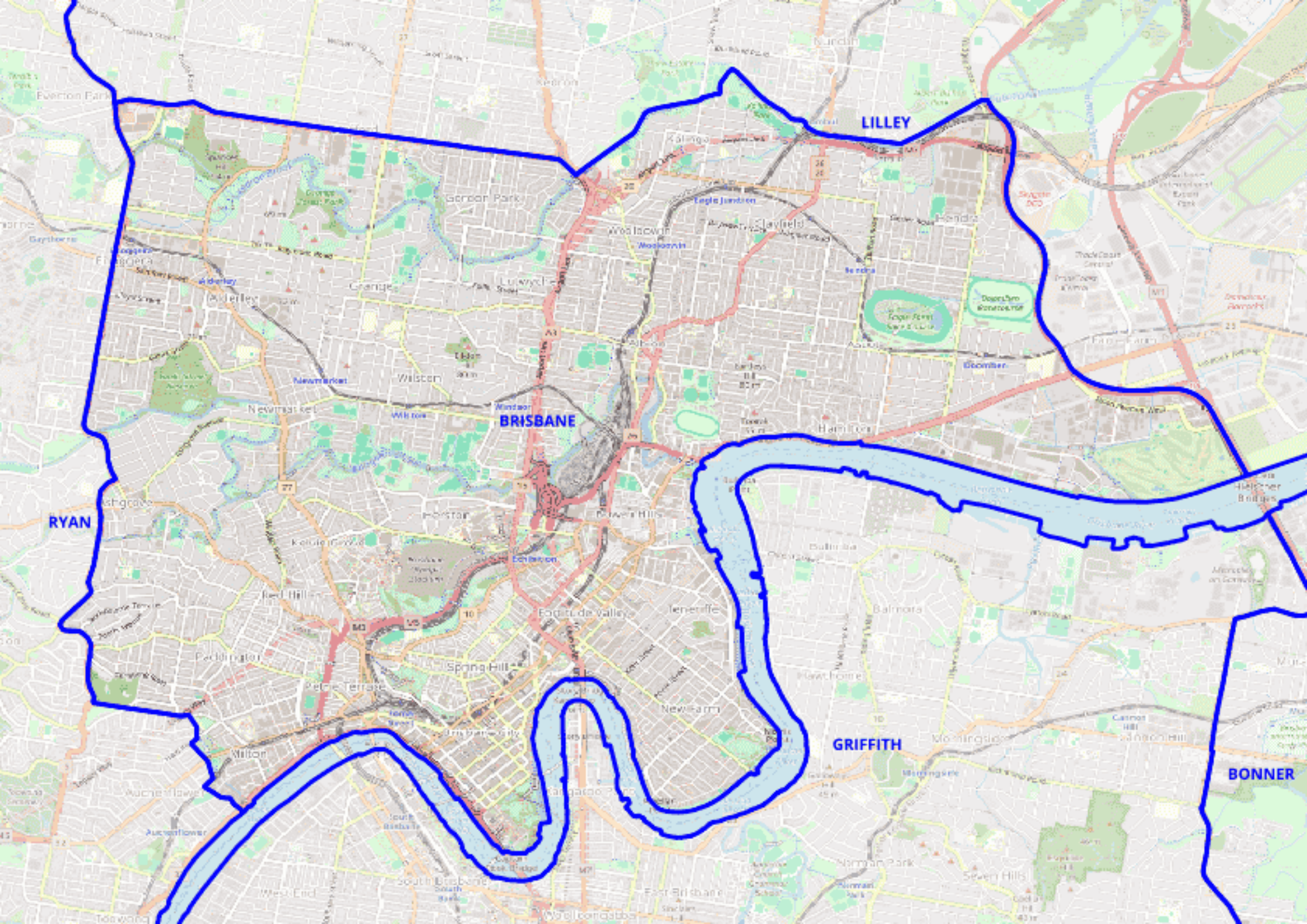
In summary, I recommend:

- that changes to MARANOA and KENNEDY be minor;
- that coastal divisions from Townsville to the Sunshine Coast generally move south;
- that Gladstone and most or all of the Bundaberg urban area be united in a single division;
- that Hervey Bay and Maryborough be united in a single division;
- that no division cross the Brisbane River;
- that the Lockyer Valley be removed from WRIGHT;
- that all of the Centenary suburbs be transferred from OXLEY to MORETON;
- that Greater Springfield be united in a single division;
- that Greater Ripley remain united in a single division.









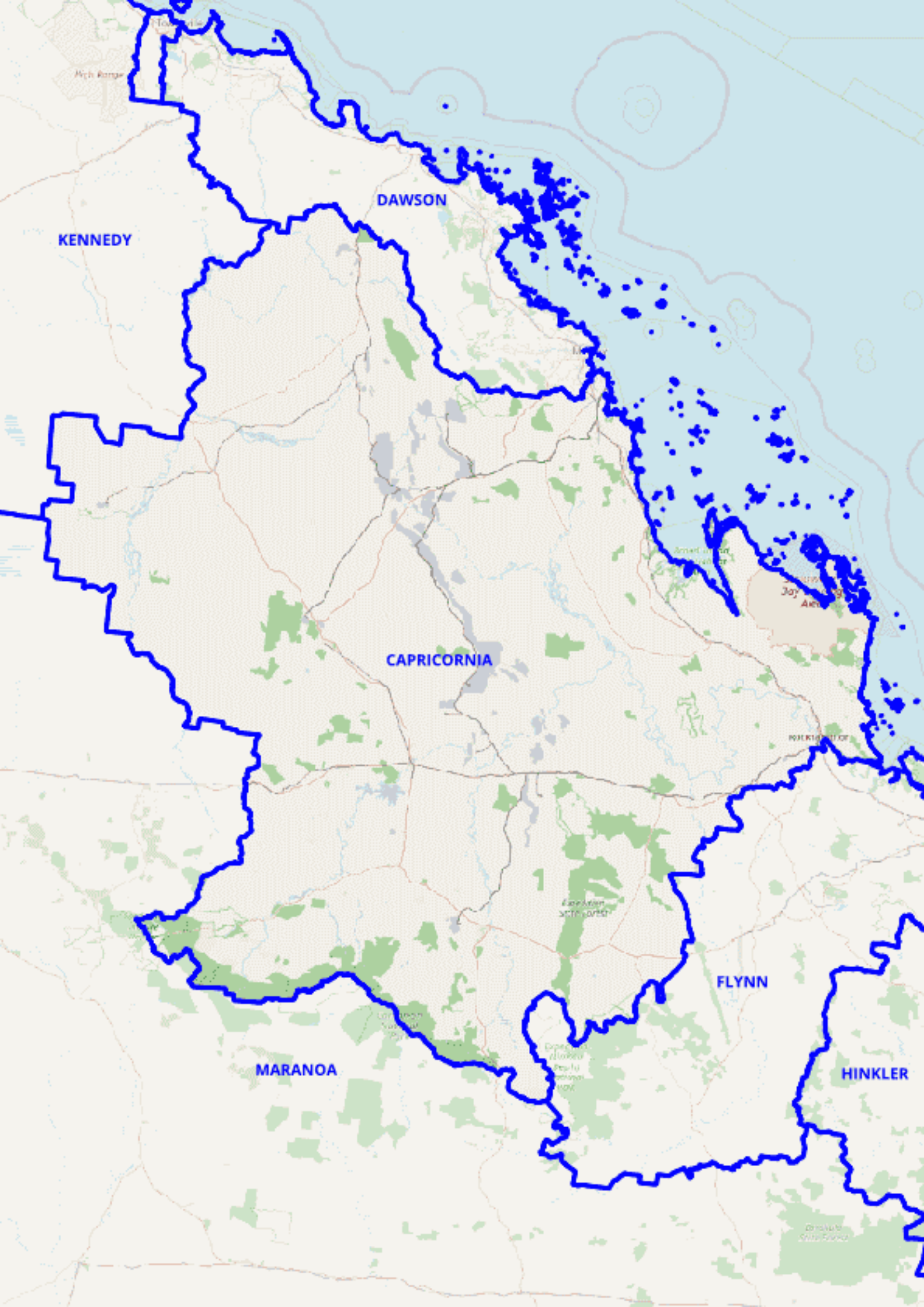
LILLEY

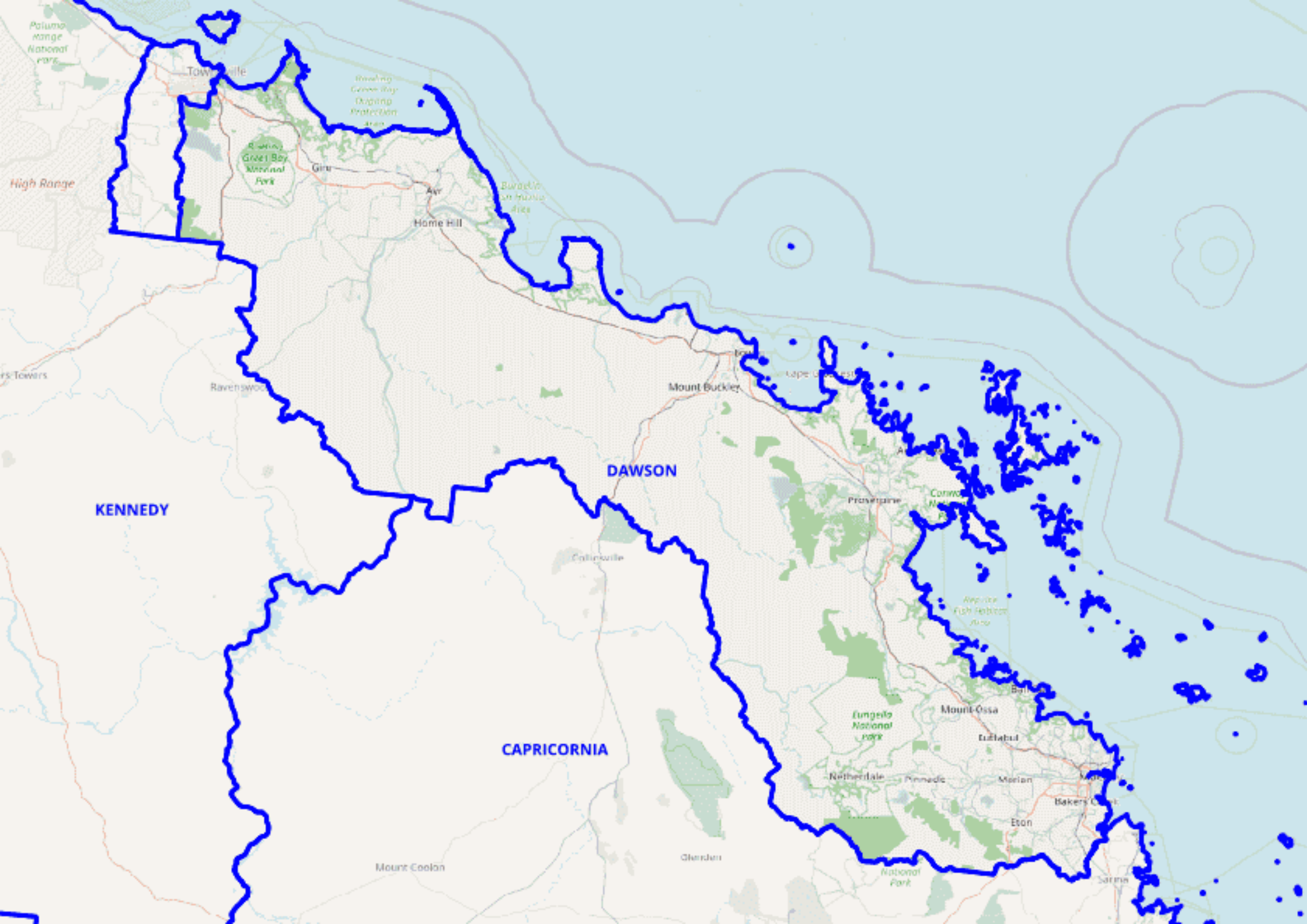
BRISBANE

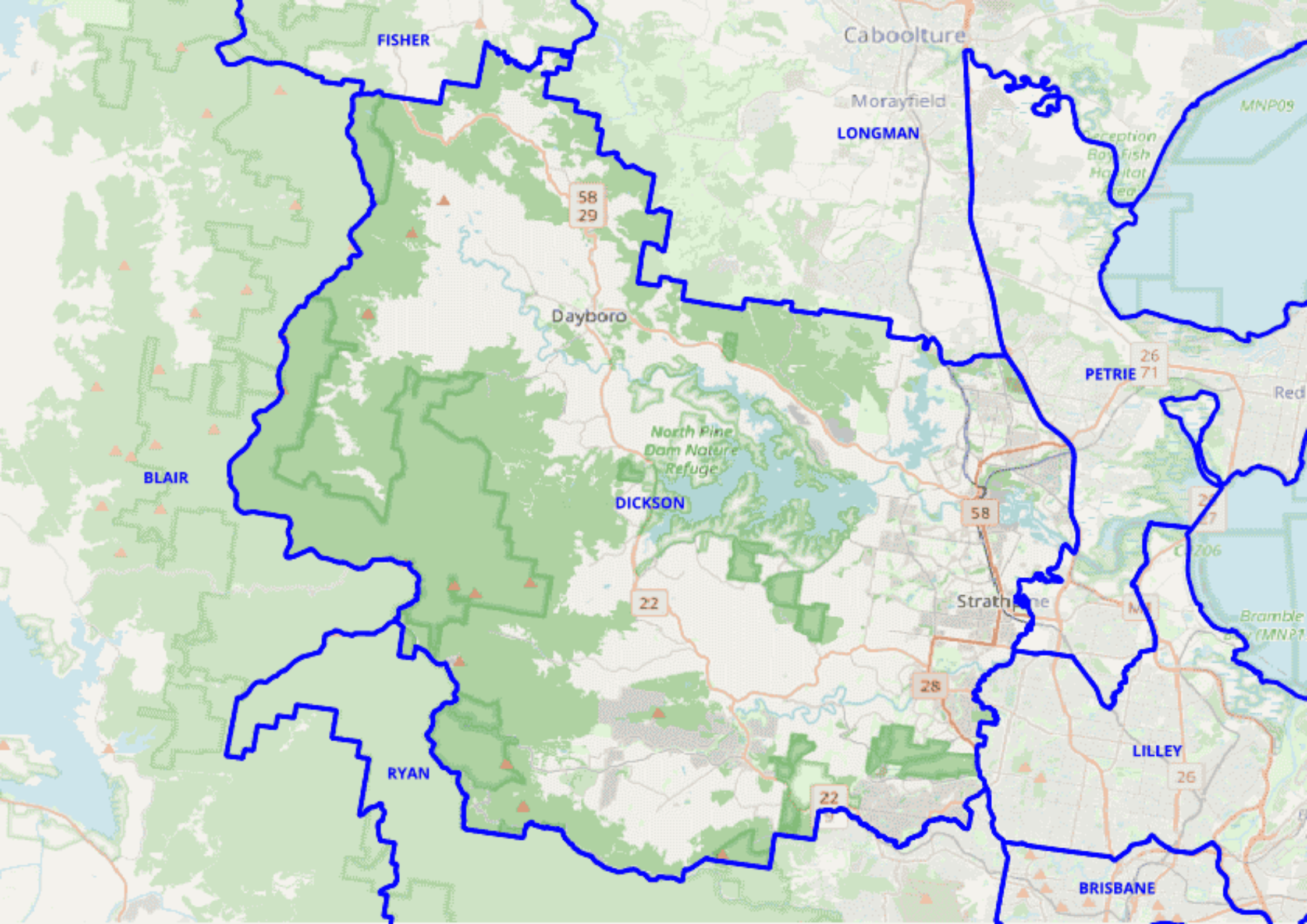
RYAN

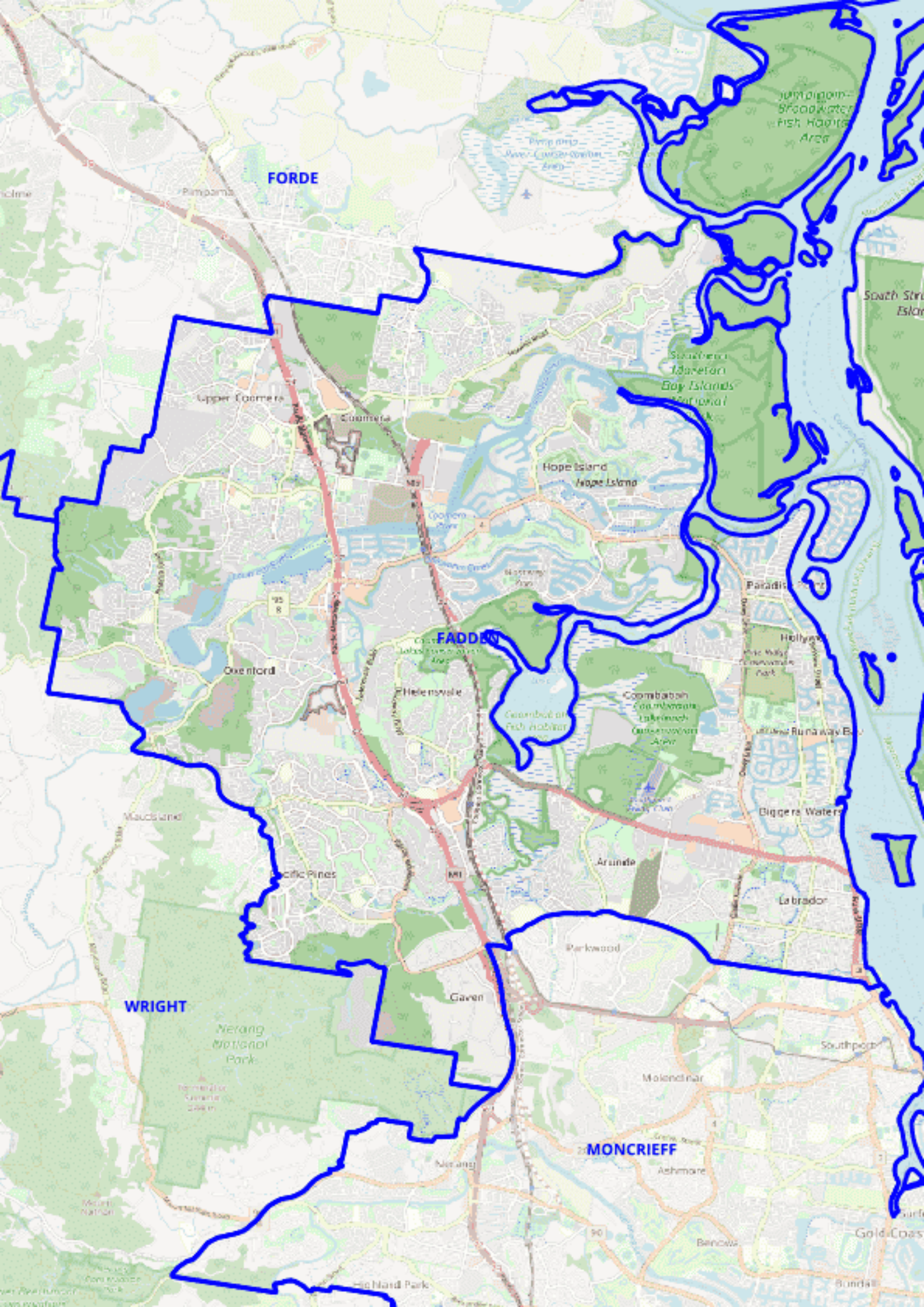
GRIFFITH

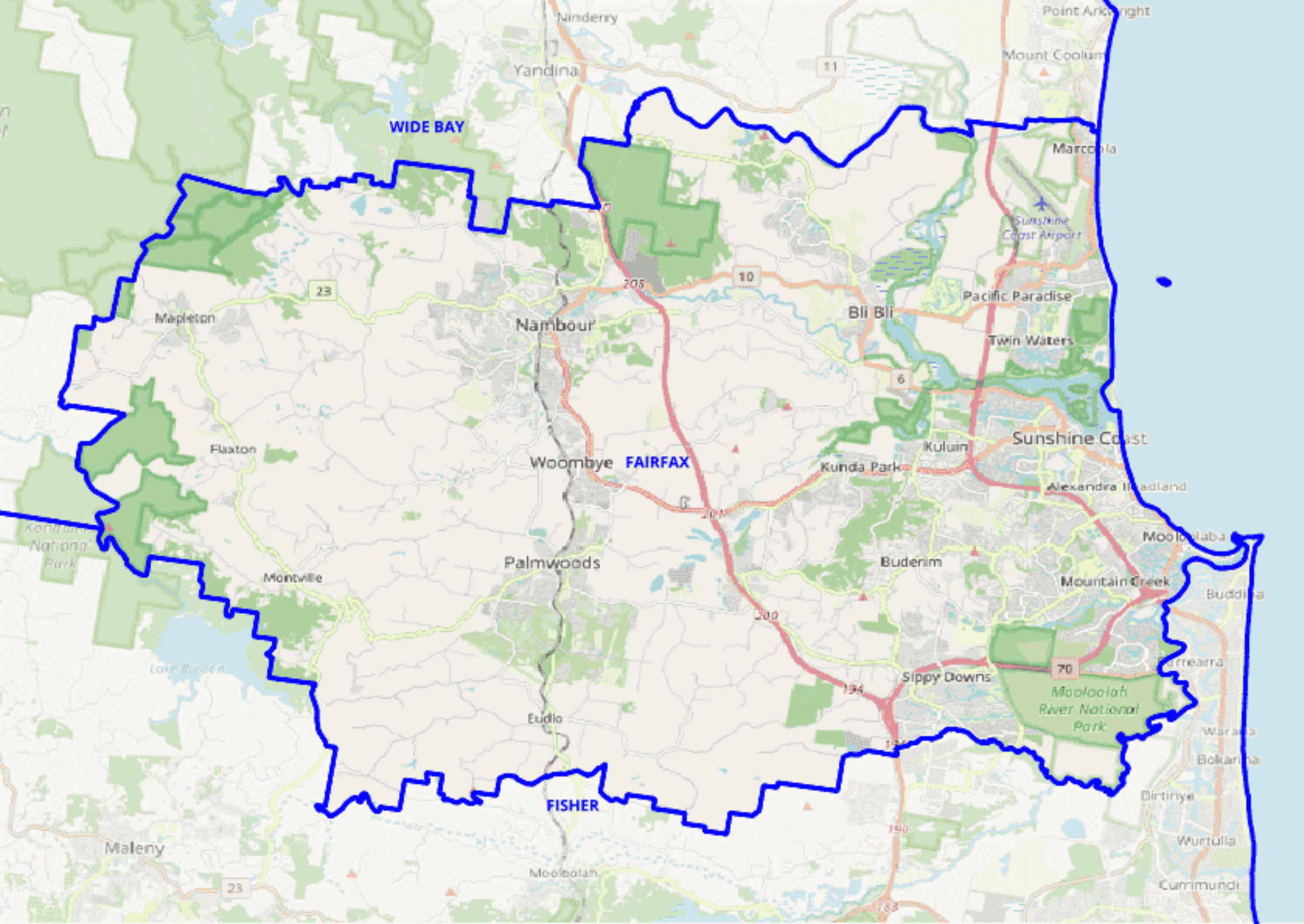
BONNER

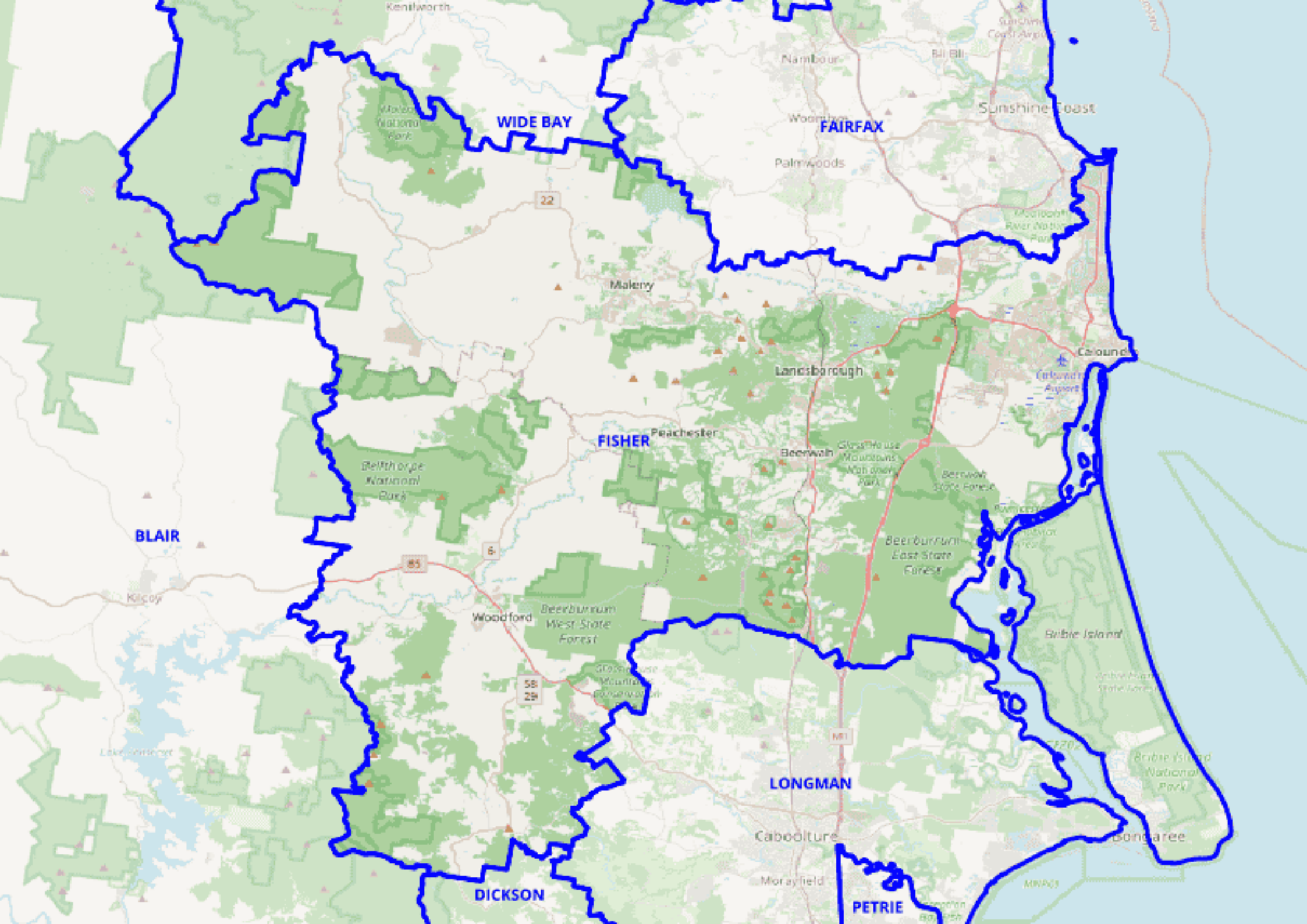


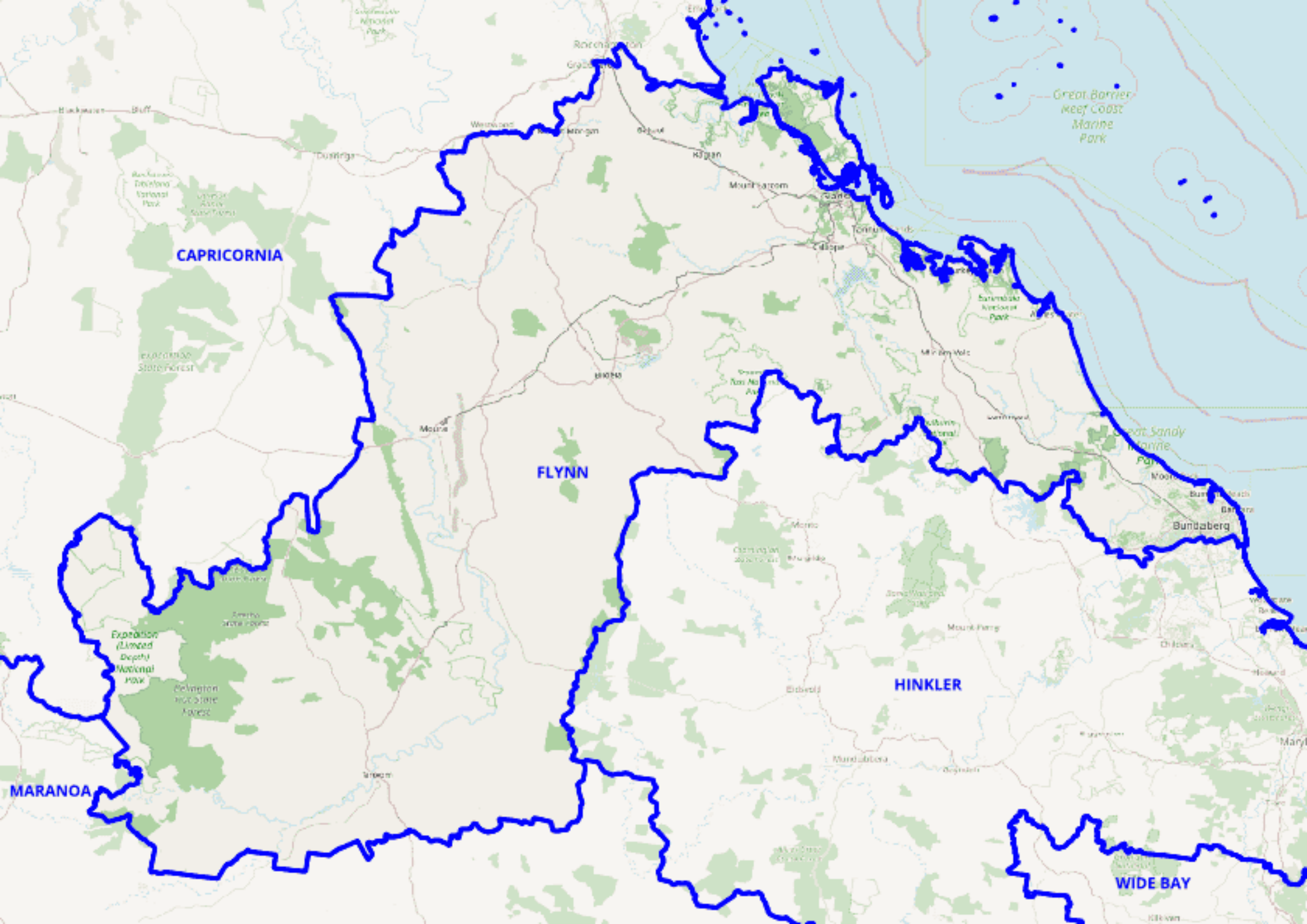


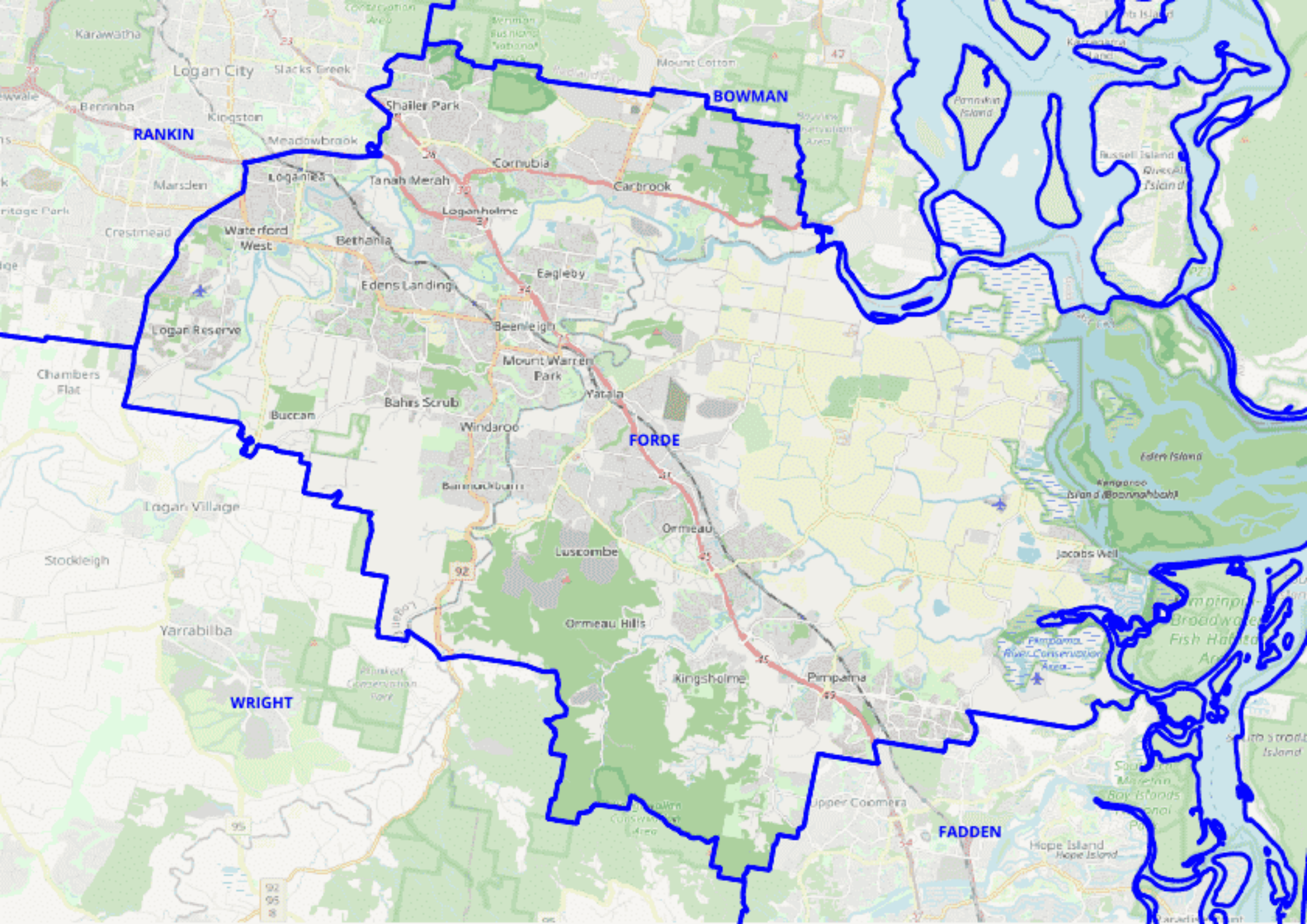


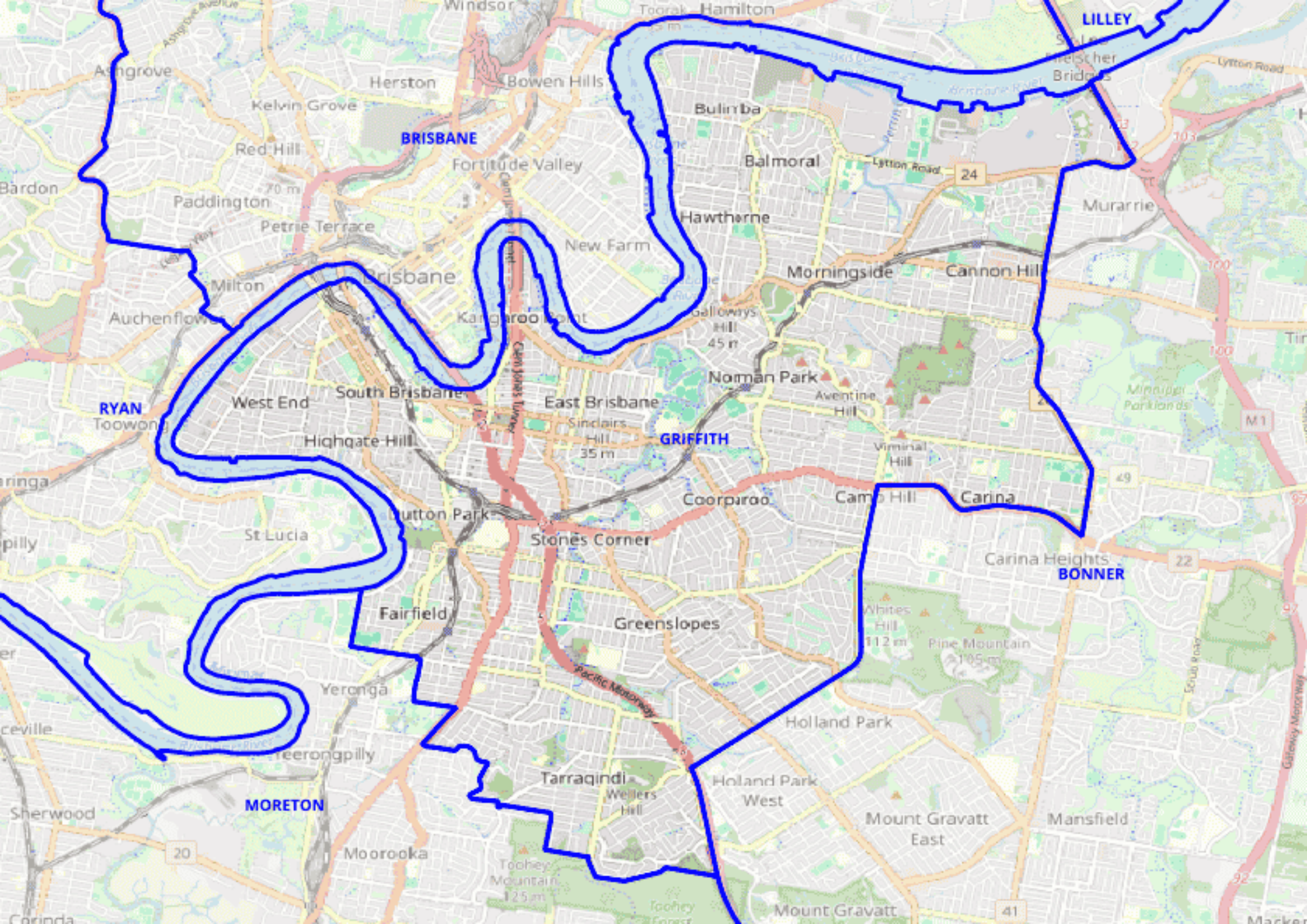


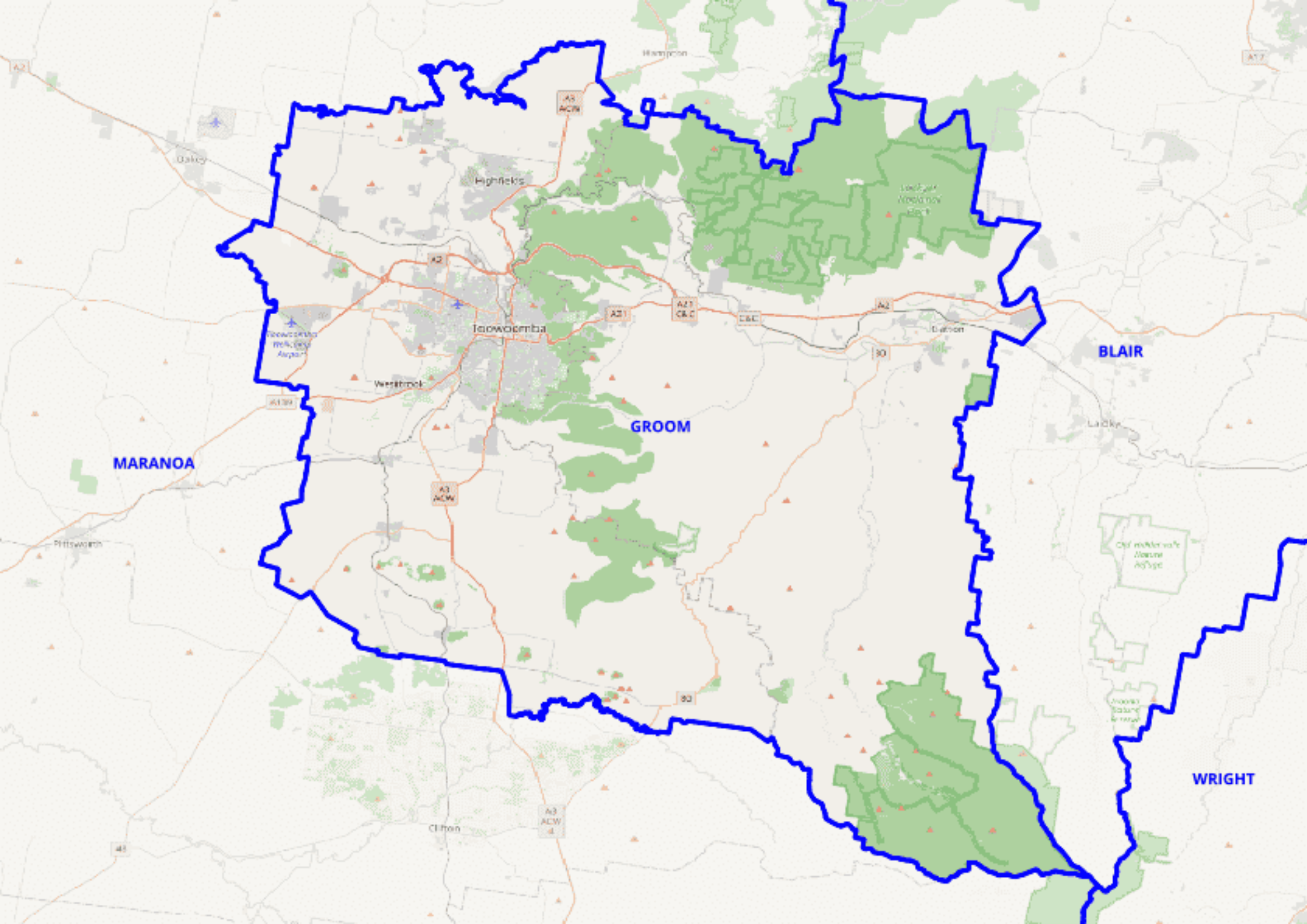


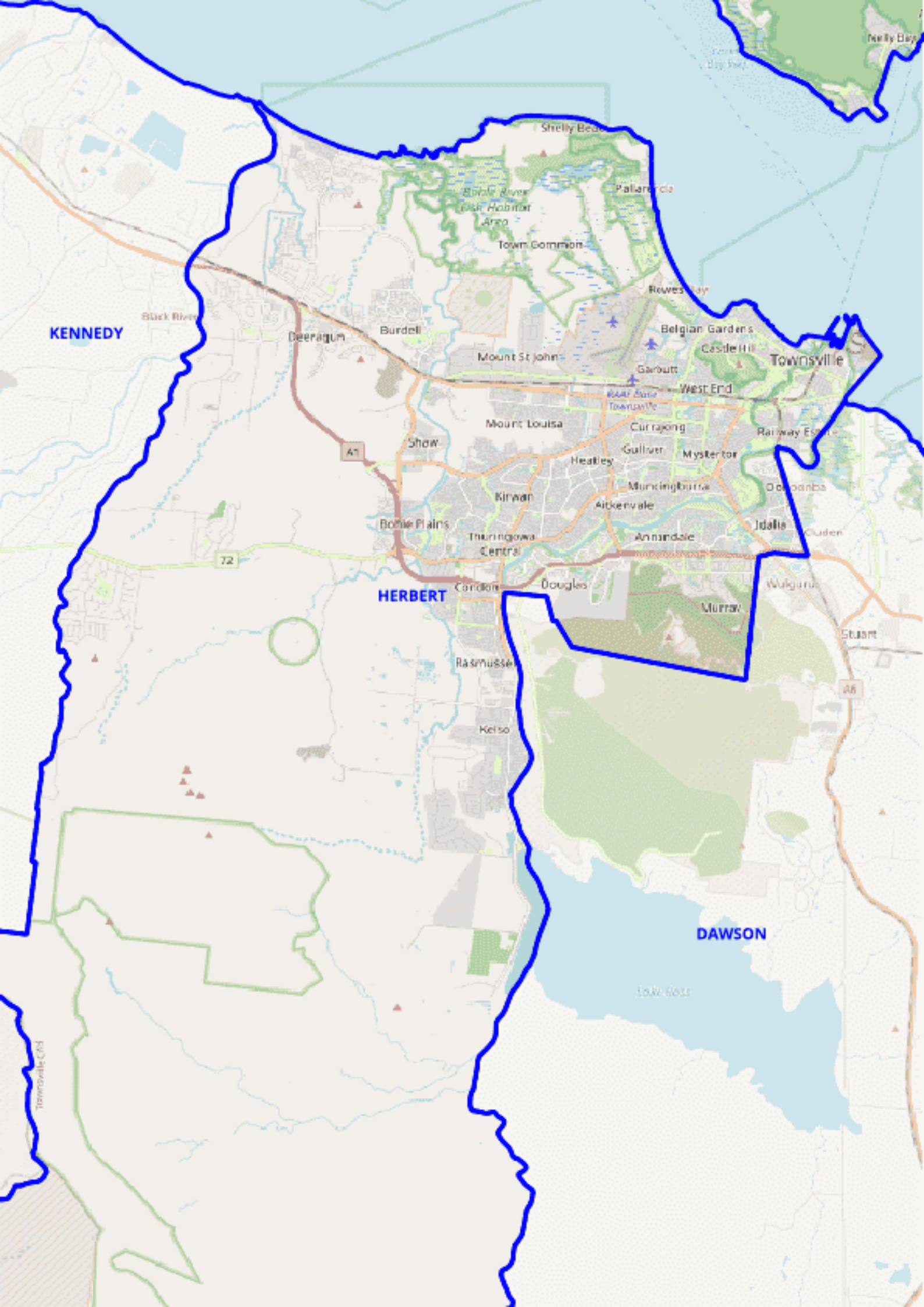


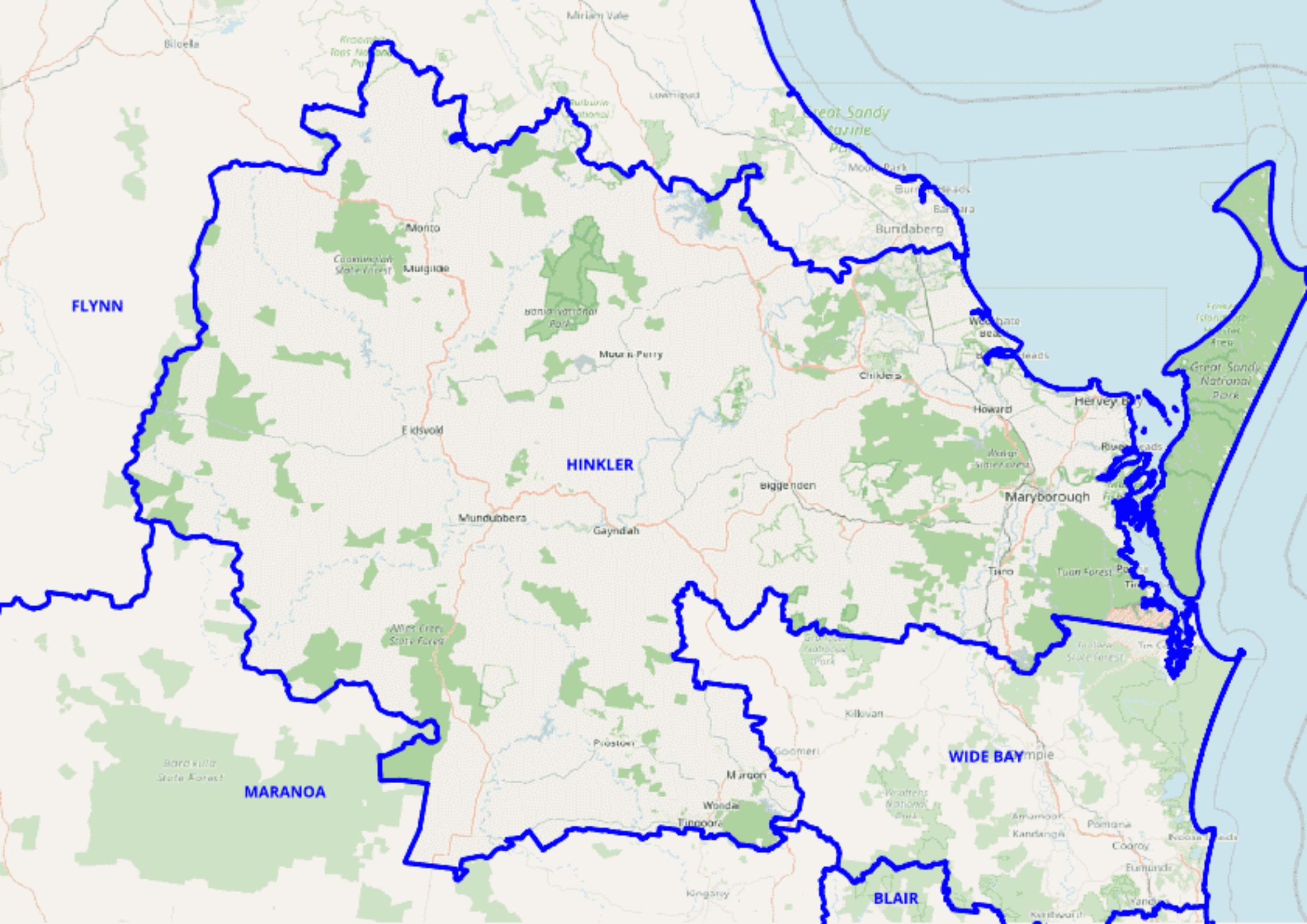


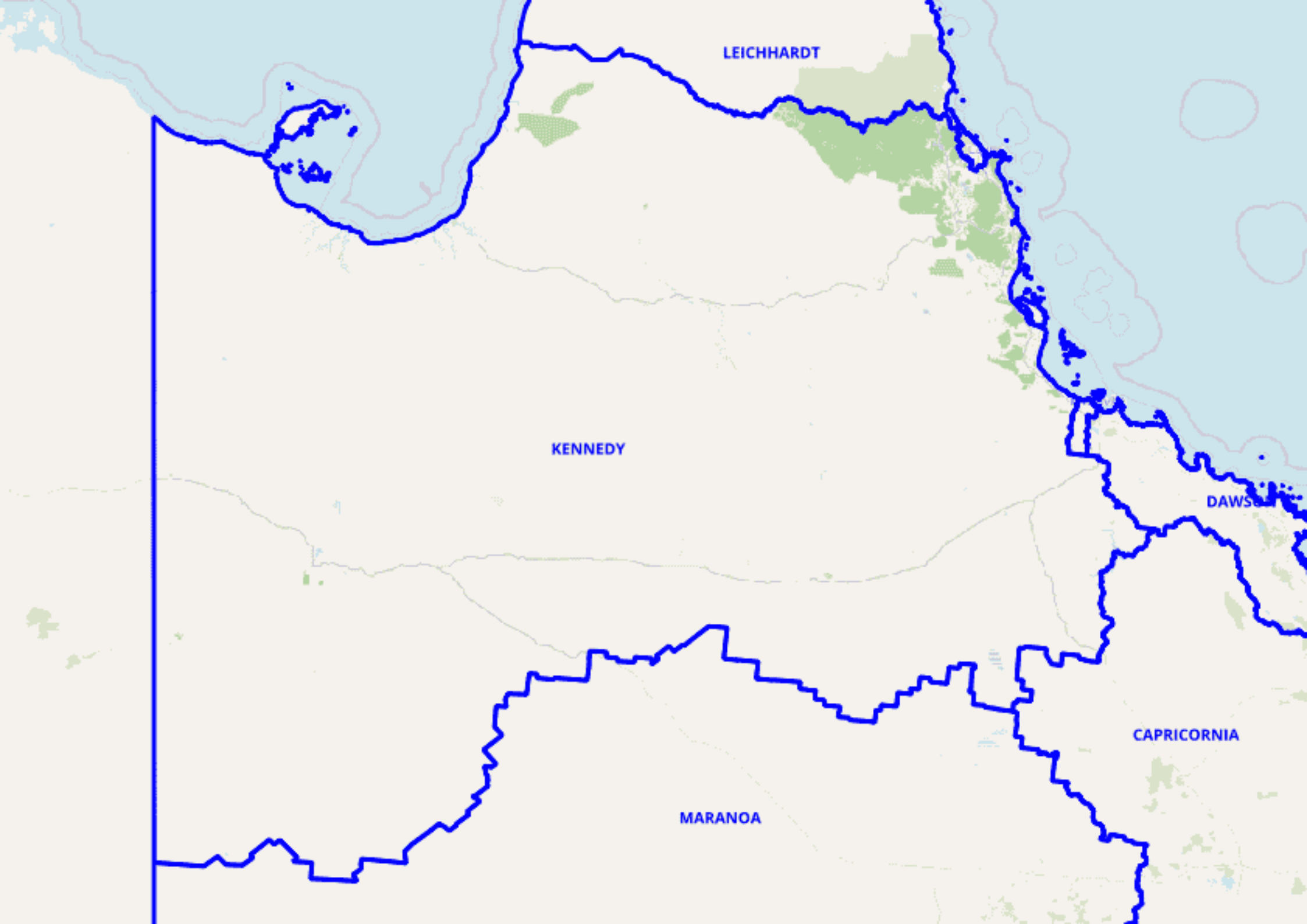












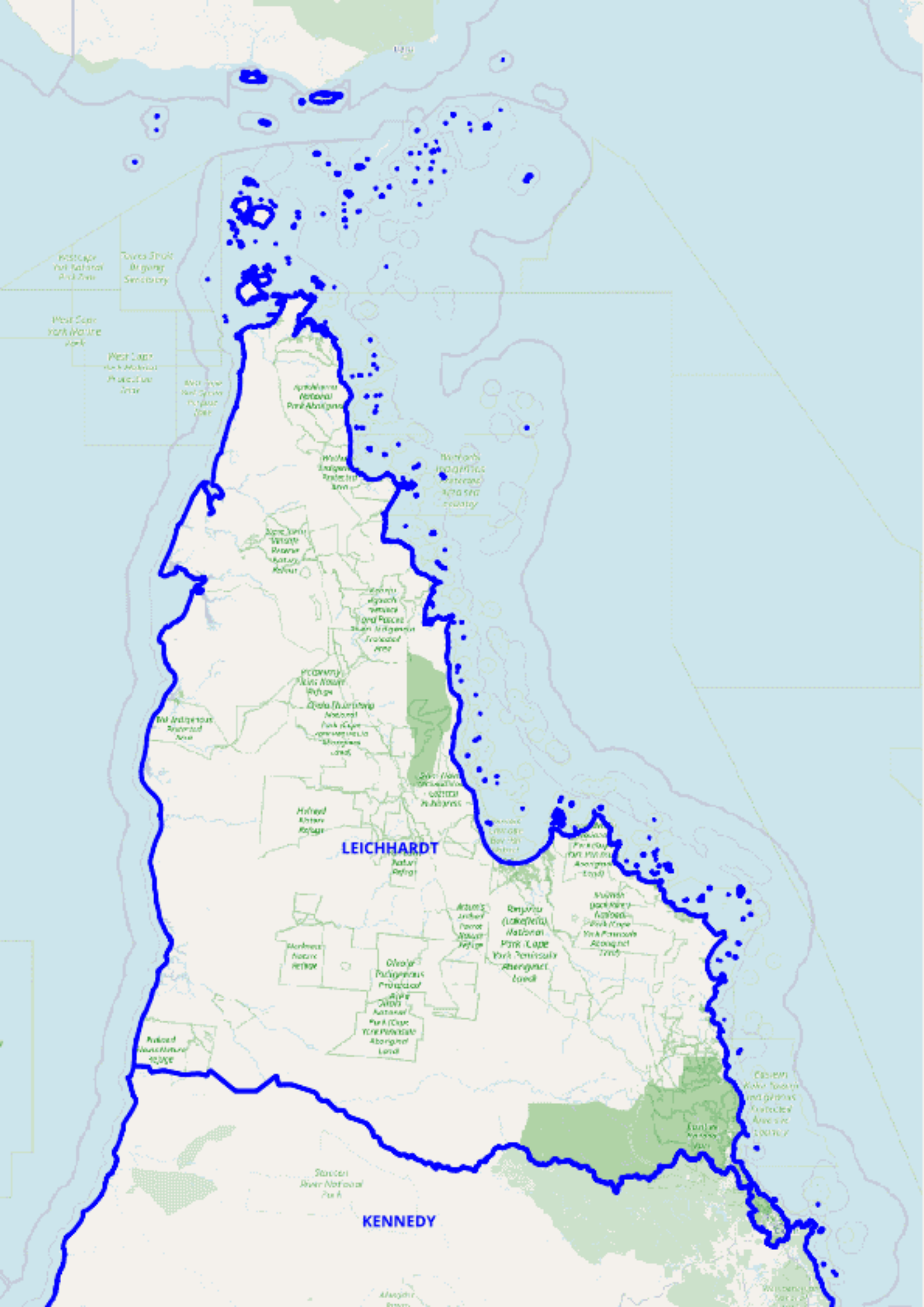
LEICHHARDT

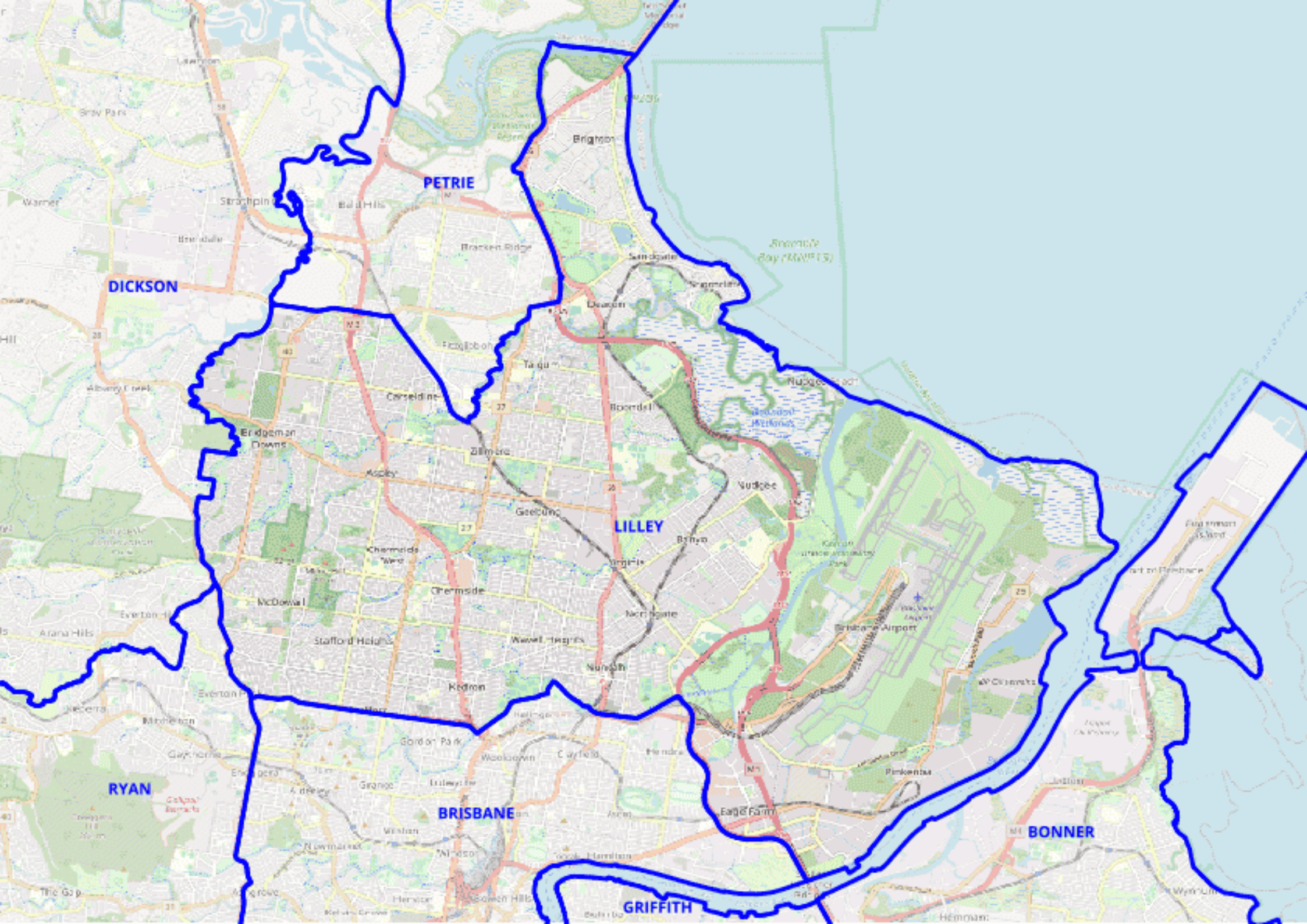
KENNEDY

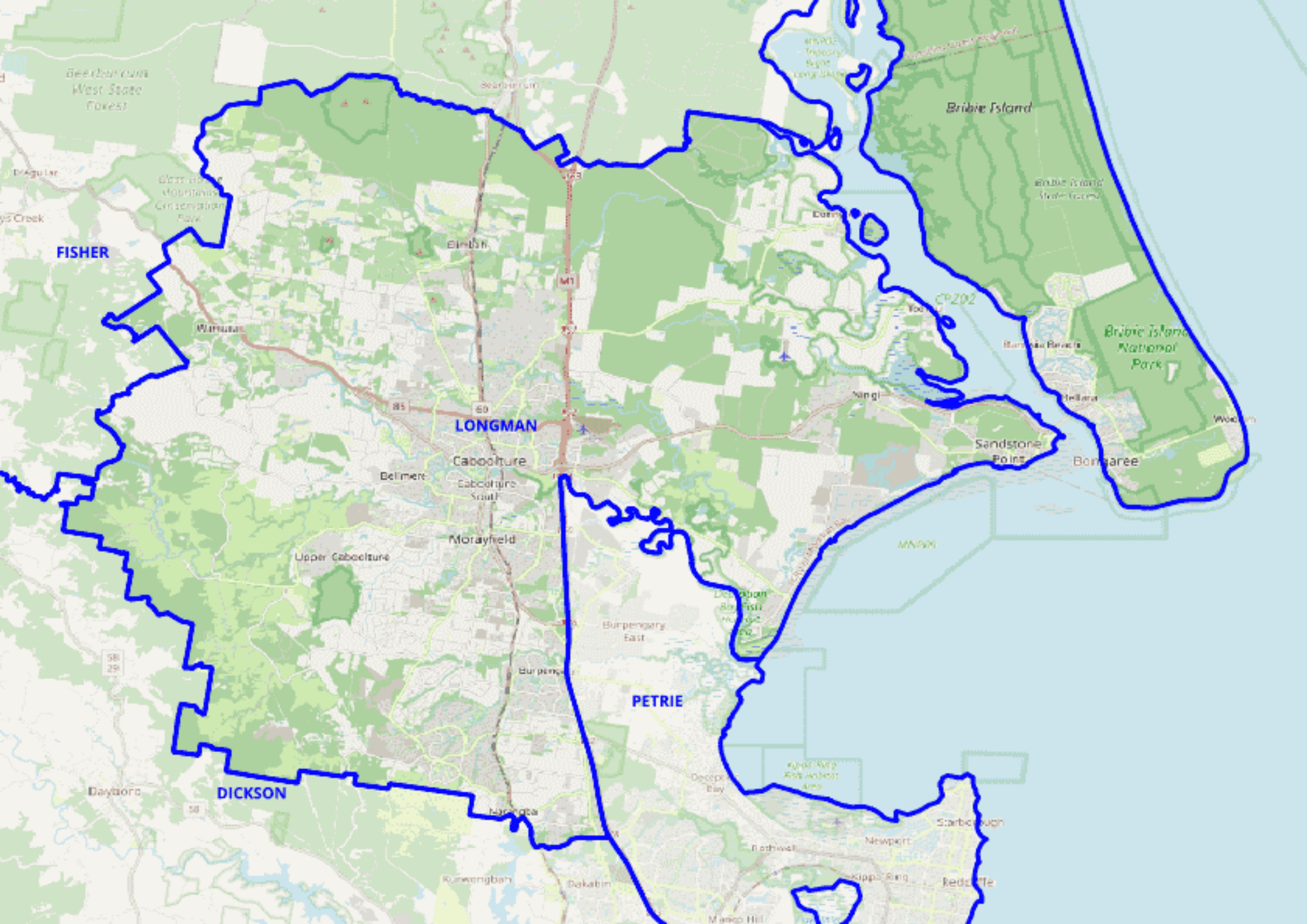
MARANOA

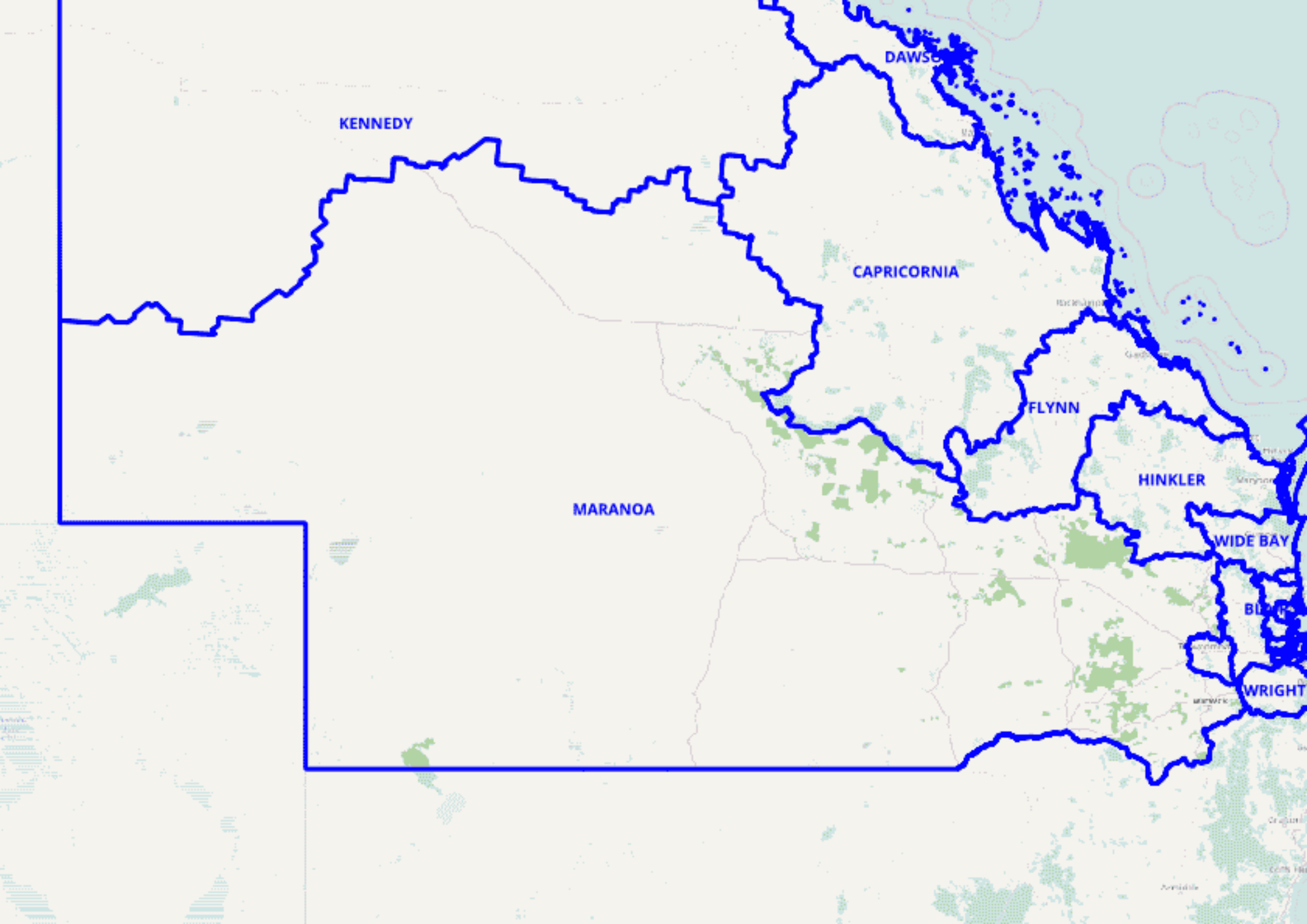
CAPRICORNIA

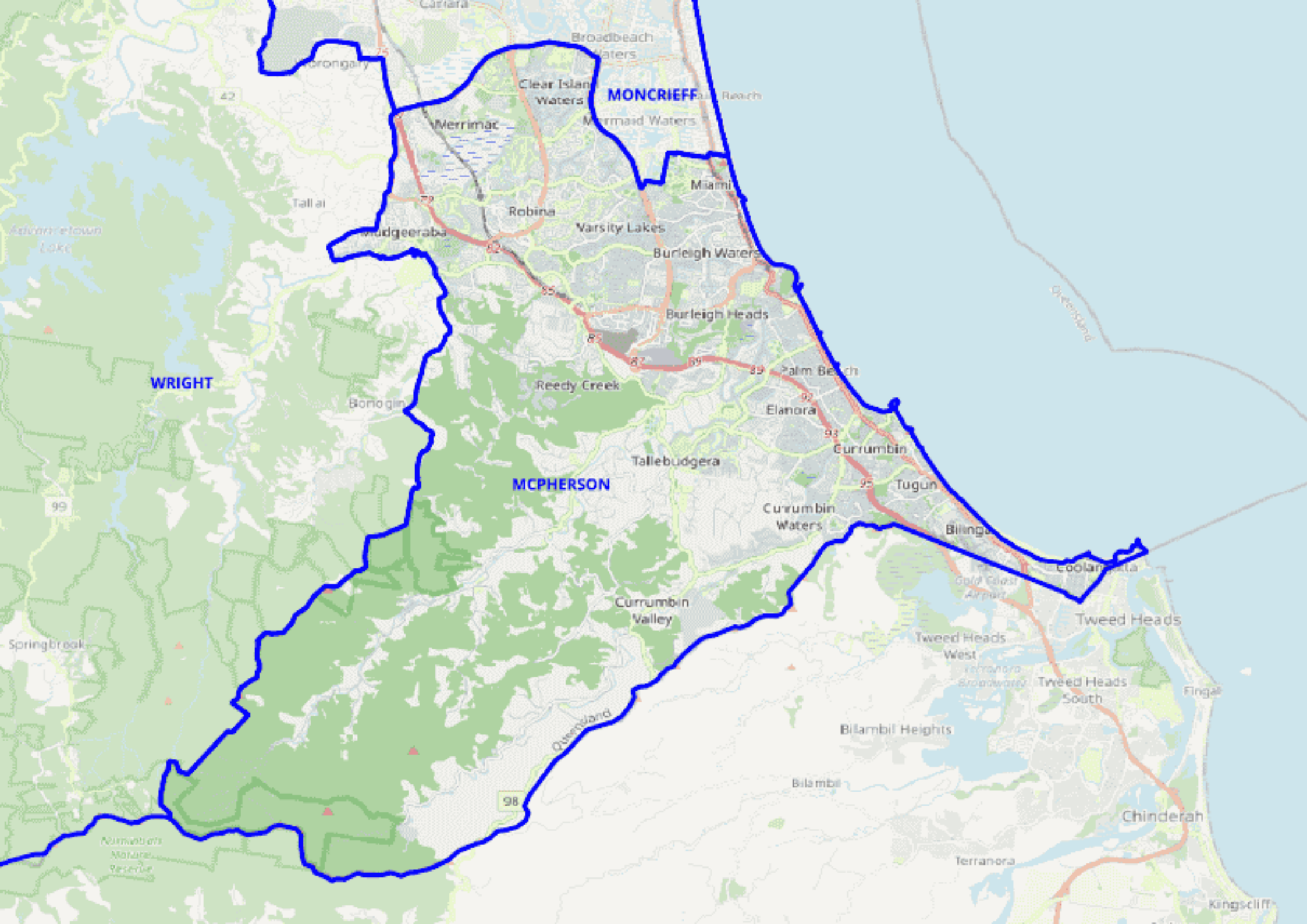
DAWSON

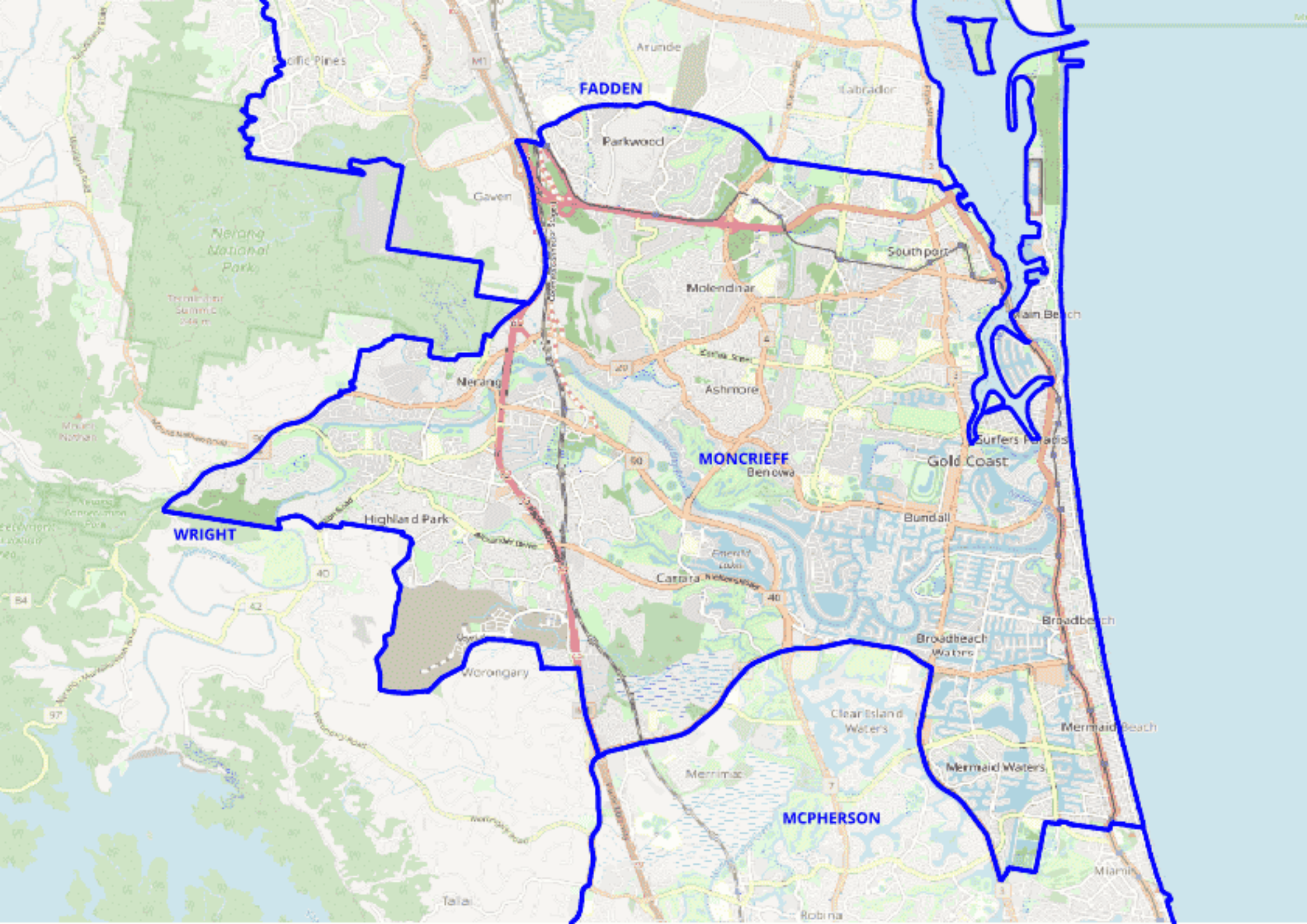


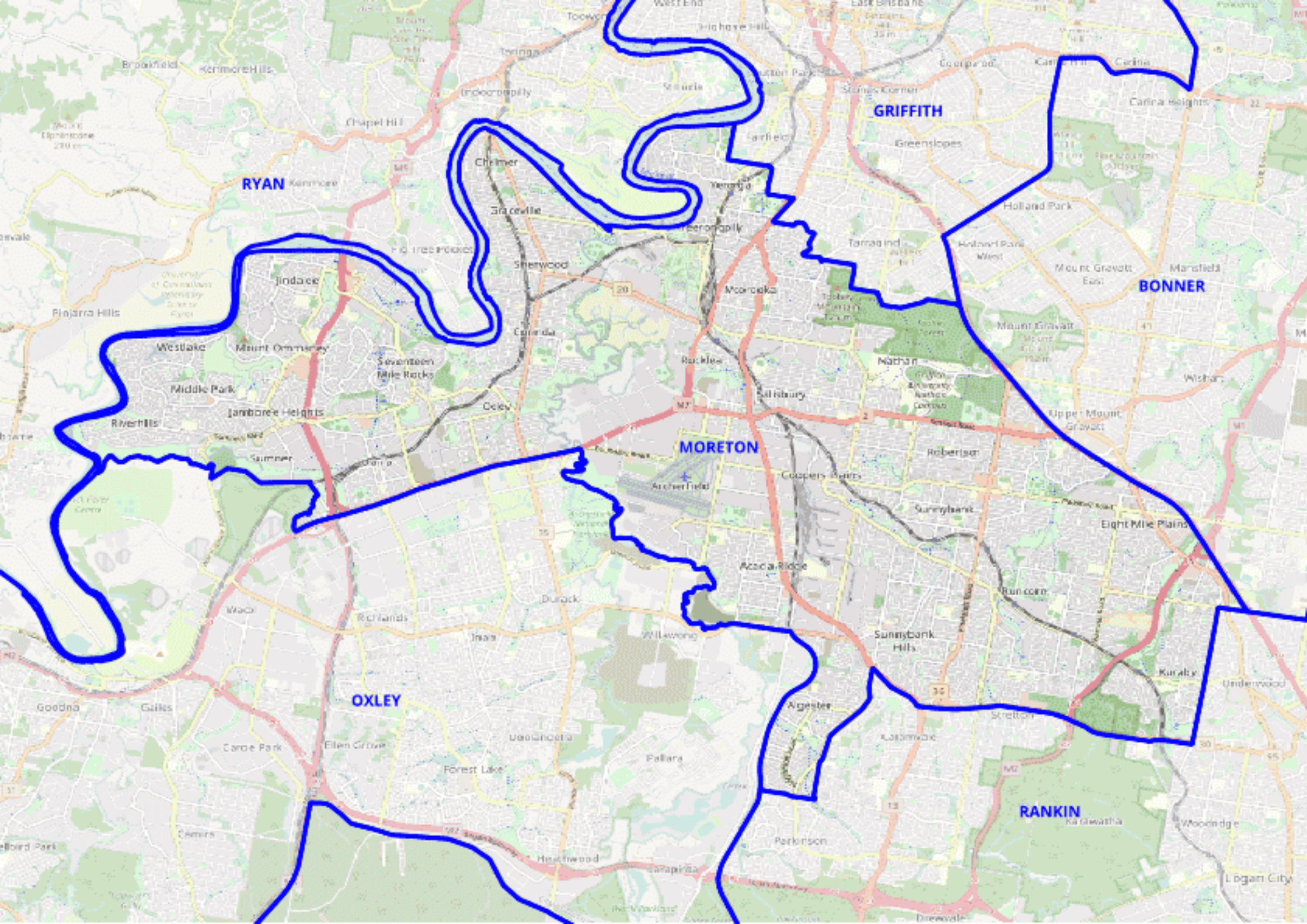


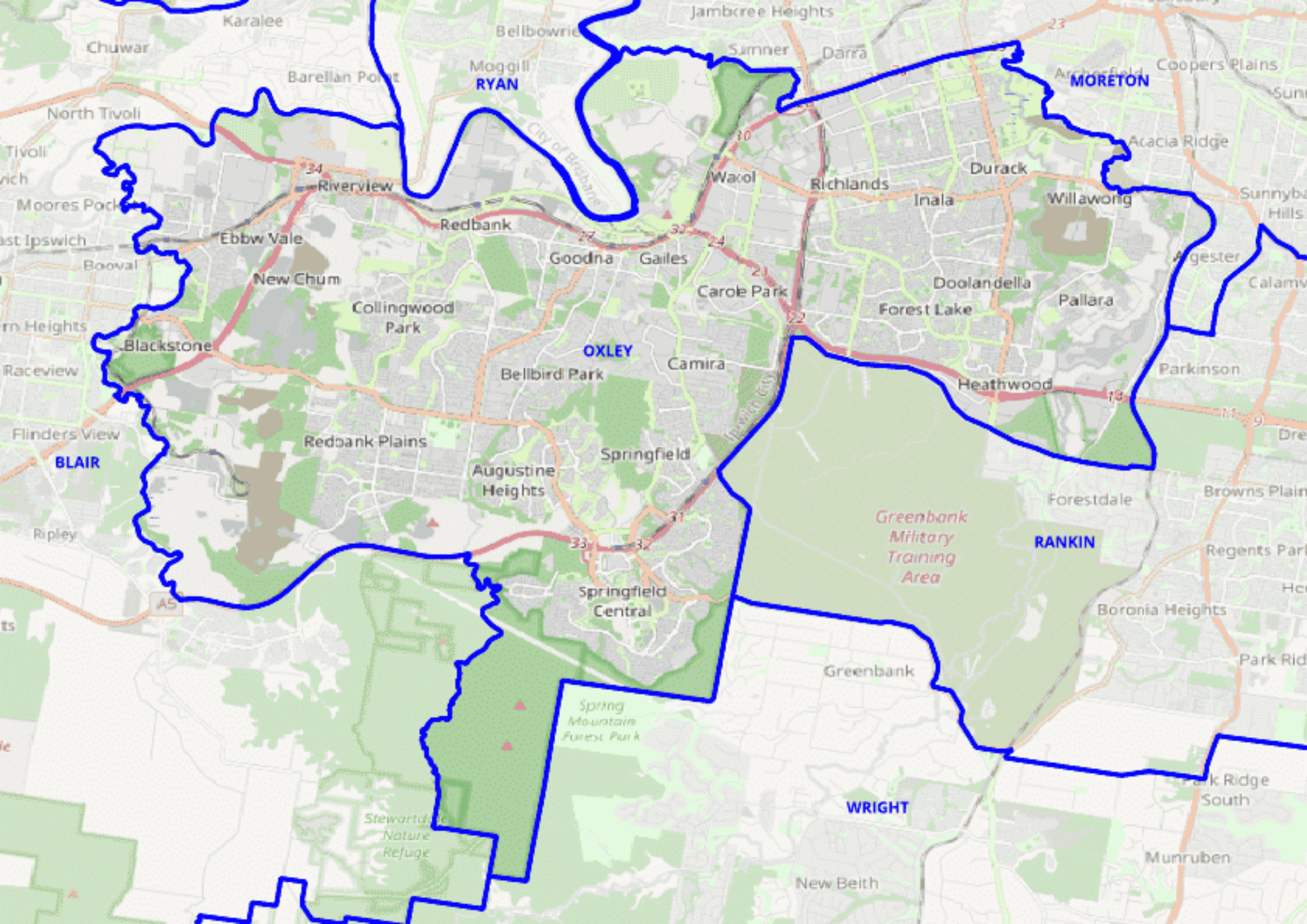


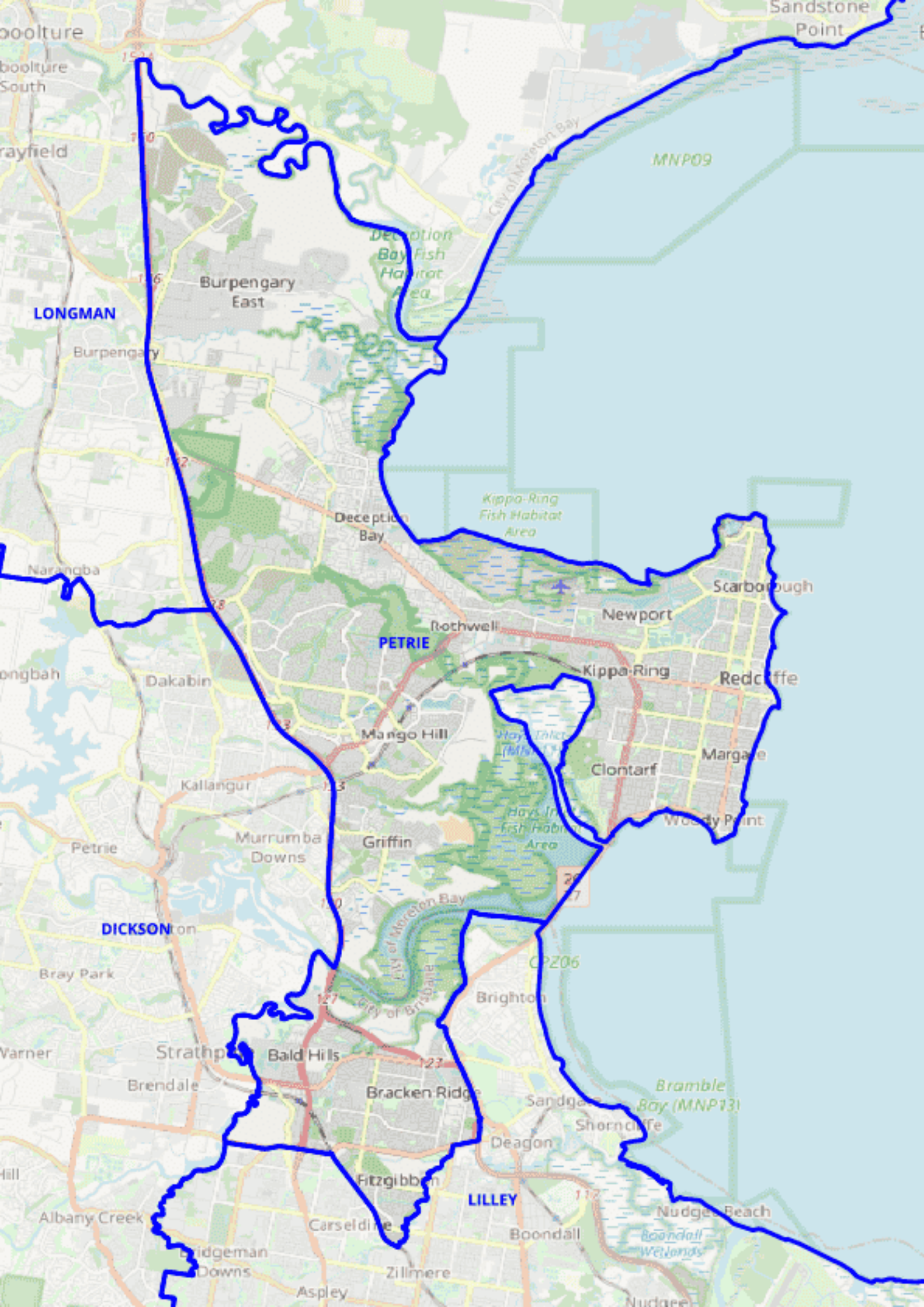


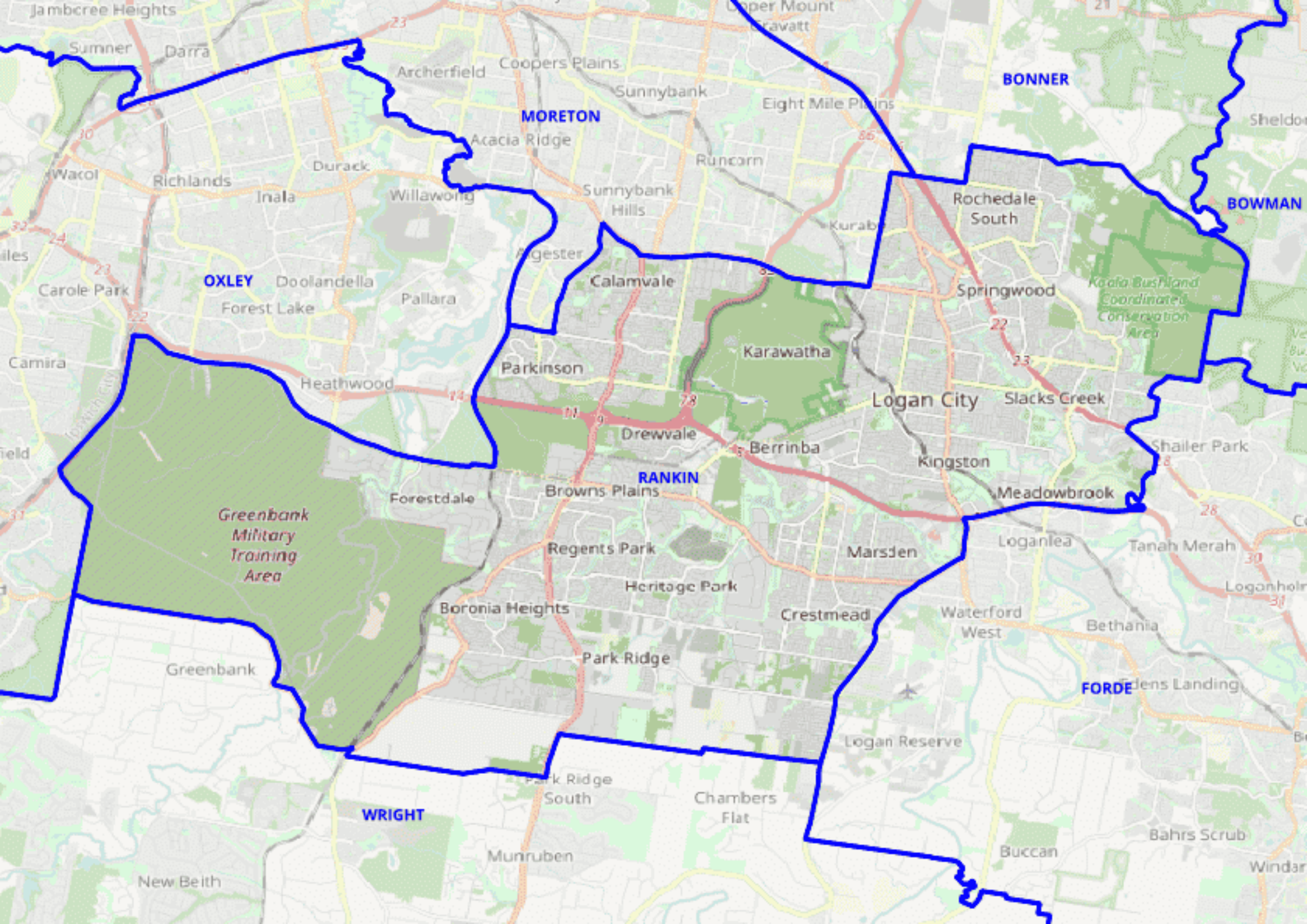


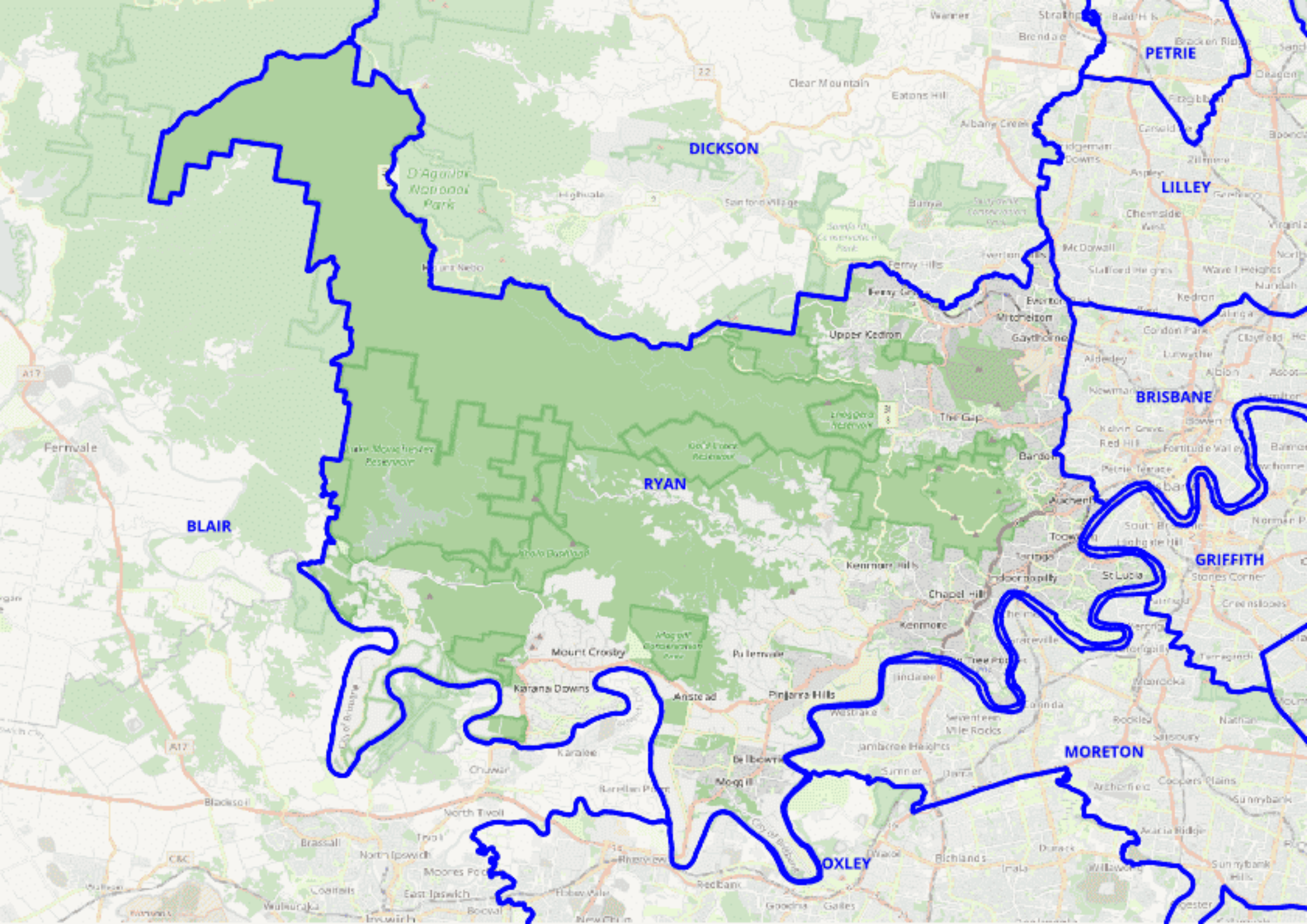












BLAIR

RYAN

DICKSON

OXLEY

MORETON

GRIFFITH

BRISBANE

LILLEY

PETRIE

