



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



**Comment Number 1
on Public Suggestions**

Martin Gordon

9 pages

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Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2009 10:45 PM
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Dear Commissioners,

Attached is a commentary on submissions to the Committee.

Martin Gordon

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Dear Commissioners,

I had proposed to make a submission to the Committee but time did not permit. Accordingly I have made comments on submissions. I have come independently to points of agreement on many of the individual and major party submissions.

My submission is largely narrative in its approach.

Background

The state is to gain an additional Division as a result of its relative high growth in population. The position of the greatest growth is on the Gold Coast, particularly in the Division of Fadden, as well as on the Sunshine Coast, the far north of the state around Cairns and to a slightly lesser extent around Townsville, and in the Burnett region. The remainder of the state is to experience lower growth.

Of the ten existing Divisions outside the south east of the state (Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane metropolitan areas) there is slightly more than a projected 10 quotas, but overall some adjustments between these Divisions would see them continue to exist within quota and without major changes with the states south east. The overall growth of these 10 Divisions is less than the south eastern corner.

The south east of the state with currently 19 Divisions has sufficient electors to form 20 Divisions. The obvious location for the new Division is to the south of Brisbane probably taking substantial numbers of electors from Fadden. The difficulty is that the other area of greatest elector growth is on the Sunshine Coast, whilst the Divisions within Brisbane may require additional electors in several cases. The practical effect is that Divisions such as Fairfax, Fisher, Longman, and possibly Dickson will move further north into the Sunshine Coast. This will assist maintain elector numbers in Petrie, Lilley, Brisbane and Ryan. Some of the changes to boundaries could however be quite large. It is quite likely that Divisions will need to span the Brisbane River to a greater degree; this will probably have greatest implications in Brisbane and Ryan.

Moncrieff, McPherson, Fadden, Forde, Blair, Rankin, Oxley, Moreton, Griffith, Bonner and Bowman may need additional electors from probably Brisbane or Ryan to enable the creation of a new Division.

I suggest that a new divisional name as Wright after the poet and author Judith Wright. In creating such a division the obvious source of electors is from Fadden where the greatest growth will occur. The difficulty is the extent of the growth is so substantial that it may be difficult to place in one division. It may be necessary to split the growth into two divisions.

Below is an extract of the four north westerly SLA groups within Fadden, with the 2009 enrolment, 2012 enrolment, and the growth in percentage and in absolute electors between 2009 and 2012.

Ormeau-Yatala	2851	5673	Fadden	99.0%	2822
Pimpama-Coomera	3755	6531	Fadden	73.9%	2776
Kingsholme-Upper Coomera	9260	18646	Fadden	101.4%	9386
Hope Island	4157	6369	Fadden	53.2%	2212

These four collections of SLAs account for elector growth of 17,196. The maximum growth that can occur in a Division between 2009 and 2012 is in fact 21,126 (The minimum with 10% tolerance is 79,509 (2009) and the maximum 3.5% tolerance is 100,635 (2012)).

This issue is discussed in more detail later in the text.

Division Names

New Division names that could be considered could include Gair (Premier and Senator), Bjelke-Petersen (longest serving Premier), Jones (long serving Brisbane Mayor), Wright (woman and author), Nicklin (long serving Premier, but there is currently a state electorate named after him). There is a shortage of Divisions named after women in Queensland (and other states) this may be an opportunity to remedy this. I propose that the new division be named after Judith Wright. Other suitable names would be Sir James Killen and Ted Theodore a long serving cabinet ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers respectively.

Outside the South East

The states north – Leichhardt, Kennedy, Herbert, Dawson

As noted above two of the fastest growing Divisions were Herbert and Leichhardt. Adjacent to them is one of the slowest growing Divisions Kennedy. The extent of growth in the former and the low growth in the latter cannot exactly be offset, by simple transfers. Dawson is also slightly below quota and could be remedied by a simple transfer from Herbert of Wulguru. This would mean that state and federal boundaries around the southern edge of Townsville could be aligned, which would be of assistance to electors.

Leichhardt is experiencing such strong elector growth that it will eventually contract to a much smaller area around Cairns, or the Division will need to be split between at some point and a significant portion placed in Kennedy (the only adjoining Division). I propose that rather than dividing the existing urban area that the southern Leichhardt boundary be maintained, and that virtually all of Cape York except Cooktown and Wujal Wujal be transferred to Kennedy. This will mean that indigenous towns along the Gulf of Carpentaria coast already in Kennedy will be brought together in the same Division with those communities in the remainder of the Cape.

Herbert it is increasingly becoming an entirely urban division, the suggested loss of Wulguru, could be accompanied by a transfer of the northern beaches back to Kennedy. This would leave Herbert with tolerance and augment Kennedy's numbers.

The result of these transfers place Dawson, Herbert, Leichhardt all within quota, whilst a transfer from Kennedy of the shires of Boulia, Cloncurry and Mount Isa to Maranoa will remedy an elector deficiency there. While this produces an elongated Maranoa, it is not dissimilar to Farrer in New South Wales. The essential problem is that without major adjustments to Flynn (which would create problems elsewhere) there are limited options to supplement Maranoa without loss of the faster growing parts of Maranoa or that won't cause difficulties in other Divisions.

Central Queensland

Both the Divisions of Flynn and Capricornia are projected to be within tolerance in 2012. Some supplementation of Flynn may be desirable as it is the slower growing of the Divisions, and there is very strong elector growth in Hinkler the adjoining Division to the south which needs to shed electors.

South and west

The slow electoral growth and under quota situation in Maranoa was proposed to be remedied in part by a transfer from Kennedy (Boulia, Cloncurry and Mount Isa) to Maranoa. This will place Maranoa outside tolerance and a small adjustment with Groom is proposed, a transfer of part or all of Crows Nest will maintain both Divisions with tolerance.

Hinkler and Wide Bay

Wide Bay is below quota and has growth below the state average and less than half that of Hinkler. Transfers to Wide Bay and Flynn of about 4,500 and 2,000 respectively (2012 figures) will place all three Divisions within tolerance.

A spreadsheet summary is provided (below) for the previous discussion:

	2009	2012
Herbert	92042	102521
Wulguru - 7 CCD's	-3334	-3408
<u>Northern Beaches</u>	<u>-3000</u>	<u>-4000</u>
Herbert Adjusted	85708	95113
	97.0%	97.8%
Dawson	88498	96160
Wulguru - 7 CCD's	3334	3408
Dawson Adjusted	91832	99568

	103.9%	102.4%
Leichardt	95837	107893
Carpentaria - 1 CCD	-3	-1
Kowanyama - 2 CCD's	-614	-669
Mapoon - 2 CCD's	-145	-145
Napranum - 2 CCD's	-508	-565
Weipa - 6 CCD's	-1547	-1799
Aurukun - 2 CCD's	-718	-774
Lockhart River - 2 CCD's	-373	-366
Northern Peninsula - 6 CCD's	-1140	-1191
Pompuraaw - 2 CCD's	-423	-449
Torres - 7 CCD's	-1646	-1664
Torres Strait - 15 CCD's	-2592	-2637
<u>Hope Vale</u>	<u>-500</u>	<u>-500</u>
Leichardt Adjusted	85628	97133
	96.9%	99.9%
Kennedy	92642	96599
Carpentaria - 1 CCD	3	1
Kowanyama - 2 CCD's	614	669
Mapoon - 2 CCD's	145	145
Napranum - 2 CCD's	508	565
Weipa - 6 CCD's	1547	1799
Aurukun - 2 CCD's	718	774
Lockhart River - 2 CCD's	373	366
Northern Peninsula - 6 CCD's	1140	1191
Pompuraaw - 2 CCD's	423	449
Torres - 7 CCD's	1646	1664
Torres Strait - 15 CCD's	2592	2637
Boulia - 5 CCD's	-284	-276
Cloncurry - 10 CCD's	-1628	-1598
Mount Isa - 55 CCD's	-10581	-10888
<u>Northern Beaches</u>	<u>3000</u>	<u>4000</u>
<u>Hope Vale</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
Kennedy Adjusted	93358	98597
	105.7%	101.4%
Flynn	88843	96606
<u>Hinkler</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2000</u>
Flynn Adjusted	90843	98606
	102.8%	101.4%
Capricornia	93691	100090
Capricornia Adjusted	93691	100090
	106.1%	102.9%

Maranoa	87784	90878		
Bouli - 5 CCD's	284	276		
Cloncurry - 10 CCD's	1628	1598		
Mount Isa - 55 CCD's	10581	10888		
<u>Crows Nest etc</u>	<u>-3100</u>	<u>-3100</u>		
Maranoa Adjusted	97177	100540		
	110.0%	103.4%		
Wide Bay	90143	95394		
<u>Hinkler</u>	<u>4000</u>	<u>4500</u>		
Wide Bay Adjusted	94143	99894		
	106.6%	102.7%		
Hinkler	91929	104200		
<u>Flynn</u>	<u>-2000</u>	<u>-2000</u>		
<u>Wide Bay</u>	<u>-4000</u>	<u>-4500</u>		
Hinkler Adjusted	85929	97700		
	97.3%	100.5%		
Groom	91572	97182		
<u>Crows Nest etc</u>	<u>3100</u>	<u>3100</u>		
Groom Adjusted	94672	100282		
	107.2%	103.1%		
	912981	987523		
Summary				
	New 2009	New 2012	Quota 2009	Quota 2012
Herbert	85708	95113	97.0%	97.8%
Dawson	91832	99568	103.9%	102.4%
Leichardt	85628	97133	96.9%	99.9%
Kennedy	93358	98597	105.7%	101.4%
Flynn	90843	98606	102.8%	101.4%
Capricornia	93691	100090	106.1%	102.9%
Maranoa	97177	100540	110.0%	103.4%
Wide Bay	94143	99894	106.6%	102.7%
Hinkler	85929	97700	97.3%	100.5%
Groom	94672	100282	107.2%	103.1%
Total Electors	912981	987523		
Quota for 10 Divisions	883433	972317		
	103.3%	101.6%		

The South East

The Divisions of Moncrieff, McPherson, Fadden, Blair, Oxley, Forde are projected to be well in excess of quota in 2012. In the recent Queensland state redistribution new electorates were created in the south east such as Coomera. Fadden is the one Division with the most rapid growth of electors and potentially difficult to remedy within the tolerances permitted. This has been mentioned previously.

Of the 19 existing divisions only one is below projected tolerance for 2012 i.e. Moreton. Nine are within tolerance Moncrieff, Bowman, Bonner, Griffith, Rankin, Petrie, Lilley, Brisbane, and Ryan. The remaining nine are all above tolerance to varying degrees.

McPherson

This division is above quota and experiencing high growth. I propose the transfer of the SLA's in Carrara-Merrimac, Mermaid Waters-Clear Island, and Miami to Moncrieff. This will bring McPhersons' numbers to 95,556 in 2012 or about 98.3% of quota.

Moncrieff

Transfers from McPherson are unavoidable due to the configuration of the two divisions. Given that Moncrieff is near quota and will need to shed electors I propose that about 8,000 (2012) electors be transferred to Fadden or Forde from Nerang.

Brisbane and Lilley

Brisbane is projected to be slightly above quota and Lilley slightly below. Apart from a small boundary with Brisbane the only division that Lilley adjoins is Petrie. A transfer of several thousand electors say from Stafford would remedy the deficiency in Lilley. For Brisbane I propose no change.

Griffith

Given that it is near quota and projected to grow at sufficient rate to remain on quota, I propose no change.

Bonner

This Division is slow growing and will be under quota but even without additional electors will remain within tolerance, a minor transfer from Bowman, would improve elector equality between the two divisions, or alternatively additional number from Moreton may be a solution.

Bowman

This division is faster growing than Bonner and whilst will remain within tolerance in 2012 could shed electors to either Bonner or the new division. I suggest Sheldon-Mount Cotton area be transferred as it adjacent to the fastest growing areas of Fadden that should be the core of the new division of Wright.

Such a transfer would be commensurate with the Bowmans overall growth projection.

Moreton and Ryan

This division is projected to be below tolerance in 2012 without additional electors. Similarly, but to a lesser extent Ryan needs to be supplemented with additional electors as does Moreton. Significant areas of Ryan exist on both sides of the Brisbane River and so additional areas would not be an issue. Transfers from Oxley of suburbs such as Corinda to Moreton, and Darra to Ryan respectively would remedy the deficiency in both divisions and be areas of similar socio-economic characteristics.

Forde, Rankin, Fadden, New Division (Wright), Oxley, Blair

Forde is projected to above quota, and is also adjacent to areas that need to shed electors e.g. Moncrieff, Oxley, Fadden. Voters shed from Moncrieff in the Nerang area to Forde give some more options for transfers from Forde to the new division also. Accordingly the loss of areas around Beenleigh to the new division as it adjoins the fastest growing areas in Fadden makes sense.

Rankin is a highly elongated east-west electorate, and the loss of its eastern end with areas such as Slacks Creek, Shailer Park, Carbrook-Cornubia, Springwood to the new division would reduce this elongation and by taking electors from Oxley particularly from Pallara, Larapinta and Ellengrove, Forest Lake.

Fadden can shed more than 31,000 electors from its 2012 projected enrolment and still be within tolerance. Approximately the same number of 2012 electors can be sourced from Jacobs Well-Alberton, Ormeau-Yatala, Pimpama-Coomera, and Kingsholme-Upper Coomera.

The new division (which I refer to as Wright) I had earlier pointed to an issue with the large growth of electors in such a small area, and their incorporation in one division and the difficulties of remaining with tolerance in both 2009 and 2012. Several of the areas with Rankin have negative growth, but the final boundaries are difficult to achieve within the numerical constraints of electors.

I had proposed changes to Oxley which means that it shed electors to Moreton, Ryan, Rankin, possibly Forde if the focus of Forde is moved to the west, so that areas such as Ellengrove, Forest Lake are incorporated in Forde instead of Rankin. The extent of these changes is to move Oxley to the west and its elector numbers may need to be significantly boosted by 35,000 electors from Blair to keep it within quota. This would come from the area of Bundamba, Dinmore and Ipswich. This means Oxley will become more elongated but its focus will be more Ipswich focused as it traditionally used to be.

Blair without adjustments would be about 8% over quota in 2012. I have proposed adjustments to a number of divisions which are consequential on adjustments to other divisions. I have not considered adjustments with Maranoa, or Groom, but given the need to transfer electors to maintain Oxley, I propose to obtain these electors from Dickson from the SLAs in Somerset-Esk and Moreton Bay (Rem) Balance, this makes Blair somewhat elongated on a north south axis, but retains a slightly rural character for Blair.

Dickson, Petrie, Longman, Fisher, Fairfax,

With Petrie I had earlier proposed a small transfer to Lilley to maintain its numbers from the suburb of Stafford. There may be other simpler approaches, but this causes minimum disruption to both divisions. Petrie is a very elongated electorate, and would be on quota but for the transfers to Lilley. A transfer of electors from either Longman or Dickson would remedy this deficiency.

Given that Dickson will also require additional elector numbers an alternative may be to split Petrie using Bramble Bay and the South Pine River broadly as a boundary. The southern portion being added to Dickson and the northerly portion with numbers from Longman and Fisher forming the reconfigured Petrie.

As pointed out earlier there is a transfer of electors from both Fairfax, Fisher and Longman as all three are over quota and experience strong elector growth. The surplus electors based on 2012 figures is some 20,000 electors. I had arrived at several options, one with Caboolture and Redcliffe in one division (Petrie), and another with Dickson extending to the north of the Sunshine Coast hinterland. Alternatively Longman could be displaced to the north and include some hinterland.

Conclusion

The end result of the redistribution process may be to produce some radically different boundaries to what I have proposed but it seems unlikely that the new division will not be on the southern Brisbane Gold Coast axis, simply due to the growth of elector numbers. I consider it fairly likely that Queensland will gain another division after the next federal election and if not certainly before the following federal election.

M. Gordon
30 April 2009