



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



**Comment Number 18
on Public Suggestions**

Russell Barkus

2 pages

From: RUSSELL BARKUS [russellbarkus@bigpond.com]
Sent: Thursday, 7 May 2009 4:23 PM
To: QLD Redistribution
Subject: LEICHART ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OBJECTION
Attachments: Leichhardt Redistribution 1.doc

Ms ANNE BRIGHT
STATE MANAGER
AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

ATTACHED IS MY OBJECTION TO THE LEICHHARDT ELECTORAL DIVISION

TO KENNEDY.

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Thursday 7th May

Dear Ms Bright

REGARDING THE REDISTRIBUTION OF THE LEICHHARDT ELECTORATE

I would like to register my opposition to the suggestion submitted by the Liberal and National Parties that the area to the north of Port Douglas, including Cape York and the Torres Strait be moved into the electorate of Kennedy.

I see the liberal / national parties as red necks who want to divide the black island and aboriginal voting bloc that encompasses the whole Torres Strait to Cairns region. They seem to only care about the mining and farming interests, with a low priority for indigenous rights and culture of this area. They have been trying to get a foot hold in this area for many years, so they can take over indigeonos land and resources for their big business orientated power base. The labor party are the only ones who have cared much about the original Australians, the rightful land holders.

If boundaries must change, then the homogenous population from Cairns to Cape York must remain as is, and not be incorporated into the central and western areas. The south of Cairns can be relocated into the central / western area, as it is a high growth area, and is growing in that direction, not to the north in wet tropics, heritage listed and indigenous areas.

The Cape and Torres areas have strong cultural and economic ties to the Cairns region. Many Aboriginal and Islander families from this region reside in Cairns and much of the trade in the region is undertaken through Cairns. Residents of these areas need a Federal member who is able to liaise with Cairns businesses and cultural communities.

The location of electoral offices for Kennedy (Innisfail and Mt. Isa) is such that they would preclude visits by the majority of people living in the Cape and Torres communities.

Currently if a community member is flying to Cairns it is fairly simple to set up a face-to-face meeting with a local member. It is impossible to access offices in Innisfail without some form of transport and as there is no public transport between Cairns and Innisfail this would, in effect, cut voters off from their elected representative. The people in remote areas need strong representation and a close relationship with their Federal member. This will be either impossible or incredibly inconvenient if the member were based in such an inaccessible location.

The ties with our families in the Cairns area, the consideration that our groceries and freight all come from Cairns and that all flights from the Cape and Torres area land in Cairns are all important reasons to maintain the connection of the Cape and Torres to the Leichhardt electorate.

I hope you will consider my suggestions favourably when making redistribution decisions.

Kind Regards

RUSSELL BARKUS

THURSDAY ISLAND.