



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



**Comment Number 25
on Public Suggestions**

**Cr Michael Bond
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council**

2 pages

From: Stuart Duncan [ceo@nparc.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2009 10:08 AM
To: QLD Redistribution
Cc: 'Bond, Michael J'
Subject: Movement of Cape & Torres Communities into the Kennedy Electorate
Attachments: 00099 SID_Letter to Ms. Bright_Re-Distribution of Leichhardt Electorate 08.05.09.doc

Dear Ms Bright, please see the attached letter from Cr. Bond

Regards

Stuart Duncan
Chief Executive Officer
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
P. O. Box 200 Adidi Street, Bamaga, QLD 4876
Phone (07) 40693211 Fax (07) 40693264
CEO@NPARC.qld.gov.au



Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council

P.O. Box 200 Bamaga, Qld, 4876
Telephone: (07) 40693211
Fax: (07) 4069 3264
ABN: 27 853 926 592

8th May 2009
Anne Bright
State Manager
Australian Electoral Commission State office
Queensland

Dear Ms Bright

By email

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.

The Cape and Torres areas have strong cultural and economic ties to the Cairns region. Many Aboriginal and Islander families from the NPA reside in Cairns and much of the trade in the region is undertaken through Cairns. Our residents and Council need a Federal member who is able to liaise with Cairns businesses, Cape Communities and the NPA.

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. While I understand Leichhardt is over quota for the number of people enrolled to vote in the electorate, moving the Cape and Torres voters to Kennedy moves what is mostly a static population away from Leichhardt whilst allowing Leichhardt to continue to increase the number of voters as the population increases in the Cairns Southern Corridor and Northern Beaches, thus requiring a further reshuffle in the future.

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

Stuart Duncan
Chief Executive Officer *for*

Councillor Michael Bond
Division 3 New Mapoon Aboriginal Community