



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



**Comment Number 33
on Public Suggestions**

Torres Strait Regional Authority

3 pages

From: SABATINO Kristina [Kristina.Sabatino@tsra.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2009 2:30 PM
To: QLD Redistribution
Subject: Redistribution of the Leichhardt Electorate [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Redistribution of the Leichhardt Electorate.pdf

Afternoon,

Please find attached Correspondence from the TSRA Chairperson Mr John. T . Kris.

I've posted the hard copy to the below address:

Anne Bright
State Manager/Australian Electoral Officer for Queensland
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 2590 Brisbane QLD 4001

Kind Regards,

Kristina Sabatino
Torres Strait Regional Authority

UNCLASSIFIED//

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If responding to this email, please send to the appropriate person using the firstname.lastname@tsra.gov.au.

<<Redistribution of the Leichhardt Electorate.pdf>>



Australian Government

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY



Ms Anne Bright
State Manager
Australian Electoral Commission
BRISBANE Q 4000

Fax: (07) 3832 3058

Email: qld.redistribution@aec.gov.au

Dear Ms Bright

REDISTRIBUTION OF THE LEICHHARDT ELECTORATE

On behalf of the Torres Strait Regional Authority, please register our 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 Torres Strait area has strong cultural and economic ties to the Cairns region. Many Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal families from the Torres Strait also 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 Torres Strait and Cairns businesses as well as with communities in the Torres Strait region.

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 Torres Strait communities.

Currently if a community member from the outer islands in the Torres Strait flies into Thursday Island or to Cairns, it is a relatively easy process to set up a face-to-face meeting with the local member in his office on Thursday Island or in Cairns. 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 such as in the Torres Strait need strong representation and a close relationship with their Federal member. This will be either impossible or inconvenient if the member were based in such an inaccessible location.

While it is understood that Leichhardt is over quota for the number of people enrolled to vote in the electorate, moving the Torres Strait 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 consideration that majority of freight into the Torres Strait region comes through Cairns and that all flights from the Torres Strait region land in Cairns, it is imperative that connections with the Leichhardt electorate is maintained.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Kris". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Mr John T. Kris
Chairperson
Torres Strait Regional Authority

8 May 2009