



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



**Comment Number 36
on Public Suggestions**

Hon Bruce Scott MP Member for Maranoa

6 pages

From: Bonanno, Debbie (B. Scott, MP) [debbie.bonanno@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2009 3:04 PM
To: QLD Redistribution
Subject: SCOTT MP comments on suggestions - Queensland Federal Redistribution 2009
Attachments: SCOTT MP comments on suggestions 7 may 2009.pdf

Importance: High

<<SCOTT MP comments on suggestions 7 may 2009.pdf>>

Please find attached my comments on Suggestions for the 2009 Queensland Federal Redistribution.

Regards,

Bruce Scott

The Hon Bruce Scott MP
Federal Member for Maranoa
P O Box 641
DALBY Q 4405
(07) 4662 2715 Ph (1300) 301 964
(07) 4662 5149 fax

Roma Office:

(07) 4622 7166 Ph (1300) 787 299

(07) 4622 7066 Fax
www.maranoa.info



THE HON BRUCE SCOTT MP
SECOND DEPUTY SPEAKER
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MARANOVA

BS:db

The Redistribution Committee for Queensland
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE Q 4001

Dear Members,

I am writing to provide comment on the Public Suggestions in relation to the forthcoming Federal Redistribution for Queensland, in respect to the seat of Maranoa.

I acknowledge the Electoral Commissioner's Press Release that the Committee will consider communities of interest and means of communication and travel within the proposed divisions, as well as the physical features and area of the proposed divisions, and boundaries of existing divisions, as per Section 66 (3) (b) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, 1918.

I note at the 2006 Redistribution a large area of central western Queensland, namely the Shires of Longreach, Winton, Barcaldine, Aramac, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Blackall and Tambo Shires, was removed from Maranoa to form part of the new seat of Flynn. **This met with significant objection from communities in that area at the time, with public hearings being held in Longreach.**

Redistribution Committees of the past have in the south-east corner ensured that Gold Coast seats remains largely within the community of interest of the Gold Coast and likewise the Sunshine Coast and the bay-side suburbs of Brisbane and greater Brisbane itself.

Therefore I submit similar consideration be given in accepting the overwhelming evidence of western Queensland local government representatives, by returning their areas to their communities of interest. Given that Queensland will be gaining an additional seat I believe this should be achievable.

In the submission of the **Western Queensland Local Government Association** (Suggestion 18), representing local government areas across western Queensland they state:-

"The WQLGA considers the retention of "Communities of Interest" among communities within an electorate the key consideration in any redistribution irrespective of the area or communities affected. Communities and regions with similar interests will share common needs and desires."
"By aligning like communities the effectiveness of an elected member can be enhanced as they are able to represent constituents successfully by pursuing common goals in conjunction with the electorate."

I support the comments from the Councils of central and south west Queensland and believe these should not be ignored. **These are democratically elected members representing and reflecting the overwhelming views of their respective localities.** Some of the comments are as follows:-

Winton Shire (Suggestion 6) (currently in Flynn)–

‘The Winton district is located in the rural western region of Queensland. Our community of interest lies generally north to south with like minded communities such as Jundah, Quilpie and Charleville.

Our remote areas face similar problems and challenges, have comparable lifestyles and enjoy a collective awareness of our place in Queensland and Australia.’

Longreach Regional Council (Suggestion 11) (currently in Flynn) –

- (encompassing former shires of Longreach, Ilfracombe and Isisford)
- “Council supports the views of the Western Queensland Local Government Association in urging that any redistribution or realignment of boundaries consider communities of interest and means of communication and travel within the proposed divisions.”

Barcaldine Regional Council (Suggestion 23) (currently in Flynn) –

(encompassing former Shires of Aramac, Jericho and Barcaldine)

“Barcaldine Regional Council resolved to lodge a submission... requesting that Barcaldine Regional Council be included in the Maranoa Electorate after the next redistribution in Queensland.”

“There are very few transport, business and social links between Gladstone and these communities” (Barcaldine, Aramac, Muttaburra, Jericho and Alpha).

“The Maranoa Electorate provides a more natural fit for the Barcaldine Regional Council communities –

- The Landsborough Highway provides a direct connection to Dalby and Roma to the south and is the major route to Brisbane;
- The major industries are sheep and cattle grazing and heritage tourism which are shared common rural industries with Maranoa;
- There is no direct transport connection between Gladstone and Barcaldine;
- The major industries of Flynn are large scale coal mining, coastal tourism and Industrial plants”

I fully support the comments made by the communities of central western Queensland (bounded by Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Winton Shire, Longreach Regional Council and Barcaldine Regional Council) in reiterating their lack of community of interest with the mining communities of the Central Highlands and Gladstone, as well as the Burnett region.

These rural areas were dislocated from their communities of interest in Maranoa at the 2006 Redistribution, a fact which has been firmly established.

As you would also be aware there have been recent forced local government amalgamations, which have also impacted on the communities of interest of many of these shire areas.

I support the comments from the submission of **Mary Killeen of Isisford**(Suggestion 2) (located in Longreach Regional Council):-

(since 2006) ‘...some communities have been further decimated and disadvantaged by the Queensland Labor Government’s forced shire amalgamations.’

‘Our links for health services, social activities, tourism, education and business (just to name a few) have nothing to do with Gladstone. There is not even a direct road, air or rail link to Gladstone, with which we have little or no common areas of interest.’

‘Many people requested that we not be moved into Flynn in 2006. Our requests were ignored. Three years on, it is obvious that our concerns have been vindicated’.

I support the comments from the submission of **Bruce Collins of Winton** (Suggestion 1):

‘If the economic base for that geographically large electorate is diverse covering a wide range of unrelated industries, it becomes even more difficult for that member to adequately represent the electorate. Agriculture often has priorities that are not those of mining and manufacturing and they may be mutually exclusive’.

‘The concept of community of interest is extremely important if residents of rural and remote communities are to feel that they are not being excluded from the processes of democracy.’

Sonja Doyle of Blackall’s comments (Suggestion 9) further highlights the lack of community of interest of central western Queensland with the central Queensland area of Flynn, based on Gladstone.

The geographic size of an electorate should not be placed ahead of its communities of interest. Consideration of social, economic, communication and transport linkages should be prioritised above any concerns over the geographical size.

Supporting the community of interest connections through western Queensland are:-

- Roads – Warrego Landsborough Highway connection;
- Air services from Brisbane, Roma, Charleville and west to Birdsville and Barcardine;
- Transport - daily bus services;
- School Associations and sporting bodies – interschool competition etc;
- Communication - ABC and commercial radio & satellite TV coverage;
- Health services – Royal Flying Doctor Service from Charleville providing health clinics across the area and health facilities in major centres;
- Outback Tourism – co-ordinated approach between council areas;
- Water – catchment management areas;
- Industries – pastoral, beef, sheep etc.

I support the Diamantina Shire’s comments pertain to their desire to remain in Maranoa, which they have been since Federation, with their community of interest.

Diamantina Shire (Suggestion 12) (currently part of Maranoa)–

“Diamantina Shire’s business activities, communications, road transport, air transport and economic transactions are predominately pursued to the east.”

“Cattle for sale are transported via the Diamantina Development Road to the Roma Depot and Brisbane markets.”

“Medical supplies and Royal Flying Doctor Services are coordinated from Charleville.”

“Although the shire has a small number of constituents (approximately 180) it does not wish to be used as a balancing area to satisfy quota requirements of another electorate.”

Whilst the Maranoa Electorate at the date of the announcement of the redistribution meets current enrolment requirements, projections for 2012 show it will not meet the projected enrolment requirement at that time.

I believe, as part of the redistribution process, that the seat of Flynn should be considered a pivotal point for the readjustment from the north and the south.

Some adjustment to the seats of Leichhardt and Herbert, which are over quota, would allow a net flow-on effect of approximately 7000 to 8000 enrolments south into Flynn. As this will place Flynn over quota this would allow for the central western areas of Flynn to be transferred to Maranoa, as follows:-

Maranoa

Projected numbers as at 2012		90,878
Transfer from Flynn		
Winton Shire	886	
Barcaldine Regional Council		
	- Aramac	503
	- Barcaldine	1070
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council		
	- Tambo	426
	- Blackall	1110
Longreach Regional Council		
	- Ilfracombe	193
	- Isisford	178
	- Longreach	2235
		6,601
		97479

NB – Former Jericho Shire (633) (now Barcaldine Regional Council due to forced Qld Govt amalgamation) does have communities of interest to the east, due to proximity to the Central Highlands.

Flynn

Projected numbers as at 2012		94,606
Plus flow-on from North	+	8,000 (approx)
Less		
Central Western Qld transfer to Maranoa	-	6,601
		96,005

Returning the central western Queensland areas currently in Flynn to Maranoa would address the requirements under the Act, with both being within required projected enrolment quota, whilst addressing the important issue of community of interest for both seats.

I would support the **ALP** (Suggestion 25) suggestion to return the Blackall Tambo Regional Council area to Maranoa, which is also supported by many of the submissions.

In respect to the suggested transfer of Wondai and Murilla-Wandoan, (Wandoan was formerly part of the Taroom Shire and has strong links to Taroom), both form part of the State seat of Callide – the latter for many years. Both these areas should remain in the seat of Flynn, based on their communities of interest into the Bowen Basin and Burnett areas, thus creating minimal disruption to their communities of interest.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide comment, and would appreciate the Committee's favourable consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a period at the end.

BRUCE SCOTT MP

7 May, 2009