



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



**Comment Number 43
on Public Suggestions**

Paul Neville MP Member for Hinkler

11 pages

From: Barwick, Kate (P. Neville, MP) [Kate.Barwick@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2009 4:58 PM
To: QLD Redistribution
Subject: FW: comments from Paul Neville into written submissions
Attachments: P Neville - comments on AEC submissions.pdf

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Paul Neville. Delivers.

From: Barwick, Kate (P. Neville, MP)
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2009 4:48 PM
To: 'qld.redistribution@aec.gov.au'
Subject: comments from Paul Neville into written submissions

Please find attached Mr Paul Neville MP's comments on written suggestions relating to the 2009 Queensland Federal Redistribution.

<<P Neville - comments on AEC submissions.pdf>>

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Comments on Public Submissions
to the
Queensland Federal Electoral Redistribution
2009

by
Paul Neville MP
Federal Member for Hinkler

9 pages in total

May 8, 2009

Redistribution Committee for Queensland
GPO Box 2590
Brisbane Q 4001

Dear Committee Members

Further to the Public Suggestions to the Redistribution Committee for the 2009 Federal Redistribution in Queensland, I would like to make a number of comments in respect of some submissions you have received. I make these against the background of my suggestions to the Committee of April 24.

HINKLER/WIDE BAY/FLYNN

Two suggestions, one by Mark Mulcair and the other by the ALP, speculate that voters could be transferred from the south-west of Hinkler into Wide Bay.

Mr Mulcair's suggestion, which involves the Burrum Town and Torbanlea villages in the Howard/Torbanlea/Burrum Heads/Toogoom area of western Hervey Bay, would be impractical as it would divide the wider community of western Hervey Bay. These areas share common sporting, cultural, ex-service and health services. It would also create a geographic oddity, almost cutting Hinkler in two and disrupting the road systems with two Bundaberg-Hervey Bay road corridors going through the Wide Bay division.

The ALP proposal would not only remove the Woocoo and Biggenden SLAs but divide the Isis SLA – effectively the greater Childers community.

There are very strong existing social, historical industrial and commercial links between Childers and communities to its north and east. Under the ALP's proposal the town of Woodgate would remain in Hinkler, while Childers (and its immediate hinterland to the west and south) would be included in Wide Bay.

Furthermore, the boundary proposed by the ALP follows the Isis and Bruce Highways, actually dividing a series of communities.

The former Isis Shire has a very strong and unique identity. Its residents were amongst the most vocal opponents of last year's forced local government amalgamations. The proposed excision of 8 Childers-area CCDs from the Hinkler division, and their inclusion in the Wide Bay division, would only divide this community further and create unnecessary angst.

There are significant arguments to be made in favour of keeping these communities within the Hinkler division:

1. Both centres and their immediate hinterland areas fall within Bundaberg Regional Council boundaries

2. There are strong business links between Childers and Woodgate.
3. Both communities have always had very strong social links – with local families traditionally holidaying at Woodgate, and older residents often retiring there.
4. Students drawn from Woodgate and Goodwood who attend Goodwood State School (mid-way between the two towns) attend high school in Childers.
5. For Woodgate residents to reach the Bruce Highway they must first travel to Childers, and in addition:
6. The district's local newspaper (compiled in Childers) covers both communities

Additionally:

- a) It deprives Bundaberg of a large portion of its immediate and traditional hinterland
- b) The adjustment proposed by the ALP would divide the sugar industry, all of which centres on the Isis Central Mill, as well as the local smallcrop and horticultural sector.
- c) Existing road corridors place Childers closer to Bundaberg (Hinkler) than Maryborough (Wide Bay)

There is also clear concern from local residents at the suggestion of splitting of the former Isis Shire – as evidenced by the front page story of the April 30 edition of the local newspaper. I have attached a copy of that article with this submission.

I believe that this option is far more disruptive than the alternative of combining the suburb of North Bundaberg (ie Bundaberg-Bundaberg, north of the Burnett River) with the existing Bundaberg-Burnett Part B, also north of the river and currently part of Flynn. This requires the movement of CCDs 30716-01, 30716-02, 30716-03, 30716-04, 30716-05, 30716-12, 30716-13 and 30716-14 from Hinkler to Flynn. This point is illustrated on Map A.

In other words, the Burnett River – a natural boundary – would constitute the border between Flynn and Hinkler from the mouth of the river to Mingo in the western Kolan area.

It is noted in the LNP submission that both options are mentioned, however more emphasis is given to the idea of moving the north side of the Burnett River into Flynn *“to provide a clearer geographic feature for the boundary between these seats.”*

FLYNN/CAPRICORNIA

As the Federal Member for Hinkler, I represented Mount Morgan for six years. Mount Morgan was in the most northern part of my electorate and had far more direct links to the city of Rockhampton, rather than the city of Gladstone on which the division of Flynn is based.

Residents work in Rockhampton, shopping and social activities occur in Rockhampton and the nearest educational, health and transport hubs are in Rockhampton. By road, Mount Morgan is less than 39 kilometres from Rockhampton, as compared to 127 kilometres from Gladstone.

I might also add that during my time as Mount Morgan's Federal representative, the Commonwealth invested \$1 million in upgrading the Mount Morgan-Kabra Road so as to improve residents' access to Rockhampton.

In terms of servicing the community, a Federal Member based in Bundaberg or Gladstone cannot utilise their charter allowance effectively as there is no airstrip at Mount Morgan. This point was made to the Augmented Commission at its 2006 hearings – and presumably was accepted, as Mount Morgan was moved back into Capricornia (from the then Committee's first draft).

Finally, it was my very distinct impression that the people of Mount Morgan saw themselves as part of Capricornia and this has become even more so with the completion of the Kabra Road.

I believe a far more relevant adjustment can be made between Flynn and Capricornia by transferring a number of CCDs in the Gracemere area (immediately west of Rockhampton) into Flynn - in fact, there are existing Flynn CCDs on both sides of the proposed area. It also minimises the amount of disruption to the Gracemere area which is already divided. This point is illustrated in Map B.

THE CASE FOR A RE-DRAW

Based on suggestions on your website there appears to be a strong body of opinion for quite radical changes. Many of these would not create clearer communities-of-interest but simply mean more patching and compromises.

Given the geography of Queensland, with the redistribution of seats moving in from the north (Cape York), the south (Gold Coast), and the north west (Mount Isa) and south western corner, it is inevitable that there will be much 'pushing and shoving' between Capricornia and the northern Sunshine Coast to 'bed down' the Central Queensland/Wide Bay-Burnett divisions.

In addition, Dawson, a Mackay-based seat, is moving into Townsville, while Capricornia now takes up much of the Mackay hinterland.

These factors might provide an opportunity for the Committee to carry out a re-draw of those areas which might bring the major provincial cities into kilter with their traditional and community-relevant hinterlands.

East-west (or in some instances, north-east/south-west) configurations, with strong growth on the coast and less in the hinterland, make for a better balance of upper and lower limit numbers at both the 10 per cent and 3.5 per cent levels.

It is also true that these configurations encompass the agricultural sectors and small towns that centre on the division's major provincial city. The road system, emanating from the city, generally radiates into the hinterland of that city. In many instances the river systems and catchment areas are relevant to the focal city and the majority of the division (ie Herbert, Pioneer, Fitzroy, Burnett/Kolan, Mary, Maroochy etc).

These denominators are germane to the AEC guidelines for determining seats.

In my verbal submission to the Augmented Commission in 2006, I praised the east-west nature of Flynn. It tied together the central west to the central coast and it contained nearly

the entire length of the Winton to Rockhampton railway (ie to Gracemere). Similarly, it contained most of the Capricorn Highway (also to Gracemere) and most of the southern coalfields of Central Queensland, product from which is railed to, and exported from, Gladstone. Additionally, it shared the Central Queensland beef industry with Capricornia.

I believe getting the hinterlands relevant again to their provincial cities would create seats with classic geographic and transport features and communities-of-interest.

For this reason I repeat my suggestion that the Committee, in any major re-draw, consider dividing the Wide Bay Burnett Statistical Region into two seats instead of four. In this instance, Hinkler's figures would be 91,819 (Feb 09) and 98,880 (July 2012) and Wide Bay 88,570 (Feb 09) and 99,105 (July 2012).

The accommodation of an approximate 4,000 voter variation is illustrated on Map C.

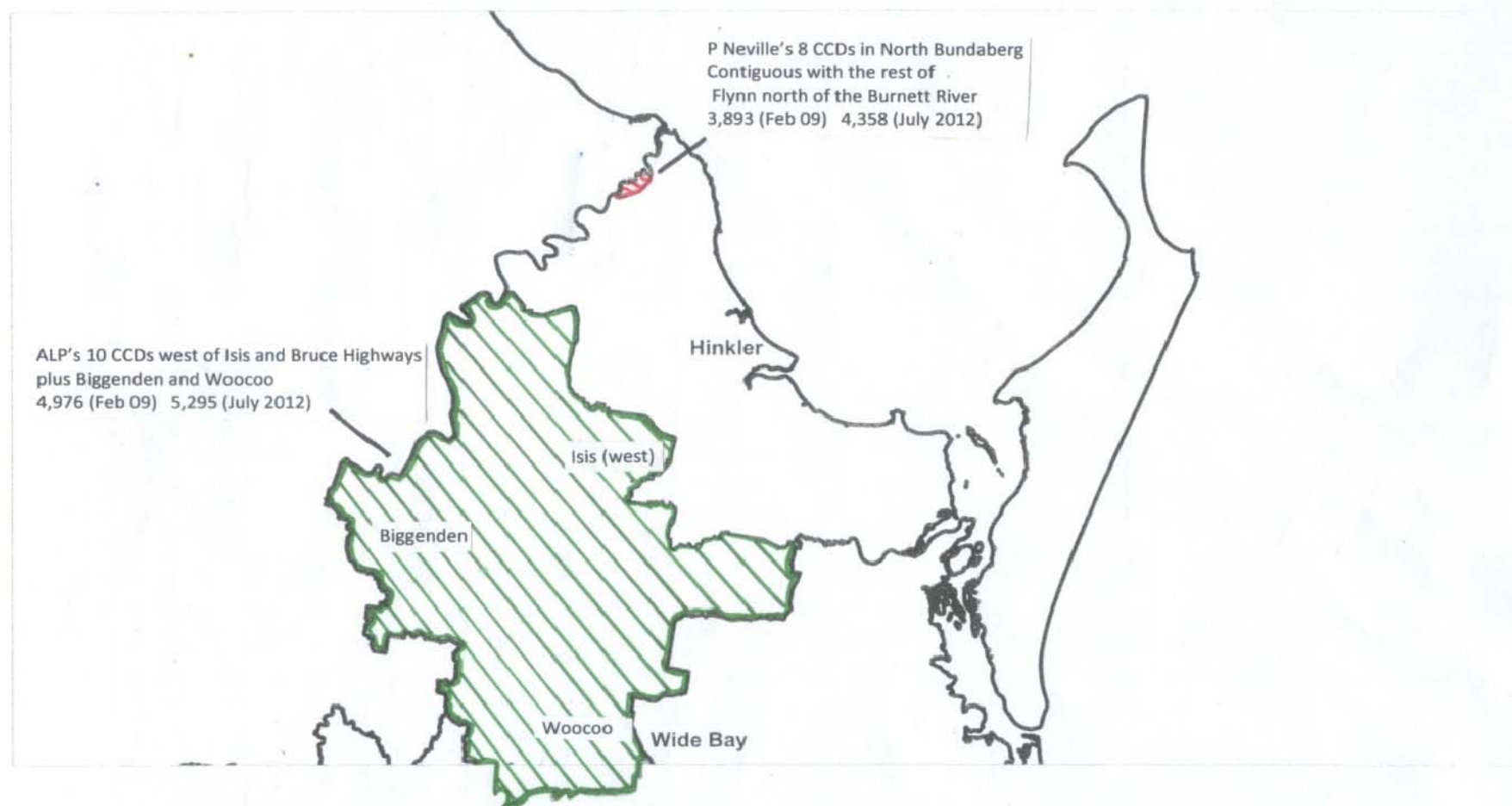
I trust the above is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Neville', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Paul Neville
Federal Member for Hinkler

Map A



PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO FLYNN/CAPRICORNIA BOUNDARY

3,102 (Feb 09) 3,757 (July 2012)

LEGEND

- Existing Boundary
- - - Proposed Alteration
- Locality



Gracemere from
Capricornia to Flynn

CCDs

3-06-13-01

3-06-13-02

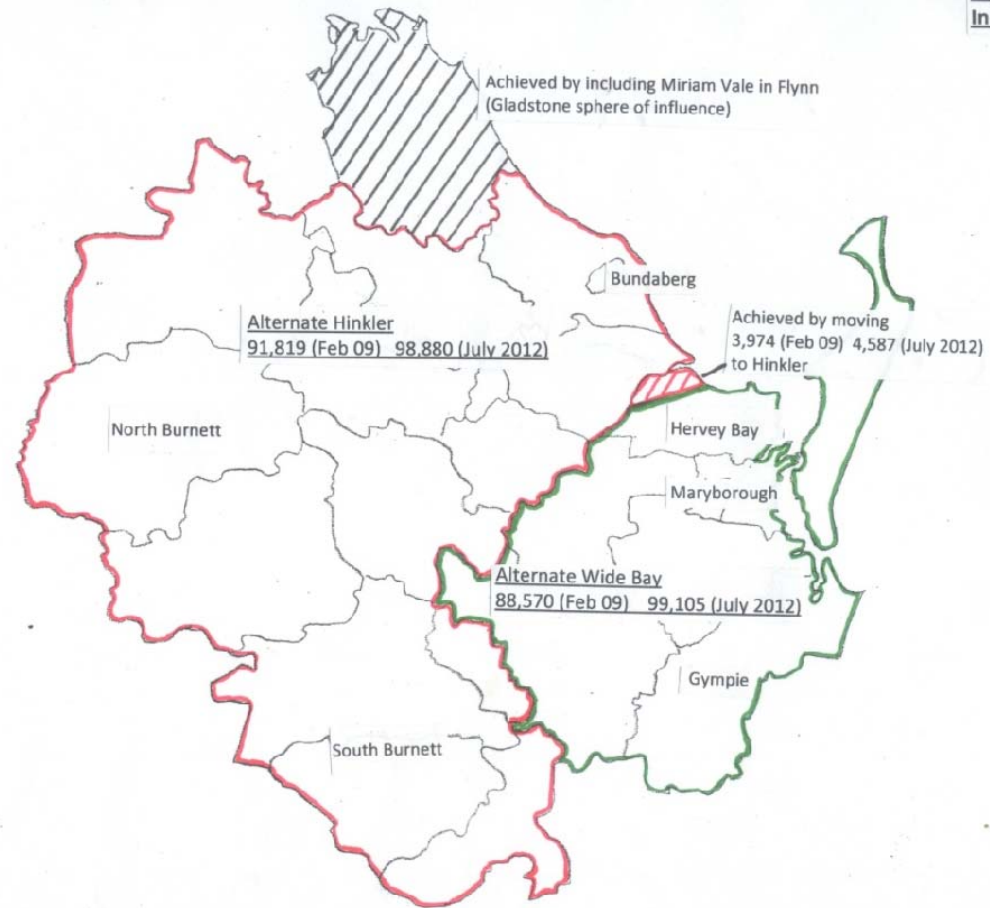
3-06-13-04

3-06-13-07

3-06-14-04A&B

3-06-14-10A&B

Map C
In event of re-draw



Gone from Hinkler?

Childers voters for Wide Bay?

By Cathy Heidrich

After losing a battle with the State Government over forced local government amalgamation which saw the demise of the Isis Shire,

residents of some of the Childers region are now facing eviction from the Federal seat of Hinkler.

Details have emerged of a Labor Party proposal which would see residents of Childers move

into the electorate of Wide Bay, whilst other areas including Woodgate Beach remain in Hinkler.

The proposal is one of many public suggestions received by the Aus-

tralian Electoral Commission Redistribution Committee in the lead up to the redrawing of the Queensland Federal electoral boundaries to ensure each of Queensland's electoral divisions has, as near as possible, the same number of electors.

The Labor Party proposal suggests shedding 2418 Isis voters from the Hinkler electorate rather than cut away at the two major centres of Bundaberg and Hervey Bay that define the division.

The proposal admits "while this is not an ideal community of interest outcome, it is a better outcome than cutting off parts of Bundaberg or Hervey Bay".

The Labor Party also suggests shifting Biggenden from the seat of Hinkler to the seat of Wide Bay.

However the idea has been described as impractical, illogical and contrary to any possible "community of interest" consideration.

The Member for Hinkler Paul Neville said yesterday the proposal put at risk strong business, historical, industrial and social links between the communities of Childers and Woodgate Beach as well as those between both areas and Bundaberg.

Mr. Neville said the former Isis Shire has a very strong and unique identity and its residents were amongst the most vocal opponents of last year's forced local government amalgamations.

"This proposal will only divide the community further and separating these two towns cannot be justified" he said.

Mr. Neville said his submission proposed leaving the areas of Chil-

ders and Woodgate Beach within the Hinkler division ensuring both areas stay as one entity.

The LNP has predicted growth rates in the cities of Hervey Bay and coastal Bundaberg over the next three years will necessitate the pruning of 3665 voters from the Hinkler electorate.

In a submission to the Australian Electoral Commission, Mr. Neville has said if the object is to cause minimum change and to retain a seat around the marine entity of Hervey Bay, then the simplest way to reduce the excess numbers in Hinkler is to remove the suburb of North Bundaberg.

Former Isis Shire Mayor Bill Trevor said the Labor proposal to split the Isis district would be an "utter disaster".

He said the community interests of the townships of Childers and Woodgate Beach lay with Bundaberg in the seat of Hinkler, not with Maryborough in the seat of Wide Bay.

Mr. Trevor said he would be making a personal submission to the Electoral Commission suggesting it prune the required numbers of voters from the Hinkler electorate from the areas of North Bundaberg in line with the previous redistribution which saw rural areas from that suburb move into the seat of Flynn.

Submissions can be viewed at www.aec.gov.au/Electrates/Redistributions/2009/qld/public_suggestions.

Written comments must be made by Friday, May 8 and can be emailed to qld.redistribution@aec.gov.au

Isis Town & Country
30/4/09