



The Federal Redistribution 2009  
**QUEENSLAND**



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**Objection Number 60**

**Mr Matthew Crossley JP (Qual)**

**3 pages**

# Mr Matthew Crossley JP (Qual)

12 August 2009

The Australian Electoral Commission  
GPO Box 2590  
BRISBANE QLD 4001



Dear Australian Electoral Commissioner,

I write to you in relation to the proposed electoral redistribution affecting the federal divisions of Dawson and Herbert.

I wish to lodge an objection to these proposed changes which would see significant parts of Townsville become part of the division of Dawson whilst still excluding the townships of Sarina and Mirani out of Dawson.

The Townsville suburbs of Annandale and Wulguru which currently form part of the division of Herbert should remain in Herbert for several reasons. The residents of Annandale and Wulguru are part of the Townsville community and according to the guidelines for electoral redistribution, major regional centres such as Townsville should as a whole form part of a federal division as much as possible.

If the Northern Beaches of Townsville which are currently in the federal division of Kennedy are placed in Herbert whilst still retaining the suburbs of Annandale and Wulguru, Herbert will be slightly over its population quota, but due to Herbert's relatively small geographical size, this is not an issue.

An exceptionally high number of defence personnel reside in Annandale and Wulguru. The Australian Electoral Commission's rationale for excluding Laverack Barracks from being moved into Dawson was that the defence establishment is an important part of the Townsville and Herbert community, yet more defence personnel reside in Annandale than the number who reside on base.

In addition, the residents of Annandale and Wulguru would have their Federal Member of Parliament's electorate office located over 400 kilometres away in Mackay compared to the Herbert electorate office located less than five kilometres away. This is the equivalent of Brisbane residents having their Federal MP located in Bundaberg.

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Townsville is a very close, tight-knit community, and this is demonstrated by the community support of local defence personnel and Townsville's four national sporting teams. Annandale, Wulguru and the Northern Beaches are integral parts of the Townsville community and should form part of the Townsville based division of Herbert. The residents of Annandale and Wulguru have made their feelings known; they have said they will feel less of a part of the Townsville community if they are not retained in Herbert.

It is unjust on the Townsville community to have one part of the city represented by a Member of Parliament 400 kilometres to the South, another part represented by a Member of Parliament three hours to the North, and the remaining part of Townsville represented by the Member for Herbert. The federal division of Herbert should retain the suburbs of Annandale and Wulguru; in addition the Northern Beaches should form part of Herbert by reason of its proximity and community attachment to Townsville.

Many residents of Annandale and Wulguru feel that they will have much less representation if their Federal Member of Parliament is located 400 kilometres away in Mackay. The people of Sarina and Mirani have similar feelings as they are at the very Northern part of Capricornia with their Federal Member of Parliament situated over 300 kilometres away in Rockhampton.

It is impracticable both financially and logistically for the Member for Dawson to have two offices, one located in Mackay and the other in Townsville. It is also unfeasible for the Member for Dawson to move their office to Townsville as over 40% of the electorate resides in Mackay and less than 20% would reside in Townsville under the proposed redistribution.

Kennedy is one of the largest Federal Divisions on a geographical basis; therefore the Member for Kennedy spends a large proportion of their time travelling. This greatly restricts the access of residents of the Northern Beaches of Townsville to their Federal MP. The Northern Beaches form part of the Townsville Community and should be part of the Townsville based federal division.

If the Northern Beaches are placed in Herbert, their representative will be located only several minutes drive compared to several hours drive to the Kennedy electorate office. Due to its geographical size, Kennedy should not include the Northern Beaches of Townsville and remain under quota.

Current and previous Members for Dawson have had a small budget for charter flights within the electorate. But the Member for Dawson can not fly to Townsville as the Townsville airport is located with the division of Herbert, therefore the Member for Dawson must fly to the Ayr aerodrome and have a member of their staff drive from Mackay and meet the Member in Ayr and drive an additional 100 kilometres to Townsville.

In order for Dawson to maintain its population quota, the townships of Mirani and Sarina should be reinstated into the division. Mirani and Sarina are both small sugar cane farming towns located to the West and South of Mackay, both within 30 minutes drive to Mackay.

Mirani and Sarina have previously been in Dawson and were removed in the most previous redistribution. These two towns are currently in the Federal Division of Capricornia with their Member of Parliament located four hours drive away in Rockhampton. In contrast the Member for Dawson is located in Mackay, less then 30 minutes drive.

Capricornia's main primary industry is beef and cattle production while Dawson's main primary industry is sugar cane farming. Issues impacting the sugar and cattle industries are very much different and Mirani and Sarina would be better situation within Dawson as Dawson currently has three other sugar farming areas stretching from the Southern to the Northern part of the Division. Capricornia is such as large and vast electorate it should have Sarina and Marina removed and remain at its current quota.

As a substitute to the currently preposed redistribution, the Northern Beaches of Townsville should be moved into Herbert from Kennedy, Annandale and Wulguru not moved into Dawson but remain in Herbert, and Sarina and Marina moved into Dawson from Capricornia.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Crossley', with a stylized, flowing script.

Matthew Crossley JP (Qual)

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