



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



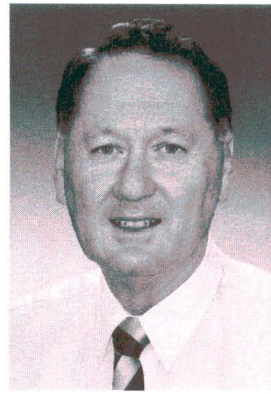
Objection Number 390

Hon Peter Lindsay MP

8 pages

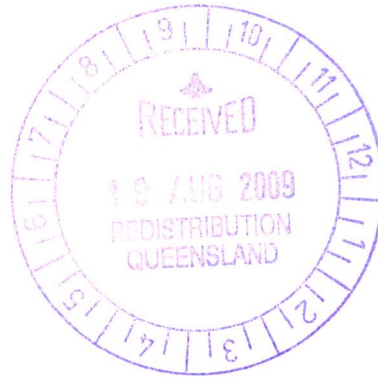


Peter
LINDSAY MP



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Seh.act

18 August 2009

Mr Ed Killesteyn
Presiding Member
Redistribution Committee for Queensland
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Killesteyn

Please find enclosed my formal objection, and reasons for this objection, to the 2009 Proposed Redistribution of Queensland into Electoral Divisions.

Yours faithfully

PETER LINDSAY MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HERBERT

OVERVIEW

In successive redistributions the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has formally recognised that the Northern boundaries of North Queensland coastal electorates are moving into the southern areas of cities in adjoining electorates.

The current Queensland redistribution proposal has the Federal Electorate of Flynn coming to within ten kilometres of the Rockhampton CBD and taking in communities like Gracemere and Mount Morgan, whose community of interests are definitely with Rockhampton, in the Federal Electorate of Capricornia.

This in turn has resulted in the Federal Electorate of Capricornia moving into the Mackay community of interests by taking Sarina and Mirani out of the Federal Electorate of Dawson.

The AEC have continued this 'domino' effect, extending the Federal Electorate of Dawson right into the heart of the city of Townsville.

Whilst I acknowledge that the Redistribution Committee must meet the requirements under Section 66(3)(a) of the Electoral Act, I submit that this proposed redistribution should be reconsidered by the Redistribution Committee ('the Committee') as it clearly does not meet the requirements under Section 66(3)(b) of the Electoral Act.

Shifting the boundaries of the Federal Electorates of Herbert, Dawson and Capricornia further south would address the 'domino' effect and the community of interests test, but would require a re-adjustment of Kennedy and Flynn.

2009 Queensland Redistribution Report – Electorate of Herbert

Recommendation: That the suburb of Annandale should not be removed from the Federal Electorate of Herbert under Electoral Act Section 66(3)(b)(i) *community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests.*

Reasons include:

- **Acknowledged existing AEC community of interests:** The Committee has determined that Lavarack Barracks should remain within the Federal Electorate of Herbert due to the strong community of interests that exist between the barracks and Annandale.
- **Inconsistency of the Draft Report:** Despite the acknowledged community of interests above, the Draft Report is inconsistent because the adjacent suburb of Annandale has more electors in the Australian Defence Force living in the suburb of Annandale than the 539 electors currently enrolled at Lavarack Barracks. On one hand the AEC draft report recognises the community of interests with the defence establishment, yet on the other hand recommends the transfer of significantly more defence families to Dawson. This is not consistent.

- **No economic interests between Mackay and Annandale:** Economic interests of Townsville are currently represented by the Federal Member for Herbert. There is a very different industrial profile between Townsville and the Mackay area. Townsville is the commercial, community service and sporting hub for North Queensland, with regional headquarters of the Commonwealth Government, Townsville Hospital, Lavarack Barracks, James Cook University and nationally recognised sporting teams, eg., Cowboys NRL team, Townsville Crocodiles basketball team, NQ Fury soccer team and Townsville Fire Women's basketball (headquartered in Annandale) underpinning the North Queensland economy. There are few economic interests represented in Townsville by the Federal Member for Dawson and electors have stated in submissions that most issues affecting Townsville are not applicable to Mackay, and vice versa.
- **No social interests between Mackay and Annandale:** There are no social interests between the suburb of Annandale and the Mackay community. Electors in Annandale have no access to Mackay media, no interest in Mackay media and issues and therefore no knowledge of the community role played by the Federal Member for Dawson. Electors in Townsville suburbs moved in the last redistribution to the Federal Electorate of Dawson have complained in their submissions about the poor representation provided by the Federal Member for Dawson as a result of the Member being situated in Mackay.
- **No economic interests at Local Government level.** Recently the two Councils previously servicing the city of Townsville - Townsville City Council and Thuringowa City Council - were amalgamated. There has never been any suggestion of any economic social and regional interests between local government administration of Townsville and or Mackay, situated in the Federal Electorate of Dawson. Removing Annandale from Herbert flies in the face of the reason for the amalgamation of local government in Townsville.
- **No regional interests between Mackay and Annandale:** Applications for Commonwealth funding and/or support for industrial and regional transport issues in the Townsville hub are not applicable in most cases to the Dawson Electorate. Townsville would be economically disadvantaged with a Mackay centric Federal Member. One elector submission stated that *the Mackay and Townsville regions are discrete economic regions and compete for government resources. No person representing both regions could conscientiously support funding for one region to the disadvantage of the other, knowing that the claim of one may be inconsistent with, or stronger than, the claims of the other.*
- **No regional interests between Federal Member of Dawson and Annandale** The current member for Dawson has already publicly stated that he does not intend to establish an office in the northern part of the proposed electorate. Including Annandale in the Federal Electorate of Dawson is the equivalent of having the Office of the Federal Member for Ryan located in Gladstone.

- **Community reaction to perceived lack of community interests:** There has been widespread adverse community comment since the Committee announced its proposal to excise the suburb of Annandale from the Federal Electorate of Herbert. My office has forwarded 343 individual written objections and submissions to the Australian Electoral Commission. More objections and submissions arrive daily and will also be forwarded. There has been an adverse media reaction to the proposed boundary change, both in print media and electronic media. Some examples include:

Interesting boundary changes (Townsville Bulletin, 25/07/2009)

Voters angry over changes (Townsville Bulletin 01/08/2009)

Voters take a swing at boundary plan (Townsville Bulletin 05/08/2009)

Electoral Humbug (Townsville Bulletin 05/08/2009)

Electoral Act Section 66(3)(b)(ii) means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division

- Due to distance, there is little workforce commuting between the centre of Mackay in Dawson, and Townsville.
- The Federal Member for Dawson can not fly to Townsville airport under charter entitlement, as the airport is not located within the Dawson electorate. Currently the Federal Member for Dawson is required to fly to a local airport in Ayr, and then drive approximately 100 kilometres to the Townsville airport. This does not allow the Federal Member for Dawson access by charter aircraft to Townsville, making effective representation difficult and disadvantaging the electors of Townsville.
- Complaints have been received from disabled electors in Townsville as they will not be able to easily access a Federal Member situated 400 kilometres away in Mackay.

Electoral Act Section 66(3)(b)(iv) the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division

- The suburb of Annandale is linked to Lavarack barracks, as the area of Annandale and Lavarack Barracks share local services, a community centre and shopping facilities.
- All of the wider services to Annandale are provided by Townsville city, not Mackay.

Electoral Act Section 66(3)(b)(v) the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory

- The existing boundaries of the State Electorate of Burdekin do not include Annandale.

Interesting boundary changes

SPECULATION is mounting that Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is ready to go the polls as early as March next year to capitalise on the Liberal Party's leadership tension over its emissions trading policy and a belief that unemployment will climb higher towards the latter half of 2010.

Yesterday, the Australian Electoral Commission handed down its Queensland report, detailing changes to federal electoral boundaries including Herbert, Dawson and Kennedy.

The new boundaries mean that Herbert will lose a major slice of Annandale, the traditional home of hundreds of defence force families.

Annandale will instead go into the seat of Dawson, held by Labor's James Bidgood.

This will concern the Liberal Party's incumbent Herbert MP Peter Lindsay, who has in the past secured the majority of the defence force vote.

With the margin in Herbert narrowly favouring the Liberals, the re-distribution enhances the chances of the ALP's Herbert candidate, expected to be either former Mayor Tony Mooney, current city councillor Jenny Hill or McDonald's franchise supremo George Colbran.

Under the new boundaries Deeragun and the Northern Beaches, which had been in independent Bob Katter's seat of Kennedy, will now go into Herbert.

Mr Katter, lamenting the loss of the Northern Beaches as part of his constituency, yesterday took a big swipe at the former Thuringowa council, headed up by current Townsville Mayor Les Tyrell.

He blamed Thuringowa's 'political games' for a failure to achieve proper water and bore fields development, costing the Northern Beaches access to water and \$23 million in government grants.

Mr Katter also blasted the council for its obsession with 'super small housing blocks' and the total removal of all trees from development, saying it was 'a disgusting blight against the people associated with Thuringowa Council, some of whom are now with Townsville council'.

Whatever the political machinations of federal boundary changes or council mergers, it's time for politicians to stop treating the people of the Northern Beaches as second class citizens.

The people of Bushland Beach have suffered enough with the Mount Low Parkway road debacle, which has eased since the State Government opened a new overpass last month.

Even at state level, most Northern Beaches voters are part of the Ingham-based Hinchinbrook electorate.

Whoever represents the northern suburbs must start paying more attention to their needs. Many are young families just starting out in life.

With rates up, unemployment rising and the economy doing it tough, they deserve a break.



Big-name loss an early blow for Fury

I WAS disappointed to hear the NQ Fury had lost another player in Brendon Santalab.

He was one of the few players we had signed who has a pedigree in the A-League, and I've seen him play for Sydney and he seemed a real talent.

I'm now wondering: is the club going to put out some sort of statement regarding his departure?

I can't see anything on their website and nor have I seen anything published.

I find it very strange that we let one of our more high profile recruits walk out of the club two-and-a-half weeks before the season starts, and personally I'm keen to understand how and



Brendon Santalab

why this happens when the player is under contract (as I'm sure do others).

There's been no mention

of any sort of transfer fee being paid.

Do these guys have some sort of clause in their contract that they can just up and leave when someone bigger comes knocking?

I think it warrants an explanation, as to be blunt, it all comes across as a little amateurish on the part of the Fury.

I'm really keen to see football really get a foothold in the NQ market, but to see some of our bigger name guys (North, Santalab) depart before a ball has even been kicked in anger doesn't seem like the best start.

GREG PANKHURST
Sydney

Cr Hill should answer for Labor colleagues

JENNY Hill, who is so well supported by the *Townsville Bulletin* as the 'insider', will no doubt as the 'Leader of the Opposition' be given every opportunity by the Mayor to present her alternative budget to the council and the people of Townsville. We look forward to her in-depth analysis, vision and how she would solve the council's and

the world's financial crisis. Given amalgamation was lumped on us by her Labor puppet masters in Brisbane it is the least she can do! Did I mention those Labor boom years and now we are bust having to sell the people's assets to pay for their ineptitude?

PETER ANGUS, Douglas.

Programs are keeping youths out of detention

BURDEKIN MP Rosemary Menkens is further isolating and marginalising young people, especially indigenous youth, with her archaic attitudes and simplistic solutions ('Off to boot camp', *TB*, 23/7/09).

Boot camps create experiences separate from community and the intended learnings may not transfer well back to real life once the camp is over.

Many young people involved in crime have complex issues requiring an integrated approach from well-networked organisations with the expertise to re-engage and integrate youth within the community.

The Townsville Flexible Learning Centre is one of many organisations which collaborates successfully with youth mental health initiatives, employment and work preparation programs and youth justice to improve the educational and vocational options for youth at risk. Indigenous young people are further assisted with over-arching mentoring programs using culturally appropriate strategies.

Despite such programs operating on limited budgets, often with uncertain funding futures, their innovations have kept many young people out of detention and on track to more positive pathways.

It is a great shame Ms Menkens believes these programs are 'clearly failing' when she should have a closer look at examples of outstanding practice here in North Queensland and seek to advocate for additional resources to better support existing initiatives.

ANDREW MALLOCH,
West End

On this day



1689 > France's King Louis XIV declares war on Britain.



1959 > The hovercraft makes its first crossing of the English Channel from Dover to Calais.



1968 > Pope Paul VI bans all artificial birth control methods for Roman Catholics.

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

— Isaiah 40:31

Voters angry over changes

By CHRIS QUAGLIATA

WULGURU and Annandale residents are fuming over proposed electoral boundary changes that could see their Federal MP based more than 400km away.

An Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) redistribution proposal would put about 10,000 voters in Annandale and Wulguru, excluding Lavarack Barracks, in the Mackay-based federal seat of Dawson.

Annandale resident Brian Pugh said the proposal was 'ludicrous'.

"My concern is that Townsville is northern Australia's largest city. We already get treated rather shabbily by politicians of all persuasions, whether it's federal or state," he said.

"This would be a gross indignity on the average punter in my belief."

The Labor voter said he saw no benefit in being incorporated

into a seat that was held by the government. "This goes outside political affiliation. This boils down to simple common sense, and I think it's lacking."

"I honestly don't believe that people who live in Mackay would pay the same amount of attention to this little pocket of people in Townsville."

Dave Clelland, also of Annandale, said it was wrong to have a section of Townsville so close to the CBD represented by a member based almost 400km away.

"Surely they can trim the boundaries around a bit and have a bit of leeway," he said.

"I think they should weigh up the area of interest as well as the numbers."

Herbert MP Peter Lindsay has called a meeting for angry residents to voice their opinion next week, with the results to form part of a written objection to be sent to the AEC.

Dawson MP James Bidgood, who already represents about 10,000 voters in Townsville sub-

urbs Stuart and Oonoonba, has said Mr Lindsay's objections to the proposed changes were political, with the loss of defence force votes in the Annandale area a threat to his seat.

Mr Lindsay there was a 'general feeling of disbelief' within the community after a number of people registered complaints with his office.

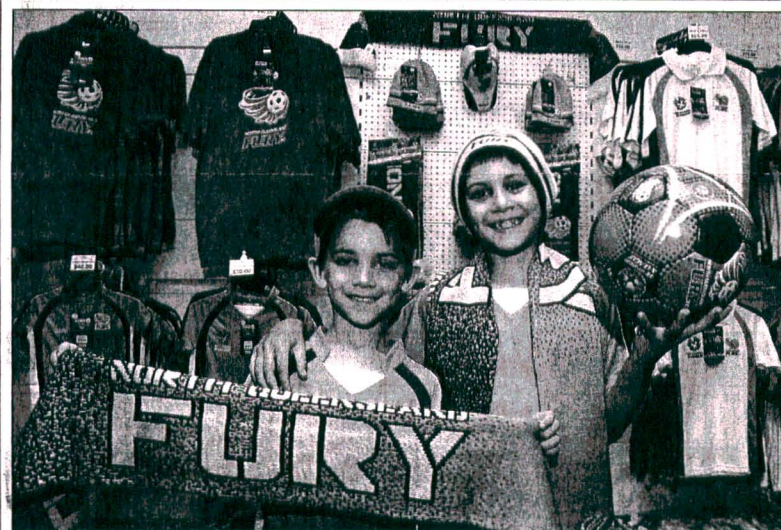
"I am going to lodge a strong objection on behalf of these residents with the Australian Electoral Commission," he said.

"It doesn't matter who you vote for or if you vote at all. Essentially I want to hear the voices of the public in regards to this issue and in turn be their voice."

"It's about what's best for the community and for our federal electorate, it's not about party politics."

The meeting will be held next Tuesday at the Annandale Community Centre from 5.30pm.

The AEC will take written objections on the redistribution proposals until August 21.



TRUE COLOURS ... Zachary and Benjamin Judge show their support Photo: EVAN MORGAN

Fury fans rush for merchandise

NORTH Queensland Fury has added extra colour to Willows Shoppingtown, opening up their new merchandise store.

The bright green shop has already proved a big hit, with workers flat-out selling all the green and white merchandise.

From beanies, scarfs, polo shirts and soccer balls, the store was opened to encourage Townsville to get in and show support the new A-league team, with the season start only a week away. With the store re-

stocking their shelves every week, the ladies' and mens' polo shirts and kids' clothing are running out the door.

Head of commercial operations Scott Waters said the store was opened in partnership with Willows Shoppingtown.

"It gives us the ability to connect with our fans and provide them with an array of merchandise," Mr Waters said.

"Fans will still be able to purchase merchandise at the

key events of the Fury and at home games.

"We hope to continue to provide fans with a variety of merchandise."

Willows Shoppingtown is currently undergoing major extensions and Mr Waters said when the construction was complete the Fury would move into a new store in the centre.

"There will also be ticket outlets available in store to purchase tickets for home games," Mr Waters said.

— NATALIE PEUT

US supports disabled rights

THE US ambassador to the United Nations has signed a landmark UN convention promoting and protecting the rights of the world's 650 million disabled people.

The United States was joining 141 countries in signing what is the first major human rights treaty of the 21st century.

Signatory countries are expected to enact laws and other measures to improve disability rights and to abolish legislation and practices that discriminate against the disabled.

President Obama will soon bring the treaty before the US Senate for ratification.

Pumpkin's father gets life

A CHINESE man who killed his wife and dumped his daughter at a Melbourne train station has been sentenced to life in an Auckland jail for murder.

But under New Zealand law, Nai Yin Xue, 56, could serve just 12 years behind bars for the murder of his young wife. An An Liu, whose strangled body was found in the boot of his car in Auckland in September 2007. Xue, a martial arts expert, then fled to Australia where he abandoned the couple's three-year-old daughter, nicknamed Pumpkin, at Southern Cross Station before absconding to the United States.

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Stinger strikes snorkeller

A MAN was evacuated from a Whitsunday island after he fell ill following a suspected marine sting yesterday.

The 22-year-old man, from Finland, was on a snorkelling day trip when he was stung on the face about 11.30am.

An RACQ-CQ Rescue spokeswoman said the man was snorkelling near Hayman Island when a jellyfish brushed against his jaw.

"He experienced tingling, lower back pain and lower limb pain and was treated on the boat by a first aid officer before being taken to Hayman Island," the spokeswoman said.

The man was given morphine for his pain before the rescue helicopter arrived on the island.

The man was taken to Mackay Hospital in a stable condition.

It was unclear what type of stinger had stung the man yesterday.

JCU stinger researcher Dr Jamie Seymour said the man's symptoms could be indicative of anything from a blue-bottle to an irukandji.

He said it was not completely rare to experience marine stings at this time of year.

"The stinger season runs somewhere in November through to May, but this can vary, depending on weather and other factors."

Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) regional manager Peter Roulston said stingers could be lurking in North Queensland waters year round.

Mr Roulston said swimmers could protect themselves by wearing stinger suits or protective clothing in the water.

Child link to house blaze

POLICE are investigating whether a young child playing with matches or a lighter may have caused a fire which gutted a Mount Isa house.

Three adults and three children fled from the house on Beta St after the fire broke out about 8.30pm on Monday.

Firefighters arrived to find the house well alight.

The three adults were taken to Mount Isa Hospital suffering from smoke inhalation, while the children were assessed by paramedics at the scene.

Mount Isa Police Inspector Paul Biggin said yesterday the fire was not being treated as suspicious.

It was understood a four-year-old child may have been playing with matches or a cigarette lighter before the fire started.

Terminal on rocks

Receivers called in as developer owes \$100m

By TONY RAGGATT and DANIEL BATEMAN

THE developer of the Townsville Ocean Terminal project, Gold Coast lender City Pacific, has collapsed into receivership.

It is not yet clear what will become of the project endorsed by the State Government.

A spokesman for Infrastructure and Planning Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said yesterday the department

was in discussions with receivers to brief the Government on the way forward.

Ian Carson, Daniel Bryant and Grant Sparks of PPB were appointed as receivers and managers of City Pacific by its secured lender yesterday. It is understood City Pacific owes about \$100 million to the Commonwealth Bank.

Mr Carson said the receivers had taken control of City Pacific's business.

"The loss of the role as responsible entity of the City

Pacific First Mortgage fund, which occurred as a result of the Federal Court's determination on Monday 20 July, has had a significant impact upon City Pacific's ability to service its debts and remain viable," he said in a statement.

"We will work quickly to implement strategies for City Pacific's assets, including ... as developer of the proposed Townsville Ocean Terminal project and associated development."

The company's terminal project director Will Hattingh said it was in discussions with the administrator, bankers, the State Government and other stakeholders to investigate several options for the project surviving the collapse.

"I've been involved in this project now for seven/eight years and worked very hard for various parties, including State Government, council and the port, and our partners Tabcorp, and I cannot

see all these people walking away from it," he said.

"All stakeholders will work hard to find a way within the constraints of the agreement in place to see the project survive and the construction of a very important piece of infrastructure to commence very soon next year, or early next year.

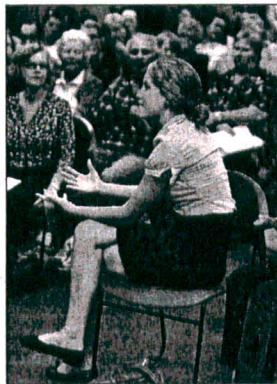
"It's not going to be easy. Any project of this magnitude is going to be hard in the current financial climate, but with innovation, we might keep it alive."



THEY'LL LISTEN ... Herbert MP Peter Lindsay says people should lodge written objections



ANGRY ... voters yesterday. RIGHT: Jessica Passmore makes a point



Voters take a swing at boundary plan

IRATE Annandale and Wulguru residents vented their anger over proposed electoral boundary changes at a meeting last night.

The meeting, at Annandale Community Centre, was organised by Herbert MP Peter Lindsay.

An Australian Electoral Commission redistribution proposal would put about 10,000 voters in Annandale and Wulguru, excluding Lavarack Barracks, in the Mackay-based federal seat of Dawson.

Dawson MP James Bidgood came in for a hammering at the meeting. Annandale resident Irene Kennedy made her feelings about the Labor politician from Mackay quite clear.

"I think the member for Dawson doesn't have our best interests at heart," Ms Kennedy said. "He has already made it clear he will not have an office here."

Resident Mark McGregor said he would make invalid votes at federal elections if he was moved into the federal seat of Dawson.

"I don't want to be voting for a bypass road down in Mackay," Mr McGregor said. "I want to be voting for a ring road near where I live."

Annandale's Mal Heron said the city had to realise electoral boundaries would need to move as the population grew, but the city did not need to be split yet, or in this way.

"Sooner or later Townsville will have to face the prospect of being cut down the middle," Mr Heron said.

"But I think the electoral commission will have to grab that opportunity later on."

"It could be a more dramatic boundary change, down the middle like Brisbane."

Army Chaplain Rod Bailey said he lived in Annandale and worked "across the road".

"I don't want to be alienated from my community," he said.

Mr Lindsay said residents in the affected areas should lodge handwritten submissions to the commission. "If we can get the right number of objections in ... they will say 'we have got a problem here,'" Mr Lindsay said. "There is no political motivation on my part. We are doing this because this is right."

About 10,000 voters in Stuart and Onoonba were moved into Dawson before the last election. When residents asked Mr Lindsay about moving those people back into Herbert he said he thought it was "already a done deal", but he would consider having a meeting with those residents if there was community interest.

The AEC will take written objections on the redistribution proposals until August 21.

— JENNIFER O'REILLY

Aussies the worst husbands

AUSTRALIAN men make the worst husbands in the world because they loathe helping out with the housework, a British study claims.

An economist from Oxford University found that women wanting to settle down were better off finding a bloke from Scandinavia, the United States or Britain than Australia.

Study author Dr Almudena Sevilla-Sanz said that based on her study of 12 developed countries, men and women were both more likely to cohabit or marry if they believed their partner would help out with the household chores and childcare.

But it appears that when it comes to finding a husband willing to help out, Australian women have a tough time.

Dr Sevilla-Sanz's study ranked Australia as the least egalitarian society, making its men unattractive marriage partners because they were less likely to do household chores.

Norway, Sweden, Great Britain, the US and Northern Ireland were judged to be the most egalitarian countries, making their men the most attractive marriage partners.

Next were the Netherlands, Ireland, Spain, New Zealand, Japan, Germany, Austria and Australia in last place.

"In egalitarian countries you might, in principle, expect to see women preferring to remain single rather than face the prospect of spending more time doing household chores," Dr Sevilla-Sanz said.

Drowning islands' plea for help

SMALL Pacific island nations in danger of drowning under rising sea levels pleaded with Australia and New Zealand yesterday to slash their greenhouse gas emissions.

They made their appeal at a meeting of Small Island States in Cairns, ahead of the Pacific Islands Forum that officially opens today.

SIS chairman and Niue Premier Toke Talagi said the seven-nation alliance would push Australia and New Zealand to agree to cut emissions by 45 per cent by 2020 and by 85 per cent by 2050.

"We understand the difficulties that developed countries have with respect to the changes that are needed," he said. "(However) we must make a strong stance with respect to greenhouse gas emissions and

advocate the small island states' view in respect to climate change."

The Australian Government has said it is working towards a 5 per cent to 15 per cent cut on 2000 emission levels by 2020 while New Zealand has set a 50 per cent reduction target on 1990 levels by 2050.

Climate Change Minister Penny Wong said Australia would listen to the island nations' concerns.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key told a business forum in Brisbane New Zealand was examining the impact of agriculture.

"Fifty per cent of our emissions come from animals burping and farting, which is a bit more complex than coal-fired power stations," he said. "I can't say we've got the solution yet — we certainly don't feed them curries."



Townsville Bulletin

Wednesday, August 5, 2009

Terror raid brings home message

SECURITY is being beefed up at Lavarack Barracks in the wake of overnight raids in Melbourne which have foiled what could have been a deadly suicide attack on Australian soil. In a seven-month joint investigation, police uncovered an alleged plot by men of Somalian and Lebanese descent to storm the Holsworthy Army Barracks in Sydney, home to several thousand troops, and launch a suicide shoot-out. It is alleged there had also been suspicious activity around other Australian Defence Force bases, the details of which have yet to be revealed. North Queensland, with its strong garrison presence, will be horrified at yesterday's raids in Melbourne, which have rammed home the threat of terrorism and just how close it is to our everyday life. Lavarack Barracks is home to thousands of troops, many of them with families and friends based in Townsville. It is the 3RAR battalion based at Holsworthy that will be relocated to Townsville from 2011, as part of a major expansion of Lavarack's defence force personnel. It's a sobering and terrifying thought to know that our troops, the brave men and women that defend our country, are now being targeted by Islamic extremists. Coming just two weeks after the fatal Jakarta hotel bombing, these arrests are a reminder that terrorists can strike at any time and that Australia is not immune from their sinister ways. The Australian Federal Police, which bungled the Mohammed Haneef arrest two years ago, must be given credit for uncovering the plot and defusing it before it was carried out. It is also a reminder to Australians that we must be forever vigilant. If you suspect terrorist activity, report it. It is better to be safe than sorry.



Electoral humbug

RESIDENTS of Annandale are justifiably upset with proposed changes to Federal electoral boundaries, which would place them in the Mackay-based seat of Dawson, instead of the Townsville-based seat of Herbert. A meeting last night of concerned residents talked of the 'ridiculous' nature of the proposed new boundaries, which means the people of Annandale's local federal MP will be 400km away.

As part of the proposed redistribution, the northern beaches will be excised from Kennedy, held by independent Bob Katter, and put into Herbert, held narrowly by the Liberals' Peter Lindsay.

Of course, the ruling Labor Party won't have a problem with the new boundaries, making Herbert easier to win as hundreds of defence families live in Annandale, and they are traditional Liberal voters.

But it does seem a bit rich to be living in a Townsville suburb, only to have your local MP based in Mackay. It's a long way to go for an appointment.



Beach an eyesore

Don't rely on global warming projections

PLANT Casuarinas along the Highway. Save Queens Beach from the Greens.

It sounds a bit of a contradiction but sadly, it's true.

The Queens Beach Esplanade residents pay the highest rates in Bowen and yet they are the most neglected and the most abused.

The beachfront should be one of the most beautiful in Bowen, but if you care to drive that way, you will see along the middle section, a scruffy, ugly and unkempt foreshore. This area is the shining glory of the Greens.

It features an array of mainly Casuarina trees, some of which have died, but still lie forlornly as if a testament to some battle.

These trees are ideal for blocking out views of the ocean.

After all, why do we want people to see the sea? If the council is so ashamed of sea views, I hope they will tell potential residents that they aim to put a stop to all the pleasures of sea views.

Casuarina trees are beautiful, but, as they can form a dense barrier, surely they would be ideally placed along the highway to shield and hide the salt works and airport. Imagine an avenue of them!

Well, back to Queens Beach. Yes, you may have heard that



UGLY ... Queens Beach has been left to rack and ruin

there is to be more tree planting along the esplanade.

I have heard that the aim is to protect the dunes from erosion. A worthy cause, but recently some well-established Guinea grass that had adapted well to the dunes has now been poisoned and slashed. So much for protecting the dunes! Apparently only native plants can save us!

All the home and land owners along the esplanade that I have spoken to all agree that we would like to see plenty of ground cover of grasses, shrubs and, wait for it, maybe some wild flowers.

They also say that some spaced out Queensland palm

trees would be the most ideal and attractive trees to plant. However when you mention palm trees to the Greens, they almost choke! They seem to suffer from palmaphobia.

As a new resident to Bowen and Queensland, I have marvelled at the Foxtail, Alexander and Carpenteria palms amongst many others native to our state that beautify most gardens in town. Is it too much to ask that the beaches are beautified as well?

Do we want visitors to marvel at our town's beaches or say they couldn't see them?

JIM SHEARING,
Queens Beach.

PROFESSOR Ian Plimer (TB 25/07/09) has described the predictions of man made global warming calamity as 'A load of hot air'.

I would think we should not rely on projections as to what will happen in 10 or 20 years time as made by such people as Al Gore and other global warming advocates.

I was intrigued recently when reading a book about Burke and Wells by Alan Moorehead. Writing about Melbourne in the mid-19th century the author maintained 'in this mild climate there was no great struggle to keep warm during the winter months'. Perhaps Melbourne's climate was warmer in those days.

LEO McMANUS,
Cranbrook.

Wavell ex-students to hold reunion

DID you commence Year 8 at Wavell State High School in Brisbane in 1972? Year 10 in 1974? Year 12 in 1976?

If so, you are invited to a school reunion. The reunion is being held in Brisbane on Saturday, October 24. If you are interested in attending please contact us via email at wavellreunion@hotmail.com.

GRAHAM SMITH and ROBYN ATTWOOD (nee FAULKNER)

On this day



1924 > The comic strip Little Orphan Annie, by Harold Gray, makes its debut in the US.



1962 > US movie star Marilyn Monroe is found dead in the bedroom of her Los Angeles home.



2000 > Sir Alec Guinness, revered as one of Britain's most versatile actors, dies at 86.

A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation — Psalm 68:5