



The Federal Redistribution 2009  
**QUEENSLAND**



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**Objection Number 525**

**Shane Neumann MP**

**2 pages**



**Shayne Neumann** MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BLAIR

*Working for our  
local community*

21 August 2009

Commissioner  
Australian Electoral Commission  
GPO Box 2590  
BRISBANE Q 4001

Dear Commissioner

I refer to the 2009 Proposed Redistribution of Queensland into Electoral Divisions necessitated by the need for Queensland to gain another seat ( and New South Wales to lose one) at the next Federal Election.

I limit my comments to the federal electorate of Blair and propose some minor changes to its eastern boundaries which ensures it will stay within its Actual Enrolment and its Projected Enrolment but improves its community of interests.

On the Proposed Redistribution, Blair has the fewest electors in Queensland on Actual Enrolment (19<sup>th</sup> February 2009) at 79,649 – a mere 140 electors above the Permissible Minimum number of electors of 79,509.

Blair's Projected Enrolment at 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012 is still below the Average Enrolment for Queensland by 581 electors – namely 96,651 actual electors as opposed to average enrolment for Queensland of 97,232. This means there is scope to improve the community of interests for Blair without exceeding actual or projected enrolment.

Neighbouring Oxley has more electors than Blair on Actual Enrolment at 81,494 and more on Projected Enrolment at 97,101.

Both electorates are primed for rapid demographic growth.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), by stripping Blair of its rural areas in the Lockyer Valley and Fassifern Valley but using the local government boundaries between Ipswich, Lockyer and Scenic Rim Councils as the boundaries between Blair and the new seat of Wright, has reinforced its previous redistributions namely making Blair more of an Ipswich based seat.

By adding the Somerset Regional Council area back into Blair (from Dickson and Fisher), the AEC has avoided pushing Blair much further into areas occupied by Oxley currently.

By having Oxley shed electors in large numbers east and south-east into Moreton and Rankin, the AEC has shown its intention that both Blair and Oxley now and in the future will be further concentrated in Ipswich City, with its strong projected population growth.

An extra 1852 actual electors (5537 projected electors) have been added to Blair from Oxley in Ipswich-East (part) to ensure enrolment actual and projected for Blair are satisfied. Without these additional electors, Blair would not come within enrolment requirements.



Certainly on the Proposed Boundaries, Blair cannot afford to "lose" electors. I would suggest a few minor modifications to Blair's boundaries with Oxley.

Collingwood Drive has been used by the AEC as the proposed boundary between the two electorates in Collingwood Park. Consequentially, a small part of the new housing estate in Collingwood Park, west of Goodna Creek and the newly named Dr Harry Ratnam Park, remains in Oxley and is separated from the rest of the fast growing estate in Blair.

I propose that the boundary heading south along Collingwood Drive be changed so that at Eagle Street the boundary turns east until it hits Goodna Creek. It could then follow the Creek south until it reaches Garland Street and turn west until it reaches Collingwood Drive again and continue south onto Redbank Plains Road as the AEC has proposed.

This would avoid the problem of splitting the new housing estate across both federal electorates.

However, if the AEC is more concerned about better and clearer physical boundaries and considers precedent is worth following, the boundary could, after reaching the Goodna Creek, follow the Creek south until it reaches Redbank Plains Road. This would result in adopting a similar approach to the last boundary change before the 2007 election when the Six Mile Creek in this vicinity was used for that part of the boundary, between Blair and Oxley, north of Redbank Plains Road. This would mean that the electorates would be separated not just by the Goodna Creek but by the Park through which it runs - a more sensible and clearly understood boundary.

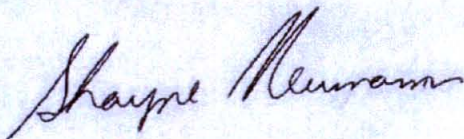
The only other minor change I suggest is at Redbank Plains east of Keidges Road.

I suggest that the boundary should follow Redbank Plains Road as it becomes Jones Road and then Augusta Parkway. These roads are primary travel routes in the area. Accepting this suggestion means the boundary between Blair and Oxley is more recognisable and defined along main roads. Further it means that those few streets in Redbank Plains such as Harry Street and Brittain Road are not cut off from the rest of the neighbouring part of Redbank Plains in terms of federal representation.

This suggestion makes more common sense, improves community of interests and is a more understandable boundary between the two electorates.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Shayne Neumann', with a stylized, flowing script.

Shayne Neumann MP  
**Federal Member for Blair**