



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 552

**Anthony Chisholm
State Secretary
ALP (QLD)**

8 pages



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Redistribution Committee for Queensland
Australian Electoral Commission
7th Floor Collection House
488 Queens Street
Brisbane Q 4000

Dear Commissioners

On behalf of the Australian Labor Party, please find enclosed our objections to the proposed redistribution of Queensland.

Yours Sincerely,

Anthony Chisholm
State Secretary.

Objections to the proposed redistribution.

The Australian Labor Party welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed redistribution of Queensland. The ALP believes that the Commission has broadly presented proposed boundaries that fit in with the responsibilities the Commission has been charged with; however we do have concerns in some areas.

The ALP recognises that the Commission made the correct decision to place the required new division (Proposed to be named Wright by the Commission) in South East Queensland. The ALP further recognises that Ms Judith Wright is a social and environmental activist and poet with a connection to the area of the new proposed division, especially to Mount Tamborine.

This redistribution is intended to stand for two election cycles not just one as the last redistribution was designed to. This means that in areas of unequal population growth there is considerable movement from the current boundaries of divisions. This presents a dilemma as in some cases it creates considerable changes to divisions, a situation that the Commission would prefer to avoid. Further this uneven growth is also creating divisions that stretch between coastal communities instead of being based on one coastal community. This is a poor community of interest outcome for the cities involved and though the Commission may feel it has little choice given the pre-eminent requirements of quota this is less than ideal.

The ALP would make the following submissions with regards to specific federal divisions as part of its response to the redistribution.

Comments on Proposed Divisions

Leichhardt

The Commission has correctly recognised that the Cape is directly tied to the city of Cairns and any boundary that fails to keep this vital community of interest connection fails the first test of community of interest for the communities of the Cape. These communities have important and strong economic and social links, as well as transport and communication links, with the city of Cairns. To break these links would severely disadvantage residents in those areas. We note that the population growth of the region forced upon the Commission the need to take out some areas south of Cairns to ensure that Leichhardt stayed within tolerances.

The Commission's proposal to move the southern suburbs of Cairns to Kennedy is on balance the best option in order to maintain the Cape and Torres communities within Leichhardt.

The Commission has proposed to also move Kuranda, just north-west of Cairns, into Kennedy. The ALP would argue that Kuranda should remain in Leichhardt because this area has a closer community of interest link with Cairns. It assumes that Kuranda has stronger connections with the Tableland region than it does with Cairns, which is not the case.

Kuranda has a strong and important connection with Cairns when it comes to tourism. The township's major industry is tourism, and this is directly dependent on the city of Cairns. For example, Kuranda Skyrail and Train is an international tourist attraction – the facility transports people between Cairns and Kuranda. In contrast much of Kennedy is built upon mining and agriculture, which is vastly different from Kuranda's primary industry.

A large number of residents in Kuranda work in Cairns and also visit for personal (medical, shopping, education) and recreational purposes (entertainment, sporting facilities), again demonstrating their closer link with Cairns than the Tableland communities.

Kennedy

Due to growth in Leichhardt there is a corresponding cascade effect into Kennedy that forces changes to this division. The Commission has worked hard to maintain both Charters Towers and Mt Isa in the one division of Kennedy. However the result forces Herbert to be further split through the suburban area of Townsville.

Herbert

The city of Townsville is a strong community on which to base a single Federal Division. However the city of Townsville in this proposal is further split into different divisions with more of the suburbs of southern Townsville moved into Dawson. The built up areas of the city of Townsville and Palm Island have the population to sustain a single division however this proposal pushes Herbert North out of suburban Townsville (though still within the confines of the LGA) while giving up further southern suburbs to Dawson. The commission should recognize in future redistributions that the contiguous suburbs of Townsville and Palm Island form a distinct community of interest that if possible should be kept in one division.

Dawson

The ALP notes the trend of the boundaries of the division of Dawson to move northward towards Townsville. This is understandable considering the Commission's need to observe the guiding principle of relative equality of the number of electors in electoral divisions. However the ALP is concerned that electors from the greater Mackay area in Ooralea, Alexandra, Walkerston and Pleystowe have been lost to the division of Capricornia. Given the Commission has placed substantial weight upon local government boundaries as an indication of a community of interest, the ALP would argue that these electors should be retained in Dawson and because these electors obviously have a greater community of interest with their own LGA, the Mackay Regional Council.

The ALP concedes that if Dawson has to take a greater part of the southern suburbs of Townsville then the Commission's proposal that the Wulguru area be added to Dawson is the best approach as it has a natural community of interest with southern Townsville areas already in Dawson. We accept the Commission's determination that Lavarack Barracks should remain in Herbert. However we believe that the Annandale area that the Commission has proposed to be included in Dawson should remain in Herbert. This area immediately north of the Barracks on the other side of the Bruce Highway similarly has a community of interest with Townsville and the Barracks.

Capricornia

The ALP recognises that the pressures of population growth mean that Mt Morgan area must be removed from Capricornia and put into Flynn.

Flynn & Maranoa

The ALP supports the Winton, Longreach, Barcaldine and Blackall-Tambo Regions being moved into Maranoa. These communities have less connection to Gladstone and the coastal areas south of Gladstone and far more in common with the other areas of the proposed Maranoa.

The ALP supports the proposal to put Mt Morgan in Flynn as it is a similar community to other regional mining communities that are already located within Flynn and has a similar community of interest to these areas already within Flynn. The new Flynn is considerably smaller and the communities in the proposed boundaries all have a closer economic connection and are geographically closer to the Port of Gladstone than some of the areas that have been proposed to be removed from Flynn.

The Wandoan community in the Dalby Regional Council is proposed to be in the new Flynn. We would propose that Wandoan be transferred to Maranoa so that the whole council is within the division of Maranoa.

Further the proposed boundary for the division of Flynn has kept the SLA of South Burnett-Wondai including in Flynn. This is the only part of Flynn in the South Burnett Regional Council with most of that Council being in Maranoa.

Hinkler

The ALP supports the commission's proposed Hinkler continuing to be a division based on Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and the connecting coast as the constituent communities of the division.

Longman & Dickson

The Commission has moved areas in and around Dayboro previously in Dickson into the proposed Longman while at the same time moving areas in and around Kallangur from Longman into the proposed Dickson. The ALP suggests that as much as possible the Commission consider reversing this decision that represents an unnecessary change. Anzac Avenue represents an easily identifiable and logical southern boundary if the current southern boundary can not be maintained.

Petrie, Lilley, Brisbane & Ryan.

The ALP notes that the Northside of Brisbane (in contrast to the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast or much of the Southside of Brisbane) has had the greatest displacement of voters and changes to divisions. This means that Petrie, Lilley and Brisbane have considerable boundary changes. The electoral commission should consider suggestions that minimise the number of electors changing division where possible.

Moreton

The proposed boundaries of Moreton align better to the natural boundaries and the communities of interest. Extending the natural boundary to Oxley Creek in the west ensures that the division links environmentally and socially with the creek and its tributaries. It will also link the environmental groups more closely with the Oxley Creek Catchment they are working to protect.

Further, the inclusion of Corinda and Oxley complements the shared community of interest in Chelmer, Graceville, Sherwood and Tennyson. These suburbs share rail and transport infrastructure, common community groups such as RSLs, Meals on Wheels and Neighbourhood Watch, sporting facilities, schools, and shopping precincts and other businesses, and recreational areas such as the Sherwood Arboretum.

As we look to the future we can expect more development in the suburb of Oxley so it will be important for the area to have common Federal representation with the surrounding suburbs of Corinda and Sherwood. The inclusion of Acacia Ridge and Willawong better links the industrial and manufacturing areas in Archerfield and Rocklea where many people live and work.

In the south Compton Road forms a logical and clear boundary of the division. The Pacific Motorway is also a significant eastern boundary so it is logical to bring the suburb of Underwood into the new Moreton Division.

Bowman Griffith & Bonner

The ALP supports the commission proposal to have minimal disruption to these divisions.

Blair & Oxley

In the division of Blair the ALP would suggest the following minor changes to the eastern boundary with the division of Oxley in the suburb of Collingwood Park. The ALP would suggest that rather than this boundary continuing south down Collingwood Drive as the boundary with Oxley that it should run east along Eagle Street to Goodna Creek and then continue south along

the Creek to Garland Street. The boundary would then follow Garland Street until it meets Collingwood Drive and then follow the Commission's recommendation for the boundary until it meets Redbank Plains Road. This means the new housing estate along Collingwood Drive would not be split between two federal divisions. It makes more sense to put these few streets into Blair with the other larger parts of the housing estate that Commission proposes are in Blair.

Further, Labor's recommendation east of Keidges Road in Redbank Plains should be accepted so those few streets such as Harry Street and Brittain's Road are linked with neighbouring streets in Blair. Blair should follow south of Redbank Plains Rd as it turns into Jones Rd and then Augusta Parkway. These roads should be the boundary between Blair and Oxley as it improves community interest with a more recognisable boundary along a main road.

Forde

The ALP notes that the area of Boronia Heights gained from Rankin by the proposed Wright has a better community of interest with the areas of Rankin gained by the proposed Forde and indeed with the existing northern areas of Forde. The ALP recognises that population growth pressures may make this issue difficult to resolve within the primacy of numerical tolerances.

Wright & Fadden

The ALP supports the decision of the commission to place the new division in South East Queensland. Specifically the division of Fadden was the division that was the highest over enrolment quota in the state and projected to be nearly 30% over quota by 2012, meaning that the location chosen for the seat was a logical one to cause minimum disruption to other divisions.

McPherson & Moncrieff

The growth of population in the Gold Coast means that the Commission correctly removed parts of these divisions to the proposed new division of Wright. The Commission has maintained as much as possible the border between McPherson and Moncrieff resulting in minimal disruption of Gold Coast voters.

Conclusion.

In conclusion the Australian Labor Party believes that the proposals of the commission are a considered response to the task the Commission is charged with. We do however believe that some changes would lead to less voter disruption and better community of interest outcomes while still fitting in with the quota of voters required now and in the future.

We ask the Commission to consider these suggestions and thank them for the opportunity to comment on this draft proposal for the Federal Divisions of Queensland.