



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



Comment Number 2 on Objections

Morris Joyce

3 pages

From: joycefamily [joycefamily@ozemail.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 August 2009 8:40 PM
To: QLD Redistribution
Subject: REDISTRIBUTION - SEAT OF HERBERT
Attachments: Townsville map redistribution 10001.PDF

Redistribution Secretariat for Queensland

REDISTRIBUTION – SEAT OF HERBERT

I would like to record my objection to the proposed redistribution of boundaries for the seat of Herbert.

I have reviewed the document and the particular references to Herbert, Kennedy and Dawson in developing the thoughts for this objection.

While the principles adopted are understood and based on statistical information it appears basic demographic information is not being adequately considered.

Townsville (the basis of the seat of Herbert) is the largest city in Northern Australia being larger than Darwin, Cairns and Mackay. Its demographic centre is now based around the intersection of Ross River Road and Nathan Street, Aitkenvale, please see attached map with demographic centre and proposed redistribution roughly noted.

Annandale is directly opposite Aitkenvale across the Ross River and is thus basically in the demographic centre of Townsville. Wulguru adjoins the eastern end of Annandale and is therefore also an inner Townsville suburb. Fairfield Waters and Oonoonba also adjoin but have been in Dawson for some time, wrongly in my opinion.

The proposed redistribution removes Annandale and Wulguru into Dawson, while balancing the numbers by removing Bushland Beach and Black River from Kennedy into Herbert. Both these suburbs are a considerable distance from the demographic centre of Townsville and would be like Campbelltown to Sydney or Ipswich to Brisbane.

It would appear, on the surface, that the Herbert redistribution is purely a numbers game to balance adjoining electorates, it even recognises that Lavarack barracks be retained in "*Herbert due to the strong community interest that exists between the Barracks and Townsville*" page 32 item 19. Lavarack Barracks adjoins both Annandale and Wulguru and a largenumber of the serving members live in Annandale and thus the serving members will be represented by different parliamentary members while effectively living metres away from each other.

What the redistribution does is remove inner Townsville suburbs into a electorate managed in a smaller city some 380km away. It is also recognized that Kennedy goes to the NT border and there is not a city within that electorate that is of the size to be an electorate in its own right as is Townsville.

To undertake a real redistribution of boundaries on a demographic basis should see the inner suburbs of Townsville i.e. Annandale, Wulguru, Stuart, Fairfield waters and Oonoonba all being reinstated into Herbert (I think figures still work). Bushland Beach and Black River remaining in Kennedy and perhaps Palm Island being removed from Herbert and included in Kennedy (being more geographically aligned than to Townsville). The Leichhardt redistributions would also need review.

While I realise this analysis may be construed as simplistic, especially noting the convoluted means of balancing Kennedy with inclusions from Leichhardt (some projected 9804 electors) , some 1257 from Dawson then with 7414 being transferred into Herbert (outer suburbs Condon-Rassmussen-Bohle basin and Northern Beaches) shows to me it is purely a numbers game without careful demographic review and assessment.

For the information of the committee the proposal to relocate the Townsville suburbs to the Dawson electorate is like having a section of Sydney managed by a person in Albury, A gold coast person being managed from Bundaberg all a little illogical.

It would be nice for the largest city in Northern Australia to get its recognition and electoral boundaries be based on demographic considerations as well as numerical as stated on page 31 item 185 under Kennedy.

For your consideration.

Morris Joyce
24 Berrigan Avenue
Annandale Qld 4814

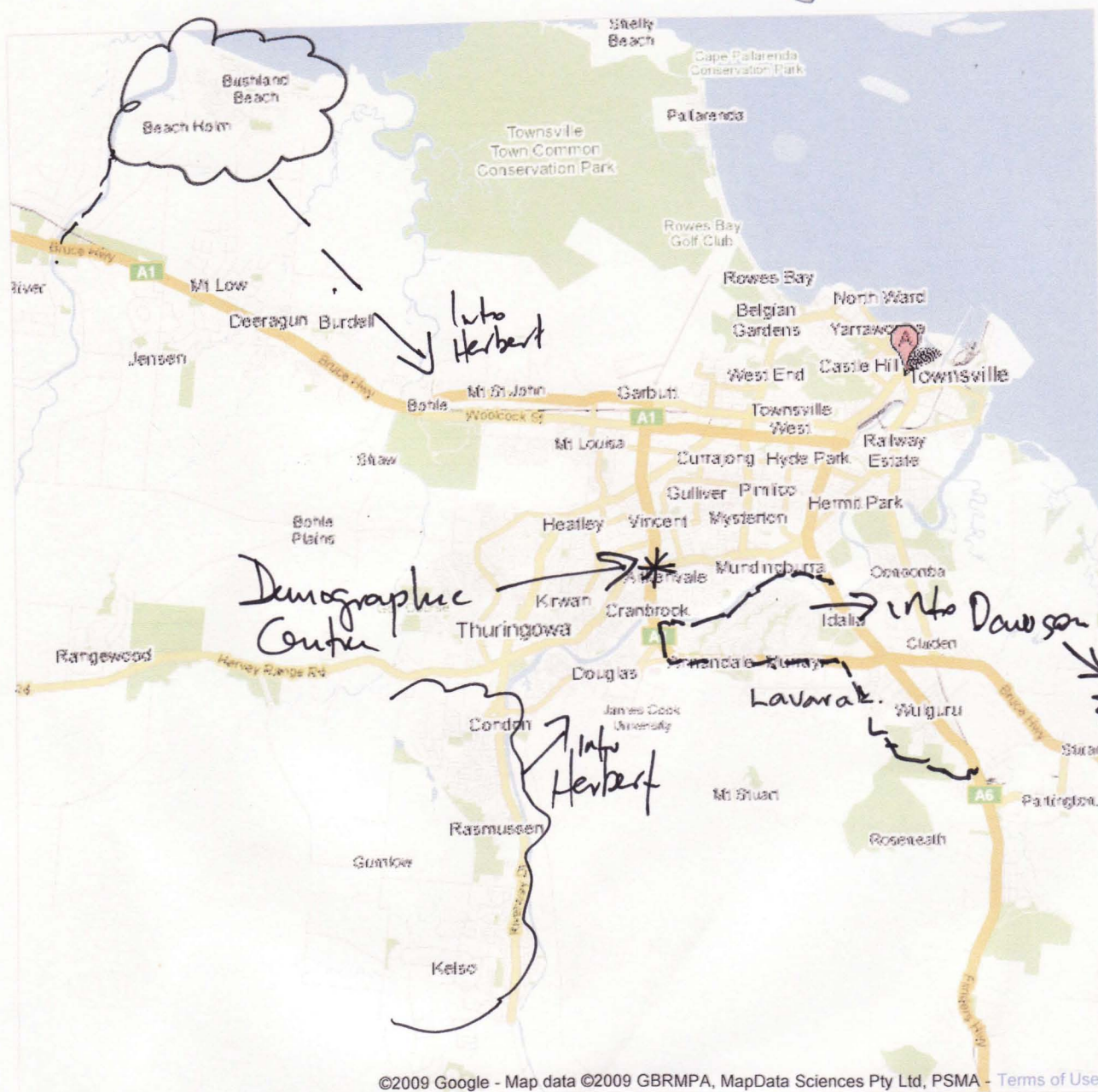
Phone: 07 47257858
Mobile: 0407 588206
email: joycefamily@ozemail.com.au

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