



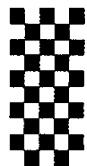
The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



**Comment Number 15
on Objections**

Aaron Barrett

3 pages

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Message:

Good afternoon everyone,

Could you please record the enclosed comments relating to the proposed redistribution of Queensland and mail me a copy of the Final Report when it becomes publicly available.

Many thanks

Aaron Barrett

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The Augmented Electoral Commission
Level 7/488 Queen St
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Dear Commission Members

Comments on Objections to the Proposed Redistribution of QLD 2009.

Over the last couple of weeks, I have looked over the objections to the latest proposed redistribution of Queensland and wish to make the following observations.

Objections to the Proposed Division of Wright.

I strongly endorse the remarks of J. Doyle, and also suggest to the Augmented Electoral Commission that the proposed Division of Wright be reconfigured. I concur with J. Doyle's suggestion that the Lockyer Valley council area could (should) be retained in Blair with a commensurate number of electors from the south of the Ipswich council area being transferred to Wright in return.

Objections to the Proposed Division of Dickson.

I think the predominant use of waterways in the configuration of the proposed Dickson/Longman boundary was a good idea. The same logic also works well where the proposed Division of Ryan is concerned, and has been used successfully by other States in the creation of their Federal Electorates for decades.

In fact, I think the Redistribution Committee did a generally fine job in determining the boundaries of all proposed Divisions in the Metropolitan Area and South East corner.

However, I'm not so sure about the configuration of the proposed Divisions in the north of the State.

Objections to the Proposed Divisions of Capricornia, Dawson, Herbert, Kennedy and Leichhardt.

With six new electorates created over the last seven elections in Queensland, the grouping of less densely populated areas of the State can become a thankless task for Redistribution Commissioners. However, I feel that the current commissioners brought the general wrath of the electors of the north on themselves in this exercise after placing too much emphasis on existing boundaries (as per the guidelines for the creation of federal electoral divisions).

Without doubt, the Division of Leichhardt should have become a provincial division based on the *entire* City of Cairns. There would then be no reason whatsoever that the Torres Strait Islands could not also be included in such a division (based upon the unique travel requirements of the islanders) in the same way that Lord Howe Island is included in the Division of Sydney (NSW) and Christmas Island is included in the Division of Lingiari (NT).

I also support the idea – floated in a number of objections from residents of greater Townsville – that that city be split into numerically equal halves and included in two divisions of roughly the same size.

The proposed situation – where an increasing proportion of Cairns is transferred to Kennedy; an increasing proportion of Townsville is transferred to Dawson; and an increasing proportion of Mackay is transferred to Capricornia – is clearly absolutely ludicrous and should not be further entertained.

I thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the redistribution process and look forward to the release of the final divisional boundaries in due course.

Yours sincerely



Aaron Barrett