



The Federal Redistribution 2009  
**QUEENSLAND**



---

**Comment Number 17  
on Objections**

**The Hon Bob Katter MP**

**23 pages**

---

**From:** Stocker, Elise (B. Katter, MP) [Elise.Stocker@aph.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 September 2009 3:18 PM  
**To:** QLD Redistribution  
**Subject:** 2009 Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in Queensland - Comments on Objections  
**Attachments:** comment on objections.doc; comment on submissions.doc; boundaries April 2009- final.doc

To the Redistribution Committee for Queensland,

Please find attached the Hon Bob Katter's comments on the Objections for the redistribution of the federal electoral boundaries in Queensland.

<<comment on objections.doc>> <<comment on submissions.doc>> <<boundaries April 2009- final.doc>>

Our office would greatly appreciate confirmation that this submission has been received by the Redistribution Committee prior to the deadline of 6pm Friday 4 September 2009.

Kind regards

***Elise Stocker***  
*Chief Of Staff*  
**Office of Hon Bob Katter MP**  
**Member for Kennedy**

**0448 155 967**  
Innisfail: 07 4061 6066

Canberra: 02 6277 4978  
Email: [elise.stocker@aph.gov.au](mailto:elise.stocker@aph.gov.au)  
Website: [www.bobkatter.com.au](http://www.bobkatter.com.au)

SUBMISSION TO REDISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE  
2009 Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries  
in Queensland

Comments on Objections

2 September 2009

The Hon Bob Katter  
Federal Member for Kennedy

## INTRODUCTION

The following comments are provided to the Redistribution Committee for consideration in accordance with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

The Katter Submission, dated 24 April 2009, detailed a *Cascade Proposal* that provides the least amount of disruption to electorates by recognising: significant economic, social and regional ties; communication and travel networks; key physical features; and State and Local government boundaries<sup>1</sup>. The Committee is required to consider these connections under section 66 of the Act.

On 8 May 2009, a further submission was made to the Redistribution Committee, which provided comments on Public Submissions. It opposed proposals to place:

- Mid West and Mt Isa into Maranoa (proposed by LNP, Bruce McIver);
- Charters Towers into Capricornia (proposed by ALP, Anthony Chisholm); and
- Cape York into Kennedy (proposed by LNP, Bruce McIver)

These proposals had no regard to the principles of commonality of interest, geographic proximity, and minimal disturbance.

### Charters Towers (and the rest of the MW) and Mt Isa

Putting the people of NW Qld into Maranoa (with a demographic centre closer to Melbourne than Mt Isa) and the people of Charters Towers into the Rockhampton seat of Capricornia are completely illogical proposals.

The people of the Gulf, MW and Mt Isa are worlds apart for the “Big City Blockys” – those living on small acreages (10-100 acres), but working and having significant connections within the city.

Over 90% of the MW and Mt Isa workforce is employed either directly, or indirectly, in hard rock mining or the railways - significantly different to the job opportunities in the more southern electorates.

Even the agricultural activities across the MW, Mt Isa and Gulf, which are predominately vast cattle stations (most over 150,000 acres – with few employees), are substantially different from the more labour intensive wheat, grains, sheep and cotton, and cattle-fattening operations in the Darling Downs.

---

<sup>1</sup> The *Cascade Proposal* and connections with Kennedy are detailed in the Katter Submission, Attachment 1 and 2.

MW, Gulf and Mt Isa regions have lines of communication and transport routes running east-west to the coastal areas of Townsville and Cairns (rather than north-south).

Some 1,300 students board at Charters Towers and another 400 at Townsville. Almost all of these students are from the Gulf, MW, Mount Isa, or farming communities north of Townsville. Few students by-pass these schools and board further south at Toowoomba, Brisbane, or Sydney.

Charters Towers relies for all of its major big city services upon Townsville, and whose survival depends upon the provision of service facilities to the towns along the Flinders Highway, west to Mount Isa, and up to the Gulf. Services, based in Charters Towers, provided to these regions include: educational, aged care and scientific research facilities.

Charters Towers has always been the spiritual centre of the Kennedy electorate. In fact for 106 years of the electorate's 108 year history, the Kennedy Member of Parliament has been from a Charters Towers family.

Both the ALP and LNP openly acknowledged the strong connections between Charters Towers and the Atherton Tablelands in their support for the joining of these 2 areas in recent State redistributions.

### Cape York

The Cape York and the Gulf communities have had a long history of differing traditional views, to a point of legal dispute and physical violence. Almost all Cape York communities are Torres Strait Islander, where as Gulf communities are most certainty not. Karumba and Normanton survive on tourism, and recreational and tourist fishing - Cape York does not receive a significant income from either.

The regional centre for all of the Gulf and Torres Strait Islander community is Cairns. Almost every family in Cape York and Torres Strait would have family in Cairns, and would commute there regularly. All of their commercial, health and administrative functions are controlled out of Cairns, not out of Innisfail or Mt Isa.

Taking these communities out of Cairns and putting them all into Kennedy is ridiculous - The cost of an Aurukun or Murray Islander resident getting from Cairns to Innisfail is prohibitive in fact \$100/day hire car is only reasonable access.

### **REDISTRIBUTION REPORT**

It remains my submission that the old original boundaries should remain. If however, change is necessary, then the governing legislation requires that it have minimal disturbance on existing arrangements.

It is my contention that the *Cascade Proposal* (outlined in previous submissions at Attachment 1 and 2) presents minimal disturbance, following natural boundaries and communities of interests. For the regional centres impacted, it provides a critical mass giving voters on the outskirts of these centres (and already in a different electorate) an improved local voice. Given the population distribution outside Brisbane, it would be impossible to keep the northern electorates similar in size and population, without impacting on these regional centres – dividing the major cities there's just not enough population outside of Townsville, Cairns and Mackay to make this possible.

The redistribution report follows the principles of the legislation guidelines and to our mind was predictable, logical and as directed by the law. Objections concerning Kennedy relate to the inclusion of Kuranda and Edmonton into Kennedy, and the flow-on effect of including the southern outskirts of Townsville into Dawson (with the LNP suggesting that instead Dawson should include Charters Towers and surrounds (sth of the Flinders Highway).

### Kuranda

Kuranda has strong links with Cairns and offers high end tourist activities for Cairns based operators. The links between Kuranda and Cairns are long-standing and undeniable, and therefore the objections put forward by these residents are totally understandable.

However, it is acknowledge that Kuranda forms part of the Atherton Tablelands, and forms part of the Tablelands Regional Council area. Prior to the recent local council amalgamations, Kuranda was located in Mareeba Shire and is often regarded as the 'gateway' to the Tablelands. As such, the argument for inclusion of Kuranda into Kennedy is understood.

### Edmonton

Edmonton historically has always been linked to Gordonvale. It was a sugar cane town based upon the Hambleton Sugar Mill. The main Hotel at Edmonton was the Hambleton.

Edmonton also has undeniably long-standing and strong links with Cairns but some part of Leichhardt or more specifically Cairns must move with half Edmonton already in Kennedy. The redistributors decision is the only logical outcome available but some part of Cairns has to be shed. Parts of Edmonton are already in Kennedy we always heavily (politically) campaign in the Edmonton town centre. It and Gordonvale comprised the old Mulgrave Shire (Mulgrave is the River at Gordonvale) which in the mid 1990s was amalgamated into Cairns City Council.

It also has strong connection with Gordonvale. These areas face similar challenges, being located between the most significant identified growth area in the north – Mt Peter. To

coordinate the future anticipated urban development and ensure that a united voice can be put forward, the argument for including these areas into Kennedy is understood.

It is noted that articles in the Cairns Post indicating that the Kennedy electorate office is based at Mt Isa (omitting reference to the Innisfail electorate office - 45 mins away from Edmonton and where the majority of electoral staff are based) have been particularly unhelpful.

### Charters Towers

Strong objection and opposition is levelled at the LNP proposal to transfer part of Charters Towers Regional Council (sth of Flinders Highway) into Dawson. The connection between this region and the rest of Kennedy has been detailed in this and the previous 2 submissions.

Charters Towers is nearly 150 km from Townsville, has a droughtmaster bull and country music statue over sighting the highway into town. Need I say any more. It is a mining town (still 400 miners working in the area). It is a boarding school centre servicing the bush, the small towns and communities of the mid west, gulf and some Mount Isa residents.

The School of Distance Education and the Lands Department Research Centre and the retirement Eventide Queensland Government Centre are the town's major employers. Every single industry looks west not east.

This proposal has absolutely no merit when the objectives of geographical proximity, community of interest and minimal disturbance are considered – indeed it would only appear to serve selfish, narrow political interests (to allow the LNP to keep Annandale and hold the marginal seat of Herbert). People are entitled to have faith that their Electoral Commission will not acquiesce to such self-serving political interest.

### **CONCLUSION**

Within the existing Kennedy boundary, electorate offices are located in Innisfail and Mt Isa to best service the electorate considering commonality of interest and geographic proximity. The offices are located in, and near, major population and employment centres. The Innisfail office predominately handles coastal and tableland issues (such as intensive agricultural production, tourism, rural residential development), whilst the Mt Isa office handles Gulf, Mid West and Mt Isa issues (such as mining, transport, cattle stations). It bears mentioning that my Chief of Staff is from Malanda, my PA is from Mareeba.

Therefore, it is recommended that existing boundaries remain. If however, change is necessary, then the current proposal by the redistribution commissioners is the only

solution that meets the criteria for minimal disturbance, and ensures that Kennedy and Leichhardt both remain within quota in 2012<sup>2</sup>.

Generally, the redistribution report follows the principles of the *Cascade Proposal*, and to this end it is supported. Any substantial change from the Kennedy boundaries proposed in this report would be met with strong criticism. There is no doubt that even a cursory glance at the objections indicates the most obvious political motivation.

If any changes from the current proposal are contemplated a further opportunity for comment would be essential.

We request the opportunity to make personal representation if there are any hearings.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Katter', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**The Hon. Bob Katter MP**  
**Federal Member for Kennedy**

---

<sup>2</sup> 2012 quota calculations should consider that future growth in Leichhardt is likely to concentrate on the southern outskirts of Cairns. With these areas being transferred into Kennedy, Leichhardt would only need to shed about 4,000 votes currently to meet the 2012 quota.

SUBMISSION TO REDISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE  
2009 Redistribution of Federal Electoral  
Boundaries in Queensland

Comments on Public Submissions

8 May 2009

The Hon Bob Katter  
Federal Member for Kennedy

The following comments are provided to the Redistribution Committee for consideration in accordance with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

The Katter Submission, dated 24 April 2009, detailed a *Cascade Proposal* that provides the least amount of disruption to electorates by recognising: significant economic, social and regional ties; communication and travel networks; key physical features; and State and Local government boundaries<sup>1</sup>. The Committee is required to consider these connections under section 66 of the Act.

Comment is provided on certain aspects of other Public Submissions that do not consider, and even seek to destroy, existing strong connections within Kennedy.

### **Proposal 1: Mid-West and Mount Isa into Maranoa (proposed by LNP, Bruce McIver)**

The LNP proposal puts the people of NW Qld into an electorate dominated by a population residing 250km from Brisbane, in a SE Qld seat. It is 'absurd', transgressing to a point of offence, clearly against the three overriding principles - commonality of interest; geographic proximity; and minimal distribution.

Under this proposal, Mount Isa and the Mid West (MW) would be placed in an electorate based on a demographic centre of Dalby (\*or even worse Kingaroy). Dalby is closer to Melbourne than it is to Mount Isa. The LNP has justified this proposal on the basis that it would provide a genuine community of interest. This is impossible to understand.

In the Mount Isa and MW, lines of communication and communities of interest run east-west, not north-south. Over 90% of the Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Hughenden work force is directly, or indirectly, in hard rock mining or the railways. This population has nothing in common with communities employed in the broad acre farming of wheat, grains, sheep and cotton, and cattle-fattening operations. These are industries of the Darling Downs, the heart of the Maranoa.

Cattle stations through MW, Mount Isa and Gulf are very rarely under 70,000 acres, and most are over 150,000 acres. They're invariably run by just a husband

---

<sup>1</sup> The *Cascade Proposal* and connections with Kennedy are detailed in the Katter Submission, Attachment 1 and 2.

and wife, resulting in very few people being employed in cattle. Railway services and mining are the main employers, not cattle.

Without mining and the railway, towns between Mount Isa and Hughenden would shrink to the size of Richmond and Julia Creek (under 100 people). Charters Towers still mines and processes copper silver gold zinc, so does Cloncurry, Julia Creek and Mount Isa. The railway depots at Mount Isa, Richmond, Hughenden and Charters Towers connect these mining operations to Townsville's huge zinc and copper refineries and port.

The second aspect of absurdity is putting Mount Isa, Cloncurry and the MW in with "Brisbane Blockys". These people live on small acreages (10-100 acres), stretching from Brisbane all the way up to Kingaroy. They want a rural lifestyle, but work and have significant connections with the city.

The second reason the LNP gave was that children from the region go to boarding school in Toowoomba. This is a most extraordinary exertion, I only know of three families from the region who have boarded in Toowoomba. It may be that, in any one year, 10 students from the region board at Toowoomba, Brisbane, or Sydney. At the same time, some 1,300 students board at Charters Towers and another 400 at Townsville. Almost all of these students are from the Gulf, MW, Mount Isa, or farming communities north of Townsville. All are in Kennedy.

A more logical solution would be to place the western shires within Flynn back into the seat of Maranoa. This has been supported by those shires in their submission to the Redistribution Committee, and would allow Maranoa to shed some eastern areas (bounding the seat of Dickson).

We would not be opposed to such a proposal. This could complement the *Cascade Proposal*, which allows the retention of Mount Isa and MW in Kennedy.

### **Proposal 2: Charters Towers into Capricornia (proposed by ALP, Anthony Chisholm)**

The broad principles of the ALP proposal are basically the same as our submission. They suggest a minimal distribution, simple cascade down the coast. The anomaly in their submission is proposing that Charters Towers be moved into the Rockhampton seat of Capricornia.

Charters Towers is a town that relies for all of its major big city services upon Townsville, and whose survival depends upon the provision of service facilities to the towns along the Flinders Highway, west to Mount Isa, and up to the Gulf. Services, based in Charters Towers, provided to these regions include: schooling facilities, educating over 1300 boarding students and the school of distance education; Nth Qld's Pest and Weed Research Station; and Eventide Homes, one of the states only 2 retirement facilities. Almost all Eventide residents are from the MW, Gulf and Mount Isa.

Charters Towers has always been the spiritual centre of the Kennedy electorate. In fact for 106 years of the electorate's 108 year history, the Kennedy Member of Parliament has been from a Charters Towers family.

The ALP has justified this proposal on the basis that it is better to include Charters Towers in Capricornia than to further split Mackay. This fails to acknowledge that the current Capricornia boundary is already in suburban Mackay.

The *Cascade Proposal* retains Charters Towers in Kennedy and requires a movement into suburban Mackay. However, central Mackay is left intact. This provides the critical mass necessary to give the people of southern Mackay (already in Capricornia) a stronger voice, whilst retaining central and northern Mackay as the heart of Dawson.

The ALP proposal also fails to acknowledge that, in the recent State redistributions, they strongly supported and succeeded in joining Charters Towers with the Tablelands in the creation of the seat of Dalrymple (a move also supported by the LNP). Now they are putting the completely opposite proposition forward, arguing that Charters Towers should be placed in the federal seat of Rockhampton. This brings into question the 'political objectivity' of this proposal.

### **Proposal 3: Cape York into Kennedy (proposed by LNP, Bruce McIver)**

The LNP suggest that there is community of interest between Cape York and the Gulf communities. This fails to acknowledge that there has been extreme sensitivity between the Cape York and Gulf areas to a point of legal dispute and physical violence.

Traditional views vary dramatically. Look no further than the recent wild rivers declarations - the Carpentaria (Murradoo Yanna) went in one direction and Cape York (Noel Pearson) went in a completely opposite direction. Almost all Cape York communities are Torres Strait Islander, where as Gulf communities are most certainty not. The Karumba and Normanton areas survive on general tourism, and recreational and tourist fishing - there is not Cape York community that has a significant income from either.

Clearly the LNP proposal was drawn up by people unaware that almost all commercial fishing was closed down by the 2 previous governments. All that is left is mostly based in Cairns. However, there is no doubt the Karumba and Torres Strait fishing industry is homogenous. Therefore, there would be logic in putting the Gulf, Cape York and Torres Straits into the Cairns electorate. The LNP has put forward the exact opposite proposition – taking these communities out of Cairns (where industry is based) and putting them into the sugar, mining hard rock, banana and agricultural electorate of Kennedy.

Almost every family in Cape York and Torres Strait would have family in Cairns. These communities have the strongest of strong ties, and reliance on, Cairns. All of their commercial, health and administrative functions are controlled out of Cairns, not out of Innisfail or Mount Isa.

The *Cascade Proposal* requires only a minor boundary change on the southern outskirts of Cairns to start the cascading of votes to south east Queensland. This will have limited effect on the seats of Kennedy and Leichhardt. These areas are key growth areas in Leichhardt and placement of these areas in Kennedy would ensure that both Kennedy and Leichhardt remain within quota in 2012<sup>2</sup>.

## **CONCLUSION**

The *Cascade Proposal* follows natural boundaries and communities of interests, and presents minimal disturbance of existing arrangements. It also allows the centres of major towns to remain intact, but does require some minor movements around the southern and northern outskirts of coast towns.

---

<sup>2</sup> 2012 quota calculations should consider that future growth in Leichhardt is likely to concentrate on the southern outskirts of Cairns. With these areas being transferred into Kennedy, Leichhardt would only need to shed about 4,000 votes currently to meet the 2012 quota.

The movements required are not highly disruptive and, in certain areas, allow for a critical mass to be reached ensuring that voters already on the outskirts of some cities will have an improved local voice.

The *Cascade Proposal* also avoids the need for bizarre scenarios, such as moving Mount Isa and the Mid West into Maranoa, Charters Towers into Capricornia and the Cape into Kennedy. All of which have been put forward, arguably, to serve selfish, narrow political interests.

People are entitled to have faith that their Electoral Commission will not acquiesce to such self-serving political interest.

I trust that due consideration will be given to the *Cascade Proposal* that I have put forward.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Katter', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

The Hon. Bob Katter MP  
Federal Member for Kennedy

# SUBMISSION TO REDISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

## 2009 Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in Queensland

The Hon Bob Katter  
Federal Member for Kennedy

### Summary

It is my primary proposal that the seat of Kennedy be retained in its entirety, within its current boundaries. This is due to:

- Significant economic, social and regional ties exist across Kennedy;
- Important communication and travel networks, which transect and unite Kennedy;
- Key physical features identify and define Kennedy; and
- Overlap with existing State and local government boundaries.

*These points are further detailed in Attachment 1.*

Clearly constant change to electoral boundaries is undesirable, with people becoming cynical of redistribution committees.

Members of parliament also become disillusioned after putting years into knowing and understanding the problems and commitments of their communities, when these communities are vanished out from under them by a redistribution pen.

Should, however, it be determined that electorates to the north need to shed votes to come closer to the “mean” providing votes for the new seat in south east Queensland. Then we would make a cascade proposal, “cascading” south 4,000-

5,000 electors from electorate to electorate (with 2 exceptions of where there'd be 6,000-7,000), down the east coast to south east Queensland.

All redistributions must start in the north since always the only option for an expanding Leichhardt is to shed votes into its only neighbouring electorate Kennedy, thus starting a southern cascading.

*Tables indicating the effect of this "Cascade Proposal" are provided in Attachment 2.*

With 35 years as Northern Development Minister or as Federal Member for Kennedy, I have had detailed and specific knowledge of every community in North Queensland. Most of the north electorates are fairly homogenous and, whilst it is unfortunate that part of Cairns is in Kennedy and part of Townsville is in Dawson, the size and growth of these cities and the redistribution quota have dictated this outcome.

The "Cascade proposal" I have put forward follows natural boundaries and communities of interests, and presents minimal disturbance of existing arrangements. It also allows the centres of major towns to remain in tact, but does require some movement of their southern and northern outskirts. However, anyone with a detailed knowledge of each of these towns would know that their current boundaries are already in suburbia. These boundaries will just have to move a little further north.

For example, my knowledge enables me to tell the Commissioner that:

- Kennedy already has Cairns suburban areas and to allow Leichhardt to fall within quota, the shedding of more into Kennedy is not highly disruptive;
- urban sprawl in Townsville finishes at the Mystic Sands subdivisions at Rollingstone. This is in sharp contrast to the areas north of Rollingstone where there are no subdivisions and where the broad acre farming of sugar stretches from Rollingstone to the southern outskirts of Cairns. And
- the current Capricornia boundary is already into outer urban Mackay.

As another example, The “Cascade proposal” also avoids the need for bizarre scenarios, such as moving Mount Isa into Maranoa. This would set the woods well and truly ablaze and the people of this area would be entitled to be outraged. Yet this was seriously proposed on a previous occasion: proposed in order, of course, to serve a selfish, narrow political interest.

Another extraordinary proposal put up recently is that Charters Towers be taken out of Kennedy. To indicate how out of touch with reality is this proposal, with the exception of 2 years in the 20s and 2 years in the early 90s, this seat has been continually held by a person from Charters Towers. So for 108 years Charters Towers has been, and still is, the spiritual heartland and centre of the Gulf, Mid West and Mount Isa area.

**Furthermore, both the ALP and LNP agreed Charters Towers and the Tablelands should be united together in a single state seat, Dalrymple. For either of these parties to now argue that these areas should now be split in a federal seat would be an exceptional hypocrisy, clearly indicating a political motivation.**

People are entitled to have faith that their Electoral Commission will not acquiesce to such self-serving political interest.

## PRIMARY PROPOSAL – Status Quo

The Redistribution Committee will be considering this redistribution in accordance with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. The enrolment quota for each electorate has been calculated at 88,343. As the electorates outside of south east Queensland are over quota only 20,000 (in total), it seems logical that the new seat will be created in south east Queensland.

**It is my primary proposal that the seat of Kennedy be retained in its entirety, within its current boundaries.** For convenience, I have categorised the key reasons for this proposal under headings consistent with section 66 of the Act.

Significant economic, social and regional ties exist across Kennedy and key physical features identify and define Kennedy within its present boundaries as a homogeneous and distinct area in terms of economic, sporting and community interests

- Kennedy has 5 highly connected regions: Tablelands, the Coastal Wet-belt, Mount Isa, Mid-West, and Gulf Country.
- Mount Isa is a key regional centre for towns in the mid-West and Gulf country. Indeed for this very reason the AEC has chosen to situate the Kennedy AEC office in this town.
- Charters Towers is an important education centre for the children of the Mount Isa area, Mid-West, Tablelands and Gulf Country. It was once regarded as the Education Capital of North Australia due to the large number of secondary boarding schools compared to the town's population. Students from the Mid-West and Gulf region make up about 50 per cent of the student population, with boarding students coming from towns such as Hughenden, Richmond, Julia Creek, Cloncurry, Mount Isa, Boulia, Burketown, Georgetown, Normanton and Karumba.
- State Origin rugby league players , Nathan Fein, and Jake Lillyman, for example, were both educated in Charters Towers boarding schools. Nathan was from Mount Isa and Jake was from Richmond.

- In sharp contrast children from the Central West (those without secondary schools ie. small towns and station properties) all go to Brisbane or Rockhampton – none go to Charters Towers.
- There is a strong sense of community between Charters Towers and other Mid West towns, a bond evidenced in the parents' choice of education, and its choice as a retirement centre. I can say with certainty that ease of travel to Charters Towers – as it is close and en-route to the more populated coastal areas – and the familiar 'Mid West town' feel most definitely factors into their consideration when they choose a boarding school for their children to attend or as a place to retire.
- Social events have created a great sense of community among towns along the Mid West. These events include the Julia Creek Dirt and Dust, Mount Isa Rodeo, Cloncurry Merry Muster, Charters Towers Country Music Festival and various agricultural and mining field days, race days and gymkhanas. Through such essential social gatherings there is a great sense of 'togetherness' among the Mid West and gulf towns.
- The Tablelands, with its' high rainfall and rich soils, provides cattle fattening for Gulf and Mid West cattle stations. Many stations across the Mid West and Gulf rely on Tableland produce and businesses to support their farming enterprises. For example, grain and molasses comes respectively from the Tablelands and from the Innisfail sugar mills. This provides supplement feed blocks to carry cattle in the Mid West and Gulf through the annual dry.

Important communication and travel networks, which transect and unite Kennedy

- The 6 town Mid West Rugby League competition covers the 4 Mid West towns of Hughenden, Richmond, Julia Creek and Cloncurry and includes the 2 Gulf towns of Normanton and Doomadgee. There is a proposed second tier competition for 2009, which will include the 4 Mount Isa clubs into the Mid West.
- Almost all of the Mid West, Mount Isa and Gulf cattle are sold at Charters Towers and processed at the meat works in Townsville.

- Charters Towers is a big Railway centre servicing the Townsville – Mount Isa Railway line.
- Mount Isa, and to a lesser extent Charters Towers, are both hard rock mining centres, which it must be emphasised bears absolutely no resemblance to coal mining; coal mining is quarrying – Hard rock mining is underground, tunnelling and stopeing.

#### Overlap with existing State and local government boundaries

- Kennedy includes almost all of the State electoral divisions of Mount Isa, Dalrymple, Mulgrave and Hinchinbrook. Only half of Mulgrave is in Kennedy at present. The Cascade proposal will bring all of Mulgrave into Kennedy. The State Redistribution Commission saw these areas as “homogeneous” as we do in this submission.
- Under the Cascade proposal, with the exception of a small part of Cook state electorate, state electoral boundaries will almost exactly mirror the Kennedy boundaries.
- Similarly, the local government boundaries, except for the incursion into Cairns, will almost exactly mirror the Kennedy boundaries.
- The important ties between Charters Towers and the Atherton Tablelands were most recent espoused by both the ALP and the LNP when they strongly supported the amalgamation of these two regions into the now State seat of Dalrymple.

## CASCADE PROPOSAL

The Cascade proposal suggests the movement of 4,000-7,000 votes of electors from Leichhardt down the east coast to the south east corner of Queensland. It has been designed to have a minimal impact on each electorate. This would require minor changes to the electoral boundaries of Leichhardt, Kennedy, Herbert, Dawson, Capricornia and Flynn.

The Cascade proposal would see the Kennedy electorate:

- incorporating areas south east of Cairns – Edmonton, Gordonvale<sup>1</sup> and Yarrabah<sup>2</sup> - a total of approx. 4,216 voters.
- shedding areas to the north of Townsville – Bluewater, Deeragun, Northern Beaches, Rollingstone, The Weir– a total of 5,129 voters.

In Kennedy, the Cascade proposal keeps the integrity of the electorate intact, whilst building on the strong social and economic ties between the areas south of Cairns and rest of the Kennedy electorate, and the areas north of Townsville and the electorate of Herbert. Many of the key reasons listed in Attachment 1 apply as reasons also for my support of the Cascade proposal. For brevity these reasons will not be repeated.

The areas removed from Kennedy into Herbert are rural residential areas of Townsville. These subdivisions extend from Townsville City to Mystic Sands subdivisions at Rollingstone. But north of Rollingstone is all broad acre cane farming. This caneland continues all the way north, through Ingham and Innisfail, to the outskirts of Cairns.

---

<sup>1</sup> Major portions of both Gordonvale and Yarrabah are already in Kennedy these are residual areas still in Leichhardt.

<sup>2</sup> As above.

Tables indicating the effect of the Cascade proposal are:

**Leichhardt to Kennedy**

Area to be transferred	Votes in 07
Edmonton	3,211
Gordonvale	283
Yarrabah	722
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,216</b>

Notional areas proposed for transfer from Leichhardt to Kennedy are south of Mill Rd, Edmonton. Leaving figures for proposed Leichhardt: 95,837 – 4,216 = 91,621<sup>3</sup> (over quota by 3,278 or 3.7%)

**Kennedy to Herbert**

Area to be transferred	Votes in 07
Bluewater	1,437
Deeragun	1,591
Northern Beaches	1,189
Rollingstone	636
The Weir	276
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,129</b>

Notional areas proposed for transfer from Kennedy to Herbert are along the beaches north of Townsville in the City of Thuringowa LGA. Leaving figures for proposed Kennedy: 92,642 + 4,216 – 5,129 = 91,729 (over quota by 3,386 or 3.8%).

The boundary between Kennedy and Herbert would start at Hencamp Creek up to the Paluma Range then south along the Range to Harvey Range Development Road, then east to Alice River then downstream to Rock Road continuing on in a direct line east to the Bohle River (the existing boundary of the Herbert electorate).

**Herbert to Dawson**

Area to be transferred	Votes in 07
Hermit Park South	1,299
Railway Estate	1,635
Townsville South	881
Wulguru	2544
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,359</b>

Notional areas proposed for transfer from Herbert to Dawson are (*from west to east*) – east of Flinders Hwy, Hermit Park, to Boundary Street then south east of Ross River (north of South

<sup>3</sup> These figures are approximate and should be viewed as indicative only. They have been sourced from the enrolments at February 2009 and the votes at polling places in the 2007 Federal Election. The sum provides: Enrolments as at Feb 09 + areas for inclusion (votes 07) – areas for exclusion (votes 07)= proposed enrolment

Townsville and Railway Estate). Leaving figures for proposed Herbert:  $92,042 + 5,129 - 6,359 = 90,812$  (or over quota by 2,469 or 2.8%).

All these areas are referred to in Townsville as South Townsville. It has always had a very definite separate and clearly different identity from Townsville proper.

(As an alternative proposal, Rasmussen and Kelso could be put into Dawson. This looks good on a map but badly cuts across reality. South Townsville now, and for the foreseeable future, will always be South Townsville with its own identity and community of interest. This alternative proposal would make the Bohle River, and not the Ross River the boundary. This would involve Wulguru, Lavarack Barracks and James Cook University going into Dawson, and Gollogly Lane running away from the Bohle River (which divides Condon from Rasmussen) as the new north boundary cutting off the parrots beak of Kelso and Rasmussen.)

### **Dawson to Capricornia**

<b>Area to be transferred</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Bakers Creek	525
Ooralea	1011
Racecourse	200
Walkerston	1697
West Mackay	2023
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,456</b>

Notational areas proposed for transfer from Dawson in to Capricornia are west and south of Bridge Road, West Mackay. Leaving figures for proposed Dawson:  $88,498 + 6,359 - 5,456 = 89,401$  (over quota by 1,058 or 1.2%).

This leaves central Mackay in tact, but does place some of the southern Mackay area into Capricornia. Any-one with a detailed on ground knowledge of Mackay knows that the current Capricornia boundary is already into outer urban Mackay. Like all of the northern seats, it will just move a little further north.

### **Capricornia to Flynn**

<b>Area to be transferred</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Bajool	257
Bouldercombe	508
Clermont	1303
Dysart	1129
Middlemount	815
Moranbah	1370
Moranbah West	996
Mount Morgan	1199
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,577</b>

Notional areas proposed for transfer from Capricornia to Flynn are the LGAs of Mount Morgan, Belyando, the south east portion of the Fitzroy LGA, and the western portion of Broadsound LGA (west of Fitzroy Developmental Road). Leaving figures for proposed Capricornia:  $93,691 + 5,456 - 7,577 = 91,570$  Capricornia would end up with 88,728 (Over quota by 3,227 or 3.6%).

Flynn already has 1/3 of Queensland's coal mining industry; this will give it another 1/3.

#### **Flynn to the South East**

Leaving figures for proposed Flynn:  $88,843 + 7,577 = 96,420$  (therefore Flynn would have an additional 8,077 votes (+ or - 3.5%) to contribute to the new seat in the south east).

I trust that due consideration will be placed on these primary and secondary proposals, and the strong reasons for these proposals that I have put forward.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Katter', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

The Hon. Bob Katter MP  
Federal Member for Kennedy