



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



Public Suggestion Number 16

Darren Delaney

3 pages

From: Dr. Darren Delaney [darrendelaney@ozemail.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2009 1:51 PM
To: QLD Redistribution
Subject: REDISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE FOR QUEENSLAND 2009
Attachments: Broad Submission to the Australian Electoral Commission - Federal Redistribution 2009 - Queensland - Email.doc

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Please find enclosed my submission to the AEC regarding redistribution involving the electorate of Leichhardt.

Kind Regards,

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24/4/2009

Mr. Ed Killestyn
Electoral Commissioner

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Dear Mr. Killestyn,

RE: QUEENSLAND FEDERAL ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION 2009

I make the following submission as a concerned resident of the Leichhardt Electorate in Far North Queensland. As an overview I recommend the Redistribution Committee considers contracting Leichhardt to the confines of the Cairns Regional Council along natural divisions of economy, social and regional infrastructure, and firmly established lines of travel. Leichhardt's population has, is, and will continue to expand in the regional centres of Cairns, Port Douglas, and Mossman.¹ I propose the most expedient method for contracting Leichhardt to accommodate an additional electorate in Queensland is around these robust regional centres.

The electorate of Leichhardt is presently the most distant from the capital of Queensland. Continuing growth within the main centres of this electorate have seen significant population shifts over recent years. It is anticipated that further shifts and growth will continue into the future around the regional towns of Cairns, Port Douglas, and Mossman.

Recent changes to the *Local Government Act 1993* (Qld) allowed the State Government to expand local councils to include much wider regions ergo greater populations. I use this as a reference

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Regional Population Growth Australia, 2007-8, Local Government Area Populations, Document 3218.0' < <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Products/3218.0~2007-08~Main+Features~Queensland?OpenDocument#LOCALGOVERNMENTAREAPOPULATIONS> > at 24 Apr 09.

point as the thrust of my submission is based on the natural economic, social, and regional separations within these regions. Pursuant to section 66 of the *Electoral Act 2001* (Cth) I submit that the most logical, sensible, and consistent method for contracting Leichhardt is around the extended boundaries of the Cairns Regional Council which incorporates the previous area of the Douglas Shire Council.

Cairns and Townsville are without question the central hubs of the Far North Queensland economy. As Townsville does not lie within the Leichhardt Electorate I leave its situation alone to focus on Cairns. This city continues to grow at a prolific rate. The Cairns region continues to lead the State in the population stakes with 253,724 residents with an annual growth of above 2.5%.² This is supported by strong manufacturing industries, employment in the entertainment and arts sector, and over 5300 employed in tourism and hospitality industries. Some 22,286 small business owners were registered in the Cairns region. As an aviation hub for the Far North over 2000 people are employed in regional aviation.³ Most of these industries are confined to the region supported by the Cairns Regional Council.

This highlights the density and focus on Cairns as the central point in the Leichhardt Electorate for all business, social, and regional travel. Cairns International Airport services direct linkages to Papua New Guinea, Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and Guam. This airport also acts as the hub for regional aviation. Cairns offers intercity train, bus, and air travel. It is the focal point for reef tourism adventures along with Port Douglas. Furthermore, all major businesses are located within the confines of the Cairns Regional Council in Far North Queensland.

Transport networks within the Cairns Regional Council boundaries (annexure A) service all of Cairns CBD and surrounds. Private firm bus transport exists between Cairns and Port Douglas extending as far as the urbanised growth areas in Mossman. Taxis extend throughout the regions of the Cairns Regional Council.

Restricting Leichhardt to the greater Cairns Regional Council boundaries is the most efficient and effective means of accommodating elector number restrictions for this redistribution. Across a vast landmass the enclaves of Cairns, Port Douglas, and Mossman satisfy the natural social, infrastructure, and travel lines to be incorporated into a contracted Leichhardt.

Leichhardt is synonymous with Cairns in the eyes of locals and travellers from afar. The most sensible means of redistribution for this region is thus focussed on reducing the boundaries to incorporate the three main centres of economic and social activity.

Yours Sincerely,



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² Cairns Chamber of Commerce, *2008 Cairns Report* (2008), 16.

³ Ibid.