



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Objection Number 8

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2 pages

OBJECTIONS TO 2017 QUEENSLAND REDISTRIBUTION

(Dr Mark Mulcair)

INTRODUCTION

The Committee has very clearly taken a “minimalist” approach to this redistribution, making the smallest possible number of changes to achieve quota for all 30 Divisions. It’s fair to say that I am disappointed with this outcome, as I feel the Committee has missed the opportunity to correct larger-scale problems.

I understand the logic of maintaining existing boundaries, and keeping electors within their current Division as far as possible. In particular, for those people in areas near electorate borders, I can understand their frustration in being swapped in and out of different Divisions at each redistribution. However, in this case I believe that more significant changes would have helped, not hurt, local communities by:

- Uniting Rockhampton in Capricornia, and tidying up the boundaries around Mackay and Townsville.
- Uniting the Gold Coast hinterland with the coast.
- Reconstructing Forde as an entirely Gold Coast based Division, and moving the southern Brisbane suburbs into Rankin.
- Improving the coherence of the currently ‘bits-and-pieces’ Division of Wright.

At the same time, I accept that the Committee will not be rethinking its strategy and making major adjustments at this late stage. In that case, I have only a small number of very minor adjustments that simply tidy up and straighten a few boundaries.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIONS

Brisbane/Ryan:

The proposed new boundary follows Waddell Street and Frasers Road, but this isolates a small area north of Enoggera Creek. I suggest it is more logical to extend the boundary along Waddell Street to the creek, and then follow the creek to the existing boundary at Waterworks Road.

This change adds only a few hundred electors to Ryan, leaving both it and Brisbane well within tolerance.

Moreton/Oxley:

The Committee's proposed boundary through Oxley makes a number of "dog legs", and isolates an area south of Oxley Park and east of Oxley Road. It would seem more sensible to me to straighten the boundary to run through Oxley Park and then onto Englefield Road.

This transfers around 500 electors from Moreton to Oxley, leaving both Divisions within tolerance.

Kennedy/Dawson/Herbert:

I still think it is sensible to re-unite Burdekin Shire in Dawson, since only around 130 electors are involved.

In keeping with my original suggestions, the handful of electors in the Gumlow and Pinnacles areas seem to be completely cut off from the rest of Kennedy, and would fit better in the Division of Herbert.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

One further comment I would make to the Committee (and future committees) is just a personal preference. I would suggest returning to the previous method of outlining the redistribution reports, by geography instead of by alphabetical order.

Until recently, redistribution committees always outlined their redistribution "in the order which Divisions relate to each other". There was clear logic in this approach, beginning in one corner of the state and gradually working inwards, and this made the committees' decisions very easy to follow. In contrast, it is far more difficult to follow committees' logic when the Divisions are presented in alphabetical order, since the description jumps around from one part of the state to another.