



The Federal Redistribution 2003  
QUEENSLAND



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**Comment Number Six on Public Suggestions**

**Paul Neville MP  
Member for Hinkler**

**4 pages**

# COMMENT

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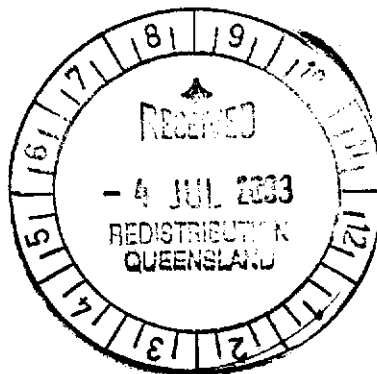


PAUL NEVILLE MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HINKLER AND NATIONAL PARTY WHIP

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

22 April 2003

Attention: Anne Bright  
Australian Electoral Officer  
Redistribution Secretariat  
Australian Electoral Commission  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor 488 Queen Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000



Dear Ms Bright

## Overview

The Federal Division of Hinkler, has since its inception in 1984, encompassed the cities of Bundaberg and Gladstone, their immediate adjoining shires and to varying extents, their hinterlands.

I would submit from the point of view of

- Social cohesion
- Community of interest
- Road and rail systems
- Complimentary industries

that this should continue to be Hinkler's focus.

The cities of Bundaberg and Gladstone are centres with professional, business, medical, educational and agricultural services which are accessed by the Central and North Burnett Shires namely Isis, Biggenden, Gayndah, Mundubbera, Eidsvold, Perry and Kolan, Monto and immediately to their north, Banana Shire.

Of course, the numerical constraints of the quota and the 10 and 3 ½ percentage tolerances will not allow all to be part of a Hinkler Division, but a fair proportion can.

## Current difficulties

1. The current configuration of Hinkler has led to much comment and dissatisfaction in two areas. First, Kolan and the smaller shire of Perry see themselves very much as part of the Bundaberg community of interests. Their

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social, professional, business, medical and agricultural interests (eg sugar, tree crops and small crops) focus on Bundaberg. Gin Gin district sugar is crushed at Bingera in the Hinkler electorate. Bundaberg district's major water storage, the Monduran Dam, is located in the Kolan Shire. Its operations are seminal to the southern half of Hinkler and service Kolan, Burnett, Bundaberg and Isis local authorities.

A new dam at Paradise in the Biggenden Shire will service and consolidate a similar area.

2. A number of residents in the Shire of Mt Morgan see their community of interest, social medical, employment (Centrelink), government agencies (inc Telstra and electricity) very much as part of Rockhampton (and by extension, Capricornia))

### **Party Submissions:**

The three major political parties initial submissions for the new Hinkler appear to argue on the basic structure of

Calliope Shire  
Gladstone City  
Miriam Vale Shire  
Burnett Shire  
Bundaberg City  
Kolan Shire  
Perry Shire

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This leads to three possible configurations which support my initial contention:

***(i) The Liberal Party suggests:***

Calliope Shire  
Gladstone City  
Miriam Vale Shire  
Burnett Shire  
Bundaberg City  
Isis Shire  
Kolan Shire  
Perry Shire  
Biggenden Shire  
Gayndah Shire  
Mundubbera Shire

Current: 88 008 (+4.67%)

Projected: 93 911 (+0.31%)

This configuration is based on the core local authorities adding all the Central Burnett Shires of Biggenden, Gayndah and Mundubbera and by so doing puts all the East and Central Burnett Shires which focus on Bundaberg, in Hinkler. It too recognises the Bruce Highway and the Burnett Highway as major arteries.

**(ii) The National Party suggests:**

Calliope Shire  
Gladstone City  
Miriam Vale Shire  
Burnett Shire  
Bundaberg City  
Isis Shire  
Kolan Shire  
Perry Shire  
Monto Shire

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Current: 84 786 (+.84%)                      Projected: 90 536 (-3.2%)

This is the "tidiest" configuration and recognises not only the immediate hinterland Shires of Bundaberg but also Monto in the Gladstone Hinterland. It also builds the electorate around the Bruce Highway as its north-south artery and adds the Burnett Highway and the Monto/Gladstone Road as the east-west arteries.

**(iii) A Variation on the above**, but with an emphasis on the Gladstone hinterland would be the core agreed local authorities (in the 3 major party suggestions) adding

Banana Shire (southern half)  
Monto Shire

There are two sub-communities of interest in Banana Shire. The north focuses on Rockhampton as its major centre and the South on Gladstone. The State Electorate boundary of Fitzroy is a good delineator and is consistent with similar divisions of Banana Shire.

This variation also builds around two major rail (Callide and Monto) lines and two road arteries (Dawson Highway and Monto/Gladstone Road).

**I would be against:**

The ALP submission which essentially pushes the Hinkler Division north, has five major flaws

- (a) it exacerbates the division of the near-Rockhampton community by further dividing the Fitzroy Shire
- (b) it does not recognise the Mt Morgan community of interest
- (c) it centres Hinkler on three provincial cities rather than two
- (d) it does so at the expense of associating relevant hinterland shires with their communities of interest in Gladstone and Bundaberg
- (e) it does not recognise the east-west highway and road systems

At the southern end of the Division, it would remove the Isis Shire and further dislocate the community of interest (especially in sugar, small crops, water and government services) which centre on Bundaberg.

**Summary**


On Balance, it would seem that adding the immediate hinterland of Bundaberg or Gladstone to the Hinkler Division (as outlined in (i) (ii) and (iii)

- (a) balances the Hinkler shortfall
- (b) causes minimal disruption to the existing boundary
- (c) strengthens and consolidates traditional communities of interest
- (d) recognises the Bruce Highway, the Burnett Highway and possibly the Dawson Highway

Kind regards  
Yours sincerely

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Neville', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Paul Neville MP  
Member for Hinkler