



The Federal Redistribution 2003  
QUEENSLAND



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**Comment Number Nine on Public Suggestions**

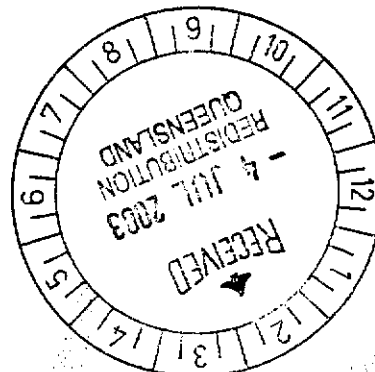
**ISIS Shire Council**

**2 pages**

**COMMENT****4--9**

Our Ref: SDJ:WT:ED2

The Re-Distribution Committee for Queensland  
 Australian Electoral Commission  
 Level 7 Collection House  
 488 Queen Street  
 BRISBANE QLD 4000

**BY FACSIMILE: 3831 9683**

Dear Sir

**COMMENTS ON THE SUBMISSION TO THE RE-DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE BY THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY (QUEENSLAND BRANCH) DATED 20 JUNE 2003**

I refer to the abovementioned submission which, in part on page 6, suggests that one way in which to satisfy the requirements of Section 66 for the seats of Hinkler and Wide Bay would be to transfer the Isis Local Government area from its existing base in the Hinkler electorate to that of the division of Wide Bay.

Isis Shire Council wishes to record its strenuous objection to this suggestion for a number of reasons as follows:

**1. Community of Interest**

There is little doubt that the Isis Shire Council's major community of interest lies within the Hinkler electorate, in particular with the City of Bundaberg which Isis Shire residents rely on as their major regional centre. Bundaberg provides a range of services and facilities which Isis residents regularly use and are reliant on in the fields of financial, legal, specialist medical, sporting facilities and entertainment. In addition, Bundaberg is the major transport hub for air travel and rail travel facilities to other parts of Queensland and Australia. Bundaberg is only some 30 to 40 minutes travel either by way of two major arterial roads that link the Shire with Bundaberg.

Currently the Federal Member for the seat of Hinkler retains his major office within Bundaberg which enables ready access for Isis residents for accessing the Federal member and his staff for advice and assistance on a range of Commonwealth related matters.

If the Isis Local Government area was to be transferred to the electoral district of Wide Bay this would mean that to physically access the Federal Member would involve a trip to either Maryborough or Kingaroy. Both these towns would require a longer trip by road travel than that which exists to Bundaberg and the necessity for most of that trip to be along the busy Bruce Highway. In addition, the majority of Isis Shire residents have no natural affiliation with

ISIS SHIRE COUNCIL

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Maryborough or community of interest with that city compared to Bundaberg. This would lead to residents being forced to travel 45 minutes south to access their member, whilst Council would have no doubt they would continue to head north to Bundaberg to access all other goods and services not available in Childers.

Council believes the suggestion proposed by the Australian Labor Party has not been cognisant of the criteria set down by the Committee in looking at any proposed electoral boundary change. The Labor Party's submission is purely based on achieving the numerical requirements of Section 66(3) without any reference at all to the extremely important issues of community of interest and means of communication and travel that currently provide the important links between the Isis Shire and the Hinkler electorate.

Council believes there are more prudent methods to achieve the population base required for each of the two electorates without ignoring the important community of interest issues that should be pre-eminent in the review process.

There is little doubt that placing the Isis Local Government area within the Wide Bay electorate would lead to a feeling of alienation and disenfranchisement for the residents and voters in our area. Council urges the Electoral Commission to retain the Isis Shire Council within the electorate of Hinkler and look at other options to achieve the requirements of Section 66(3) within the electorates of Wide Bay and Hinkler.

Yours faithfully



**CHRISTOPHER JOOSEN**  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

4 July 2003