



The Federal Redistribution 2003
QUEENSLAND



Comment Number Eleven on Public Suggestions

Liberal Party of Australia

7 pages

LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (QLD DIVISION)

COMMENT ON PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS

4 July 2003

INTRODUCTION

In reviewing the public suggestions submitted to the Australian Electoral Commission [AEC] for the 2003 Queensland redistribution, the Liberal Party has identified a number of issues, which it believes should be given further scrutiny by the redistribution committee.

The surprising absence of any clear view regarding how the twenty eight divisions in Queensland should be made up and the lack of any divisional maps or divisional CCD data within the Australian Labor Party submission makes it difficult to comment upon, in any detail. However, we do offer comments later based on the small submission that was presented.

NAME OF NEW ELECTORAL DIVISION

The Liberal Party has proposed the name of **Bonner** for the division, which is to be created in this redistribution. It is noted that the name **Bonner** has been proposed and supported by a number of independent submissions.

Without wishing to detract from the contributions made to Queensland by Messrs Hanlon, Lang and Macrossan, or Ms Miller, the Liberal Party submits that, by choosing to name the new division **Bonner**, the commission would be recognising the achievements and widely-held respect of one of our most revered, courageous and trail-blazing public figures. As identified in the submissions proposing this name, Neville Bonner will long be remembered as a highly respected person, who not only contributed to improving the life of all Queenslanders through his work in the Senate, but also set an example for what hard work and determination could achieve.

It is noted, that in spite of the guidelines, and rationale therein, published by the commission for the naming of new divisions, the Australian Democrats and Queensland Nationals have each proposed a geographic name for the new electorate. For the reasons previously canvassed by the commission, the Liberal Party supports the notion of naming the new division after "...former citizens who have rendered outstanding service to their country...".

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

The Liberal Party acknowledges the effort associated with preparing a submission for the Commission and notes the number of people and organisations that have contributed proposals for the redistribution of divisions.

Specific comment is provided on each submission that identifies a specific boundary change.

Submission 2 – Peter Murray

Mr Murray proposes that the new division be located on the south side of the Brisbane River and that the seat of Ryan be on the north side of the river.

Whilst the Liberal Party supports locating the new division on the south side of the Brisbane River, it does not believe, at this point in time, that there are sufficient electors on the north side of the Brisbane River for Ryan to be contained totally therein.

Submission 4 – Australian Democrats

The Liberal Party broadly endorses a number of principles advocated by the Australian Democrats, in its submission. It does note, however, that the Australian Democrats are proposing a number of significant changes, which would cause severe dislocation to existing divisions and communities of interest.

With regard to this submission, the Liberal Party specifically supports:

- the concept of having a division focused on the Shire of Redlands.
- incorporating Toowong, most of Bardon and parts of Paddington and Milton into the division of Ryan, from the division of Brisbane.
- transferring all electors within the City of Brisbane from the division of Dickson to the division of Brisbane.
- transferring all electors to the west of the Bruce Highway from the division of Fisher to the division of Fairfax.

The Liberal Party does not believe that the Australian Democrats have given sufficient regard to the physical features of proposed divisions, or to maintaining communities of interest and considering the means of communication and travel, within proposed electoral divisions. In this regard, we disagree with the Australian Democrats proposals:

- making unnecessary changes to divisions that would otherwise remain with quota (namely Groom, Leichardt and Lilley).
- shifting Landsborough from the division of Longman to the division of Fisher, despite proposing all other electors to the west of the Bruce Highway be moved from the division of Fisher to the division of Fairfax.

- increasing the number of divisions crossing the Pacific Motorway (M1), despite this being a major transport corridor, which is becoming a more significant divide between communities of interest.
- placing most of the residents within the City of Ipswich into a division that would stretch north to incorporate parts of the City of Caloundra. This suggestion by the Australian Democrats runs counter to the “community of interest” argument used to justify this proposition and is nonsensical given the Australian Democrats support for a division to be based on the smaller Shire of Redlands.

Further, it is noted that the Australian Democrats have only detailed enrolment figures for 31 July 2007. It is therefore difficult to assess whether this submission satisfies existing quota requirements. In this regard, the Liberal Party questions whether a number of the changes proposed by the Australian Democrats are viable. For example, the proposal by the Australian Democrats to transfer 14,137 electors from the division of Longman, is simply not possible within present quota limitations. Similar concern exists for changes proposed to a number of other divisions.

Submission 5 – Bellthorpe Road Safety Council

Whilst the issues raised by the Bellthorpe Road Safety Council are worthy of consideration, the Liberal Party acknowledges that this is a matter for the Electoral Commission of Queensland to consider in its next redistribution of state electorates.

Submission 7 – Christopher Connolly

It is noted that Mr Connolly supports locating the new division to the south of the City of Brisbane. The Liberal Party supports the rationale advocated by Mr Connolly for locating this division on the south side of the Brisbane River, within the City of Brisbane. As was the case in the submission proposed by the Australian Democrats, Mr Connolly proposes a number of significant changes, which would cause severe dislocation to existing divisions and communities of interest.

The Liberal Party specifically rejects the suggestion by Mr Connolly that the division of Dickson be extended to incorporate much of its existing territory and the northern parts of the existing division of Blair. The areas presently contained within the division of Blair and proposed by Mr Connolly to move into the division of Dickson do not share any community of interest with the outer-metropolitan suburbs presently with the division of Dickson. The adoption of the changes proposed by Mr Connolly in this regard would create an unwieldy electorate, which would be separated by vastly different issues of concern. Furthermore, such a proposal appears to have given no consideration to communication and travel. This is especially the case given the lack of shared media and an absence of efficient unifying transport corridors.

It is noted that Mr Connolly has not provided any enrolment projections for his proposed changes. The Liberal Party contends that it is therefore difficult to assess whether this submission satisfies existing quota requirements. In this regard, the Liberal Party questions whether a number of the changes proposed by Mr Connolly are viable.

Submission 8 – Queensland Nationals

It is noted that, like the Australian Democrats, the Queensland Nationals are seeking to shift the focus of the division of Oxley from the City of Ipswich. Such a shift would place the majority of electors residing within the City of Ipswich into a division that extends north to incorporate the Shire of Kilcoy. These areas have no community of interest and lack common communication and transport links.

The City of Ipswich is an entity, which should be represented by an urban division. This is effectively the case with the existing division of Oxley.

The Liberal Party rejects the suggestion that the majority of electors within the City of Ipswich should be placed in a rural and disparate electoral division. Furthermore, the Liberal Party contends that changes to the division of Oxley should be minimised, in order to ensure it remains centred on the City of Ipswich and the outer western suburbs within the City of Brisbane.

It is also noted that the Queensland Nationals propose unnecessary changes to the divisions of Groom, Dawson and Lilley.

Submission 9 – Perry Shire Council

The Liberal Party supports the proposal by the Perry Shire Council, for the reasons outlined in its submission, that the Shire of Perry be relocated from the Division of Wide Bay to the Division of Hinkler.

Submission 10 – Kolan Shire Council

The Liberal Party supports the proposal by the Kolan Shire Council, for the reasons outlined in its submission, that the Shire of Kolan be relocated from the Division of Wide Bay to the Division of Hinkler.

Submission 11 – Bernie Ripoll MP, Member for Oxley

The Liberal Party agrees with the suggestion by Mr Ripoll MP that the division of Oxley should retain its essential western suburbs communities of interest, namely Ipswich CBD and suburbs to the south, the Goodna region and the Brisbane western suburbs of Inala and Forest Lake.

Submission 17 – Kathleen E Crees

The Liberal Party supports the notion of containing Victoria Point within a single division. It notes, however, the specific concerns raised by Ms Crees are issues for the Redlands Shire Council and the Electoral Commission of Queensland in regard to local council boundaries.

Submission 18 – Hon Arch Bevis MP, Member for Brisbane

The Liberal Party endorses the view espoused by the Hon Arch Bevis MP that the division of Brisbane "...has long been identified with the inner city region and north/north west suburbs of Brisbane." and that "...due regard should be given to the community of interest of constituents who live in those areas."

The changes proposed to the division of Brisbane by the Liberal Party enhance its community of interest, by retaining its focus on the inner city and expanding its presence in north/north west suburbs.

Submission 19 – Hon Bob Katter MP, Member for Kennedy

The Liberal Party supports the submission by the Hon Bob Katter MP that no changes need to be made to the divisions of Leichardt or Dawson. Furthermore, the Liberal Party agrees that the changes required to the division of Kennedy, in order to satisfy quota requirements, can be met by transferring electors wholly from within the division of Herbert.

It is noted that Mr Katter does not support the transfer of Palm Island from the division of Herbert to the division of Kennedy. The Liberal Party contends that it is timely to consider shifting Palm Island from the division of Herbert to the division of Kennedy.

At this point in time, the division of Herbert needs to lose a significant number of electors to satisfy quota requirements. Given the desire to retain communities of interest, wherever possible, it is difficult to remove the required number of electors from the division of Herbert, without transferring parts of urban communities into the vast division of Kennedy. It is therefore logical to consider transferring Palm Island from the division of Herbert, as it is off the coast of the division of Kennedy and would minimise disruption to other, stronger, communities of interest. In this regard, the transfer of Palm Island from the division of Herbert to the division of Kennedy, would mitigate the need to transfer areas that have a much stronger community of interest with the Townsville region.

Submission 20 – Anne Chapman

The Liberal Party broadly supports the notion of creating a division based on the Gold Coast hinterland. It also acknowledges the different communities of interest that presently exist within the division of Forde.

In its submission, the Liberal Party has proposed that the division of Forde would incorporate much of the Gold Coast hinterland. To facilitate this change to the division of Forde, it is proposed that the division of Rankin would extend south to accommodate Beenleigh, Mt Warren Park and those localities to the north of the Albert River, that are in the existing division of Forde and which have a strong community of interest with the south western parts of the City of Logan. The Liberal Party has also proposed that areas to the west of the Mount Lindsay Highway, with the exception of some communities of interest around Beaudesert and Jimboomba, would be transferred from the existing division of Forde to the division of Blair.

With substantial enrolment growth projected in the Gold Coast region, it is difficult to propose boundaries that meet quota requirements. The Liberal Party believes its suggestions, in this regard, allow for the creation of a Gold Coast hinterland division that not only remains within quota over the forecast period, but also has a strong, identifiable, community of interest.

Submission 22 – Bradley Forsyth

The Liberal Party objects to the changes proposed by Mr Forsyth.

Mr Forsyth appears to have based his submission on the economic status and needs of electors, as opposed to communities of interest, or means of communication and travel. Furthermore, Mr Forsyth has not provided any enrolment projections for his proposed changes.

In the absence of any verifiable data, the Liberal Party questions whether the changes proposed by Mr Forsyth satisfy quota requirements. Similarly, the Liberal Party contends that the adoption of such changes would cause significant and unnecessary dislocation to existing electoral divisions.

Submission 23 – Australian Labor Party, Queensland Branch

As stated in our introduction the surprising absence of any clear view regarding how the twenty eight divisions in Queensland should be made up and the lack of any divisional maps or divisional CCD data within the Australian Labor Party submission makes it difficult to give detailed comment. However we do offer the following comments.

The Liberal Party endorses the Australian Labor Party [ALP] in expressing the view that no changes need to be made to the divisions of Leichardt, or Dawson.

With respect to the changes proposed by the ALP for the division of Herbert, the Liberal Party, for the reasons outlined in response to the submission made by Mr Katter, challenges the view that Palm Island should not be moved into the division of Kennedy. It is submitted that shifting Palm Island into the division of Kennedy would present a way to most adequately preserve existing communities of interest within the division of Herbert. By leaving Palm Island within the division of Herbert a large number of electors living within the urban conurbation of Townsville will have to be transferred into the vast division of Kennedy.

The Liberal Party also notes the changes proposed by the ALP to the divisions of Capricornia, Hinkler and Wide Bay. Whilst the Liberal Party takes issue with the specific nature of these changes, it does note the need to substantially increase the number of electors in these divisions and supports the ALP in proposing a transfer of electors from the division of Fairfax (Cooloolool Shire) to the division of Wide Bay. As the ALP has provided no detail in this regard, the Liberal Party assumes that, to achieve this outcome, the ALP has a broadly similar view of the changes that need to occur in divisions within south-east Queensland. In this regard, the Liberal Party submission has clearly identified a way to transfer electors from the Sunshine Coast to satisfy quota requirements in Wide Bay, Hinkler and Capricornia. The Liberal Party submission was formulated after careful consideration of enrolment growth forecasts and the need to preserve communities of interest.

Submission 29 – Wayne Swan MP, Member for Lilley

The Liberal Party notes the comments made by Mr Swan MP and reiterates its view that no material change ought to be made to the division of Lilley.