



The Federal Redistribution 2003  
**QUEENSLAND**



---

**Comment Number Twelve on Public Suggestions**

**Australian Labor Party  
Queensland Branch**

**3 pages**

**COMMENT**

**№ - 1 2**

**Australian Labor Party**  
Queensland Branch

**Comments on Public Suggestions to the Redistribution Committee**

**4 July 2003**

Australian Labor Party  
Queensland Branch  
PO Box 5032  
WEST END QLD 4101

## **Overview**

The Australian Labor Party is pleased with the opportunity to provide some comment on the suggestions received from the public by the Redistribution Committee.

Our comments are brief and relate to those areas where the Australian Labor Party made specific suggestions in our original submission.

## **General Approach**

We note that there was a degree of commonality across a number of submissions in proposing to retain the divisions of Leichhardt<sup>1</sup> and Dawson<sup>2</sup> as presently constituted.

We note that the Liberal Party support the retention of the existing boundaries for Leichhardt and Dawson, despite adopting a different methodology to that adopted by the 1997 Redistribution Committee and endorsed in the ALP submission to the 2003 Redistribution Committee.

In contrast to the past approach of commencing at the northern part of the state and working towards the area of highest growth (south-east Queensland), the Liberal Party described their approach in the following terms:

[The Liberal Party's] methodology was effectively to commence the redistribution at the southeast corner of the State, in the division of McPherson; and proceed along the east coast through the divisions of Moncrieff, Fadden and Bowman.<sup>3</sup>

The Australian Labor Party re-states its support for the approach adopted by the previous Redistribution Committee to commence the process from the northern extremity of the state.

## **Divisions of Herbert/Kennedy**

The public suggestions include the recommendation to remove Palm Island from the Division of Herbert. This is a position often advanced, and never accepted by the Redistribution Committee.

This issue was the subject of discussion at the public hearings in 1997 and we refer the 2003 Redistribution Committee to those comments. The ALP does not support the removal of Palm Island from the Division of Herbert.

We note that the Member for Kennedy proposes similar arguments to those contained within the ALP's original submission.

We would also question the suggestion by the Liberal Party that divides the heavily residential area of the Upper Ross in half while retaining the southern outer-urban communities of the Division. We believe stronger arguments based on community of

---

<sup>1</sup> Liberal Party of Australia; Bob Katter MP; National Party of Australia.

<sup>2</sup> Liberal Party of Australia; Bob Katter MP.

<sup>3</sup> Liberal Party of Australia Submission, p 3.

interest, physical features and transport and communications links exist for retaining all the Upper Ross in the Division of Herbert.

In fact, this particular suggestion from the Liberal Party is indicative of a submission that seeks electoral advantage ahead of genuine proposals for change in keeping with the principles of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act*<sup>4</sup>. On our analysis of the boundaries suggested by the Liberal Party, there are six notionally Labor electorates in the twenty-eight divisions proposed<sup>5</sup> whereas the Labor Party holds seven of the twenty-seven current divisions.

### **Divisions of Hinkler/Capricornia**

The Liberal Party proposals for the Divisions of Capricornia and Hinkler substantially change the nature of both divisions as presently constituted.

The ALP's submission seeks to retain the essential nature of Capricornia as a mining and cattle division based on the community of interest extending along the Capricorn Highway while substantively preserving Hinkler as a Coastal division containing both Gladstone and Bundaberg.

We also note that our suggestions seek the transfer of a substantially fewer number of local government areas and electors amongst these divisions compared to the Liberal Party submission.

### **Conclusion**

The task of the 2003 Redistribution Committee remains a challenging one. The Australian Labor Party's general strategic approach was outlined in our original submission and we look forward to reviewing the proposal of the Redistribution Committee.

Cameron Milner  
**State Secretary**  
**Australian Labor Party**  
**Queensland Branch**

---

<sup>4</sup> *Commonwealth Electoral Act* 1918 (Cth)

<sup>5</sup> Based on 2001 Federal Election Results