The Federal Redistribution 2003
QUEENSLAND

Comment Number Seven on Public Objections

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2 pages

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COMMENT

№ - 7

Redistribution Committee for Queensland
Australian Electoral Commission
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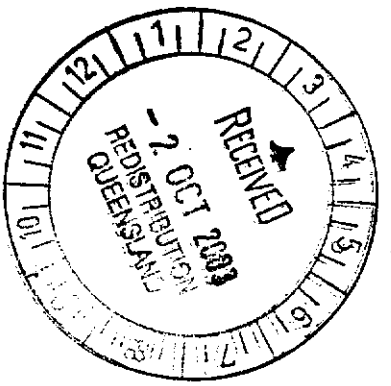

Thursday, 2 October 2003

Dear Committee Members,

I wish to make brief comment on the objection to the proposed redistribution by the Australian Democrats (Queensland Division) Inc. I will keep my remarks to the specific proposals regarding the Federal Divisions of Lilley and Petrie.

Put simply this section of the Australian Democrats' objection is illogical and absurd.

The Australian Democrats' original submission on Lilley to the Redistribution Committee was adopted in full, transferring territory bounded by Gympie, Webster and Kitchener Roads from Petrie to Lilley.

Having achieved this objective, the Australian Democrats now object to their original submission for Lilley, and instead propose dismemberment of the northern suburbs in a full-scale boundary rewrite.

I hope the Redistribution Committee will consider a few thoughts on why this objection is unreasonable and unworkable.

The central plank of the Australian Democrats' objection is the stated objective to remove the Division of Petrie's "panhandle", or "tail" (described in the Australian Democrat objection as a "tongue"). A glance at the Australian Democrats' revised Petrie as included in the supplied map again shows a "tail". As the Australian Democrat's revision does not address its' *raison d'etre*, there is no reason to grant it any further consideration.

There are, however, further reasons to reject it. The Australian Democrat's objection claims the Sandgate District has closer community links to Redcliffe than to neighbouring Boondall or Taigum. To claim this is drawing a long bow and I reject this dubious assertion completely.

Finally, in the Australian Democrats' objection there is the unsatisfactory use of Hamilton Road (between Webster and Beckett Roads and untrafficable in parts) as a boundary. It is unclear why this boundary was chosen, as it cuts McDowall in half. There is an absence of a suitable natural boundary in this area. Considering this absence, the boundary should follow the clearest substitute, which is Webster Road. Conveniently, this boundary is also largely compatible with suburb boundaries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SENT 3/10/03

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Lilley as the Redistribution Committee proposes recognises the three natural boundaries – Pine River, Brisbane River and Moreton Bay. As such it reflects a natural community of interest – that is, the north-east suburbs of Brisbane. The inclusion of McDowall as recommended in the Australian Democrats' objection is incongruent with this community of interest, as is any proposal to slice this community of interest in two.

I commend the Redistribution Committee's proposals for Lilley as they stand, and urge them to reject this ill-considered objection to the proposed Lilley boundaries from the Australian Democrats.

Kind Regards,

Wayne Swan