



The Federal Redistribution 2003
QUEENSLAND



Comment Number Ten on Public Objections

Liberal Party of Australia (Queensland Division)

3 pages



Liberal Party of Australia Qld Division

ABN 11 009 745 751

COMMENT

R-10

Ms Anne Bright
Australian Electoral Officer, Queensland
7th Floor
Collection House
488 Queen Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Friday, 3 October 2003

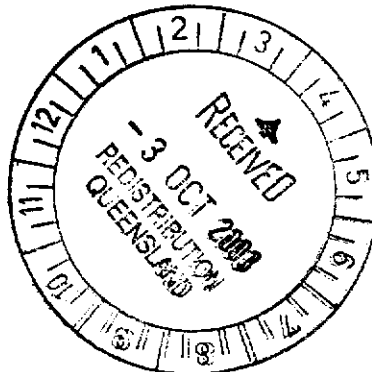
Dear Ms Bright

Please find enclosed the Liberal Party of Australia, Queensland Division's submission of "comments on objections" for the redistribution of Federal electoral districts in Queensland.

The submission is made in hard copy and electronic formats for your convenience

Yours,

Brendan Cooper
STATE DIRECTOR



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SENT 3/10/03

Liberal Party of Australia (Queensland Division)
Submission – Comments on Objections To Redistributions Proposals

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on the Objections to the AEC redistribution proposals for all Federal Divisions in the State of Queensland. The Liberal Party of Australia (Queensland Division) makes several observations in regard to submissions presented by other parties and entities.

Firstly with respect to **Submission 5**, presented by the Australian Democrats. The nature of this submission seems to be to essentially tick off the AEC with a legal lecture and cast aspersions on the Commission, and we believe this to be highly inappropriate.

While this submission is presented under the signature of its State President, all referrals and enquiries are to be made to Senator John Cherry. We read this submission against a background where the Democrats original submission would have created widespread displacement of voters and a virtual complete overhaul to the electoral boundaries throughout Queensland. In light of this it is a bit rich to be giving lectures to the Commission in relation to the fortunes or otherwise of the formal Opposition of which the Democrats have no members.

While on the one hand the Democrats in their submission have attempted to hand out a lecture on the Commission's responsibilities, it is again noted that their submission seeks to create substantial and unnecessary voter dislocation. This is instanced in the proposal for Petrie and Lilley, where it produces a 12,000 voter shift. In Moreton, they now propose in their submission, a 6.6% shift in voters, greater than that proposed by the Commission. There are many other such large shifts of voter numbers in various other seats.

They have given scant regard to issues of voter stability and have produced some spurious arguments regarding communities of interest which seem to have been more about an argument of giving the Opposition a leg up as opposed to the demands of minimising voter dislocation, maintaining wherever possible communities of interest and linkages and living within the quota system.

The whole thrust of the submission presented by the Australian Democrats is about creating a more even result and was more about politics than it was about creating Divisions which minimised disruption to voters and maintained quota requirements.

Ironically, under the Democrats proposal, a not inconceivable swing of 2% to the government in Queensland would leave the ALP Opposition with just three seats. Under the AEC proposal, the Opposition would have five seats which casts significant doubt on the Democrats claims for political bias. In this scenario, the Democrats proposal would see the loss of more notional ALP seats than would the Commissions proposal.

Submission 22 presented by the Australian Labor Party (Queensland Branch), states that it endorses the submissions by Hon. Arch Bevis MP and Mr Kevin Rudd MP, yet both those submissions are at odds with each other. So it is hard to understand how the Australian Labor Party submission can endorse both.

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Mr Kevin Rudd's submission (**Submission 23**) proposed a change to the suburbs of Yeronga and Annerley as they impact upon the seats of Griffith and Moreton. This submission is based on community of interest arguments and the Liberal submission agrees with the sentiments of this submission. By contrast, Hon. Arch Mr Bevis' submission (**Submission 13**) proposes the removal of a substantial amount of the newly proposed Division of Griffith and to place it back into the seat of Brisbane. This relates to the area of South Brisbane and West End (the commentary of which commences on Page 17 of his submission).

With respect to Submission 13, in the name of the Hon. Arch Bevis MP, we respectfully suggest that it fails to take into account the enormous growth which has occurred in the areas of the Brisbane and Griffith Divisions. In fact, one of the major reasons why the Liberal Party's original submission recommended the placement of the seat of Bonner adjacent to the seat of Griffith, is that the two contiguous seats, which carry the highest voter population in Queensland, are those of Brisbane and Griffith.

This is a point which seems to have been missed within the submission prepared by Hon. Arch Bevis MP and the creation of the new seat made it logical and feasible to use a substantial natural barrier such as the Brisbane River to differentiate seats at this locality.

The Hon. Arch Bevis MP is concerned in his submission about the dislocation of voters and while we appreciate his concerns, the fact of the matter is that when a new seat is created, adjoining existing seats, will face substantial voter dislocation by nature of the need to draw voters from surrounding Divisions to make the numbers necessary for the new Division.

We believe the Commission has achieved the result with the minimal possible dislocation of voters in an overall context. There is simply no way of avoiding voter dislocation and the submission by Hon. Arch Bevis MP gives insufficient credence to this fact.

Submission 17 from Mr. Paul Kidd would appear to support the arguments presented by the Hon. Arch Bevis MP and hence the Liberal Party disagrees for the same reasons as we state in our comments on his submission.

Submission 25 presented by Mr. Paul Barry is obviously done with good intent. However it is difficult to sustain an argument which links the new suburb of Carindale with the older established suburbs of Carina and Carina Heights. In addition, Carindale is an area having a projected voter population in excess of ten thousand at 31 July 2007 which if shifted would result in quota problems. Its community of interest centres around the Carindale Shopping Centre and the transport interchange associated with that centre. The Liberal Party does not necessarily disagree with Mr Barry's argument in relation to that part of Carina presently proposed to sit in Bonner, but obviously the Commissioners will need to take into account quota requirements when looking at this.

With regard to **Submission 26** from Leslie J. Staines and Wayne Wendt (former Labor candidate for Blair) the Liberal Party believes their "Historically" comment is factually questionable as the seat of Oxley has traditionally been centred and ased around the city of Ipswich. It was only with the recent creation of the division of Blair that Oxley lost part of the City of Ipswich.

3 October, 2003

Liberal Party of Australia (Qld. Div.)