Comment Number Twelve on Public Objections

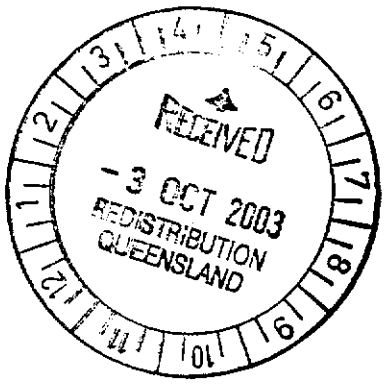
Australian Labor Party (Queensland Branch)

3 pages

COMMENT

#-12

Australian Labor Party
Queensland Branch



Comments on the Objections to the Proposal of the Redistribution Committee

3 October 2003

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SENT 3/10/03

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

COMMENT

No - 12

Overview

The Australian Labor Party welcomes the opportunity to comment on the objections to the proposed boundaries and names of federal divisions in Queensland.

We make specific comment in relation to a number of the objections in keeping with our aim of enhancing the proposal's compliance with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act*.

Comments on the Liberal Party's Objection

The Liberal's proposed changes to the Fisher – Longman boundary do nothing to enhance the community of interest. The splitting of the two railway towns of Landsborough and Beerwah into separate electorates when they are less than 10km apart is nonsensical. The car park for Australia Zoo would be in Fisher, whereas the zoo would be in Longman.

Beerwah and Landsborough are directly linked by the Glasshouse Mountains Road, whilst there is no direct Road link between Mooloolah and Landsborough. It is obvious that the intertwined communities of Beerwah and Landsborough belong together.

The boundary proposed by the Liberals would also split the Peachester community in two depending on which side of Peachester Road you lived.

The community of interest between the Maleny and Montville tourist region is obvious. Maleny and Montville belong in Fisher as part of the Sunshine Coast hinterland, whilst Beerwah and Landsborough belong in Longman as part of the group of communities surrounding the Bruce Hwy and Caboolture Shire Council. The proposed boundary by the AEC is a simple one compared to the complex arrangement put forward by the Liberal Party. We urge you to maintain the AEC proposed boundary.

Herbert – Kennedy Boundary

A number of submissions were received arguing for changes to the Herbert – Kennedy boundary, not one of these submissions explained how these changes were to be achieved other than arguing they should not be done.

Herbert had to shrink in terms of population; Kennedy had to gain a similar amount. The AEC have proposed a straightforward swap. The proposed boundaries along with the predicted growth reinforce the trend of Herbert becoming an urban seat based on Townsville.

The Australian Labor Party supports the proposed boundary put forward by the Redistribution Committee.

COMMENT
No - 12

Hinkler Boundary

Some objections were received that would impact on the proposed Hinkler boundary. We would like to reiterate our support for the proposal we put forward in our objection to the proposed boundary between Hinkler and Wide Bay. The changes we suggested involve fewer voters to be transferred and it meets the numerical criteria, and thereby enhance compliance with the Act.

Conclusion

The ALP submits these comments on objections to the proposed boundaries of the Redistribution Committee for consideration by the Augmented Committee and looks forward to the opportunity to comment on other public objections submitted.

Cameron Milner
State Secretary
Australian Labor Party
Queensland Branch
3 October 2003