



The Federal Redistribution 2003  
**QUEENSLAND**



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**Comment Number Fourteen on Public Objections**

**Queensland Nationals**

**3 pages**



**Queensland  
Nationals**

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## COMMENT

**e-14**

Australian Electoral Officer for Queensland  
GPO Box 2590  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

3 October 2003

Dear Sir

I refer to the formal objections lodged to the proposed new boundaries for Federal Electoral Divisions in Queensland.

The Nationals have concerns about the submissions made by the Australian Labor Party and the Australian Democrats in respect of the proposed boundaries for Hinkler.

At the outset it should be stated that we believe the Commission has accurately reflected the communities of interest of Gladstone and Bundaberg in the proposed new Hinkler and that there should be no change to the Commission's proposal.

Bundaberg is the principal commercial and service centre for the northern half of the Wide Bay-Burnett statistical region, consisting of the local authorities of Bundaberg, Burnett, Kolan, Perry, Biggenden, Gayndah, Mundubbera, Eidsvoid, Monto and Miriam Vale. All bar Biggenden (which shares some complementarity with Maryborough) are now in the Commission's proposed Hinkler.

Similarly, Gladstone is the service centre for the Port Curtis region consisting of Gladstone, Calliope (and the northern part of Miriam Vale) local authorities. It also has some complementarity with Monto.

In other words, the Commission's proposed Hinkler is the Northern Wide Bay Burnett statistical region plus Port Curtis sub-region. With the exception of Biggenden and a portion of Banana, it reflects the intent of the original Hinkler.

We would make the further points of reiteration regarding the proposed electorate:

- 1) That it contains all<sup>1</sup> the local authorities in the Burnett Catchment area and the Bundaberg Irrigation scheme (including Monduran and new Paradise Dam areas).

<sup>1</sup> With the exception of Biggenden

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SENT 3/10/03

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- 2) That it brings together the entire sugar growing and nearly all<sup>2</sup> the citrus areas of the region
- 3) That it completes<sup>3</sup> the 'Burnett Circle' road route, i.e. Bundaberg-Childers-Biggenden-Gayndah-Mundubbera-Eidsvold-Monto-Gladstone-Miriam Vale-Bundaberg, one of the major arteries for commercial and tourism facilitation. Gayndah and Mundubbera residents generally use this route to Bundaberg, while Monto and some Eidsvold residents use the 207km Monto to Bundaberg road via Mount Perry. This road is now almost totally sealed except for a section west of Mount Perry to Langley Flat. (We therefore contest the view of the Australian Democrats)
- 4) That the Monto-Gladstone railway with links to the Port of Gladstone is under active consideration for coal and iluminite mining
- 5) The all<sup>4</sup> the local authorities in the proposed electorate are covered by the Bundaberg and District Tourism and Development Board Ltd and the Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Ltd (development boards)
- 6) That the health services of Bundaberg District, Central and North Burnett District and Gladstone District cover all<sup>5</sup> local authorities of the proposed electorate.

We further submit that these arguments far outweigh the ALP views of minimum disruption, and we respectfully point out that a number of local authorities have sought the proposed configuration of Hinkler.

While acknowledging that a small part of the road system passes through Biggenden, we would contest the view of the Australia Democrats, in that:

- 1) The road from Monto to Bundaberg is 262km. It is 207km and largely sealed (as previously mentioned)
- 2) Mount Morgan is close to Bundaberg. In fact it is the furthest centre (in the old electorate) from Bundaberg, some 310km.

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<sup>2</sup> With the exception of Biggenden

<sup>3</sup> With the exception of Biggenden

<sup>4</sup> With the exception of Biggenden

<sup>5</sup> With the exception of Biggenden

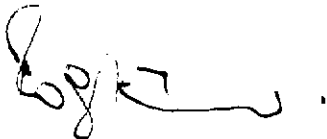
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- 3) While it is true that Monto has strong links to Biloela, it has stronger local government, health, administrative and development board links to Gladstone and Bundaberg.
- 4) The mountain range is an impediment to community of interest, when the road and rail systems clearly dispel this proposition.
- 5) Mount Morgan shares with Calliope a 'coastal plain aspect'. Actually Mount Morgan is on the top of the range with road, health and administrative links to Banana and Rockhampton.

In the light of these arguments, The Nationals respectfully submit that the proposals contained in the Commission's draft boundaries ought be confirmed without amendment.

Yours sincerely,



**Roger Harcourt**  
State Director