



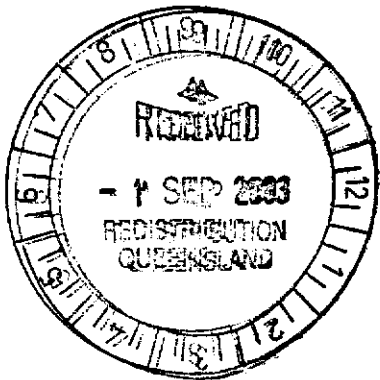
The Federal Redistribution 2003
QUEENSLAND



Public Objection Number 3

Aaron Barrett

2 pages



OBJECTION

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Aaron Barrett

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Ms Anne Bright
AEO Queensland
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Dear Ms Bright

QUEENSLAND REDISTRIBUTION 2003

With regard to your initial proposals for the above, I believe the Redistribution Committee adopted the correct alternative in creating the 28th Division in the metropolitan area and keeping change to the boundaries of the more remote rural Divisions to a minimum.

As for the name of the 28th Division, I think it was fairly obvious to all electoral observers – even before the formal procedures of the redistribution commenced – what that name would be. However, the degree of public support for the new Division to bear the name MACROSSAN was not insignificant and perhaps deserved greater scrutiny from the Redistribution Committee.

Given this level of support, I feel the Redistribution Committee and Augmented Electoral Commission might have considered renaming one of the existing Divisions accordingly. I would suggest that the Division of McPherson – a Division created in 1949 and named after a range of hills – be the appropriate Division if this were to eventuate.

Given the nature and extent of recent population growth within the City of the Gold Coast, it should be obvious to all concerned parties that, in future redistributions, the Division of McPherson can only get smaller. Although McPherson would not be the first Division to *not* include the geographic feature after which it was named should the Range be transferred, a change of name at this time would give future redistribution committees considerably more freedom in drawing boundaries within the City of the Gold Coast.

Additionally, McPherson would not even be the first Division in Queensland (let alone the Commonwealth) to be simply renamed by a Redistribution Committee. The Federation Division of Oxley was renamed *Griffith* in 1934, while the Federation Division of Darling Downs was renamed *Groom* in 1984.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SENT 11/9/03

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In other parts of Australia, the Tasmanian Divisions of Darwin and Wilmot were renamed *Braddon* and *Lyons* in 1955 and 1984 respectively; the Victorian Division of Darebin was renamed *Scullin* in 1969 in order to perpetuate the name of J.H. Scullin in Parliament after another Division named after him was abolished at the same time; the Federation Division of Balaclava (Vic) was renamed *Goldstein* in 1984; the Federation Division of North Sydney (NSW) was renamed *Warringah* in 1922 after a new Division was created that carried the old name more appropriately; the New South Wales Divisions of South Sydney and St George were both renamed *Watson* at various stages of the 20th Century; and the current Division of Grayndler – originally an amalgamation of the smaller Divisions of Grayndler and Cook – was to have been known as Cook before it was ordered renamed by Parliament (as Parliament had the power to do back in 1955).

In conclusion, I wish to remind the Redistribution Committee for Queensland of the AEC's stated Vision, which reads that the Commission aims to "provide the Australian people with an ... electoral service which ... encourages them to understand and participate in the electoral process". In my view, electoral officials (and Members of Parliament) are better able to do this when they are able to foster a kind of communal ownership of the achievements and accomplishments of the individual after whom the Division is named (as opposed to a communal ownership of a few hills).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Barrett', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Aaron Barrett