

The Federal Redistribution 2003 QUEENSLAND

Public Objection Number 13

Hon Arch Bevis MP

24 pages



IHOM Aureh Bewis IMP

Federal Member for Brisbane



House of Representatives

OBJECTION b-13

Redistribution Secretariat Level 7 488 Queen Street BRISBANE OLD 4000

17 September 2003

I refer to the report of the Redistribution Committee for Queensland titled "2003 Proposed redistribution of Queensland into Electoral Divisions - Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 Section 68."

In accordance with the provisions I lodge the attached objection to the proposal set out in that report.

I also request the opportunity to make an oral presentation to the committee in relation to this objection.

I look forward to your advice concerning arrangements for these hearings.

Yours sincerely

Hon Arch Bevis MP Member for Brisbane

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SENT 18, 9,03

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Objection

OBJECTION

by

Hon Arch Bevis MP

to the report ' 2003 Proposed Redistribution of Queensland into Electoral Divisions'

Overview

The report of the Redistribution Committee for Queensland '2003 Proposed Redistribution of Queensland into Electoral Divisions' proposes major changes to the electorate of Brisbane.

Given the enrolment numbers in Brisbane, some changes are necessary. However the scope and nature of the changes in the proposal go far beyond what is necessary and desirable. Further, it goes beyond the requirements and provisions of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918. Indeed, in some respects it fails to meet the test set out in the Act.

This objection details a series of changes to the proposal that comply with the mandatory quota requirements of the Act and better meet all other criteria of section 66.

Reasons supplied by the Committee

Before dealing with a number of specific matters affecting the Division of Brisbane, there are some general comments about the proposals that need to be made. Section 67 of the Act requires that the Redistribution Committee 'shall state, in writing, its reasons for the proposed redistribution made by it under subsection 66(1). In relation to the Division of Brisbane there are comments only at paragraphs 55, 57, 62 and 64 as follows:

- 55. The Committee acknowledged that the large growth occurring within the CBD of the City of Brisbane had made Brisbane grow to be the second largest division numerically in Queensland at the date of setting the quota. The Committee, in turn, recognised the need for the proposed Brisbane to return to the north of the Brisbane River and for the areas vacated on the south to be transferred to the proposed Griffith.
- 57. The proposed Griffith would move into those areas of Brisbane vacated south of the Brisbane River and thus contract from areas in the east.
- 62. The proposed Brisbane gained the portion of the City of Brisbane in Dickson and a southern portion of Petrie.

64. As a result of the above changes the proposed Petrie was defined by a loss to both the proposed Brisbane and the proposed Lilley,

Barely half of one page in commentary exists to explain the major changes proposed to the Brisbane division. With the exception of some reference to the total enrolment numbers in par 55, these paragraphs fail to set out any reasons. Rather they are a very brief commentary of decisions taken without reasons, explanation, or rationale.

Were any objection to the proposal to rely on the same methodology or shallow explanation, I suspect they would be given little weight. The augmented commission would no doubt dismiss objections that simply described an alternative allocation of suburbs or SLAs. Yet that is the basis on which the committee explains its reasons for new boundaries.

The requirement of the Act to supply reasons places an obligation on the Committee that is particularly important when dealing with those boundaries that have been subject to significant change. The committee is required by the Act to provide reasons. It is obligatory.

To say that

- ➤ 'The proposed Griffith would move into those areas of Brisbane vacated south of the Brisbane River and thus contract from areas in the east.' or,
- > The proposed Brisbane gained the portion of the City of Brisbane in Dickson and a southern portion of Petrie, or
- > As a result of the above changes the proposed Petrie was defined by a loss to both the proposed Brisbane and the proposed Lilley

is at best a short description of decisions taken without any indication of the reasons for such decisions.

It is difficult to see how the requirements of section 67 of the Act have been met by the publication of the 2003 report.

Section 66

Section 66 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 sets out the factors to be taken into account in determining divisional boundaries.

66 Redistribution Committee to make proposed redistribution

- (1) A Redistribution Committee for a State or the Australian Capital Territory shall, in accordance with subsections (2), (3) and (4), make a proposed redistribution of the State or Territory.
- (2) The proposed redistribution shall propose the distribution of the State or Territory into Electoral Divisions equal in number to the number of members of the House of Representatives to be chosen in the State or Territory at a general election.
- (3) In making the proposed redistribution, the Redistribution

Committee:

- (a) shall, as far as practicable, endeavour to ensure that, if the State or Territory were redistributed in accordance with the proposed redistribution, the number of electors enrolled in each Electoral Division in the State or Territory would not, at the projection time determined under section 63A, be less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment of that State or Territory at that time; and (b) subject to paragraph (a), shall give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division, to: (i) community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests:
- (ii) means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;
- (iv) the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division: and
- (v) the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory:

and subject thereto the quota of electors for the State or Territory shall be the basis for the proposed redistribution, and the Redistribution Committee may adopt a margin of allowance, to be used whenever necessary, but in no case shall the quota be departed from to a greater extent than one-tenth more or one-tenth less.

The quota requirements set out in subsection 66(3)(a) are paramount and objectively quantifiable. That is they can be measured with a good deal of precision.

With the exception of subsection 66(3) (b) (v), all other matters to be considered cannot be objectively assessed. In many cases, it would be open to people of good judgment and good will to arrive at different views about the community of interest or significance of physical features or even means of transport and communication. That said, there are clearly situations in which these factors are so common to areas under review that most if not all who analyse the situation would be in agreement that the areas share so much in common that they should be in the same division.

It is also worth noting here that existing boundaries are very often good indicators of those other factors set out in subsection 66 (3) (b).

Subsection 66 (3) (b) (v) is subordinate to other parts of subsection 66 (3) (b). However, it has the distinct advantage of being objectively and precisely determined. There can be no argument in determining whether a proposal or objection better meets this provision.

In order for it to be discarded and held as subordinate to another provision of subsection 66 (3) (b), it is necessary to first establish the existence of that other provision as an identifiable and real consideration. For example, it

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would be necessary to establish that the provisions of subsection 66 (3) (b).(ii) apply and to provide supporting evidence of that before being able to subordinate a proposition that better met the requirements of subsection 66 (3) (b) (v).

Substantially because of these considerations, maintaining as many electors within existing boundaries is an aim often commented on by Redistribution Committees and those making submissions.

The current report of the Redistribution Committee of Queensland makes mention of this at paragraphs 31 and 49. At paragraph 31 the Committee even uses this factor to support its proposal, emphasised by a comparison with the 1997 and 1994 redistributions.

The Liberal Party of Queensland suggestion at page three supported their case by commenting: 'More significantly, it also ensures minimum disruption to divisions of Lilley, Ryan, Blair, Oxley, Petrie and Dickson.' They reinforced this point on the same page saying: 'This submission is able to maintain a minimum impact on other seats...'.

In short, reducing the number of electors displaced in a redistribution is universally seen as desirable.

If the only requirement of the Act were the quota, then there would be a nearly limitless number of alternative proposals that could be applied. In applying the quota, there is no requirement that divisions be at a particular point within quota; only that they are within the quota. Any or all divisions could be just over the required minimum, just below the required maximum or anywhere in between. The test here is whether a proposal meets the quota. All proposals that meet quota have satisfied that criteria equally. None are better than any other.

The existence of other criteria places a much stricter discipline on the process. The task, therefore, is not simply to meet the quota requirements but to meet also the other criteria set out in section 66 to the greatest extent possible. It is in respect of these other provisions of section 66 that different proposals will better meet the requirements of the Act and be superior to alternatives.

The proposals contained in this objection comply with the quota requirements and meet the requirements of the other criteria set out in section 66 far better than the Committee's proposal.

The Division of Brisbane

Growth Rates and Large Enrolments

At paragraph 55 the report says 'The Committee acknowledged that the large growth occurring within the CBD of the City of Brisbane had made Brisbane grow to be the second largest division numerically in Queensland at the date of setting the quota. The Committee, in turn, recognised the need for the proposed Brisbane to return to the north of the Brisbane River and for the areas vacated on the south to be transferred to the proposed Griffith'.

Reference to the large growth within the CBD is curious. The published enrolment projections by division show a growth rate for Brisbane of 13.07%. The Gold Coast division of McPherson has more electors than Brisbane, and a growth rate of 19.3%. The other Gold Coast division of Moncrieff has a growth rate of 18.67%. No doubt in both cases there are areas with significantly higher growth rates than the average. Yet, strangely, the committee's report makes no mention of the growth rate in the Gold Coast area, nor does it mention that McPherson has the most electors of any division in the state. Instead the report singles out Brisbane as the second largest division with its comparatively moderate growth rate.

If large enrolments and/or growth rates are the basis for substantial changes of the sort proposed for Brisbane, the question that needs to be answered is why weren't greater dislocations required in that part of Queensland where the enrolment is higher and the growth rate greater? McPherson loses 19,466 electors yet Brisbane loses 30,863 from a smaller enrolment base and with a lower growth rate.

Every elector in the new McPherson is in the existing McPherson. That is a very desirable outcome. For the largest division in one of the fastest growing parts of the state, it is remarkable. It is in stark contrast to the committee's approach to Brisbane.

All of this occurs without any reasons published to explain the committee's decisions.

The committee's proposal fails to apply the same criteria equally to like situations, in this case large divisions. This failure to apply consistently the same principles throughout South East Queensland is a serious flaw in the report and undermines community confidence in the process.

Local Government Boundaries

The Committee's report at Paragraph 34 emphasised the importance placed on local government boundaries by the Committee in arriving at its 2003 proposal. It says,

34. A key indicator of community of interests as defined by LGA boundaries was used in provincial and/or rural Queensland to a significant extent. In metropolitan Divisions, it was used to the greatest extent possible. The Committee was able to accommodate boundaries of most LGAs entirely within a single Division. Only rural boundaries of eight-LGAs could not be accommodated within a single electoral Division and these generally reflect existing boundaries.

The committee has made a serious and fundamental error in giving such importance and weight to this attribute. Not only were LGAs used, they were given priority as a 'key indicator of community of interests'. Moreover they were used 'in provincial and/or rural Queensland to a significant extent. In metropolitan Divisions, it was used to the greatest extent possible.'

Indeed their importance in constructing the 2003 proposal can also be seen in the fact they are identified as one of the very few reasons advanced to explain decisions taken.

Local government boundaries may have some value as a rough guide to community of interest in rural areas. However they are irrelevant in identifying community of interest issues in metropolitan Brisbane.

As an example, consider the local government boundary between Brisbane and Pine Rivers in the suburb of Everton Hills. The boundary runs down Illawarra St. Illawarra St. is a standard suburban street with no distinguishing or defining features. It does not represent a boundary of any kind, other than as a result of an administrative line drawn on a map by a Queensland Government official at some time past.

It is not possible to seriously argue that those in Brisbane at say, Hornby St., have any difference in community of interest from those in Franciscea St, in the Pine Shire. The local government boundary is totally irrelevant. To apply it in metropolitan Divisions 'to the greatest extent possible' creates a dramatically false line of community of interest.

Indeed, previous redistribution committees have acknowledged this fact. In the redistribution in 1992 the boundary of the Division of Brisbane extended into the Pine Shire to include areas of the Pine Shire at Everton Hills where there was a clear common community of interest with neighbouring areas of the Brisbane City Council.

That redistribution kept Ferny Hills and Ferny Grove together in the same Division, Dickson, where there was also a clear common community of

interest. That is, the local government boundaries were quite rightly discarded as an indicator, much less 'key indicator of community of interests'. It is alarming that they should have been used on this occasion as a definitive measure in relation to the Division of Brisbane.

Prior to the creation of Dickson before the 1994 election, the Ferny Grove/Hills area was in Ryan, once again linking those suburbs in the same division and crossing the local government boundary.

Their use without supporting explanation in relation to the Brisbane/Pine Shire boundary is all the more puzzling given that local government boundaries have not been followed in other Brisbane and near Brisbane divisions.

There are some alarming consequences if the committee is to give local government boundaries the importance they have in this proposal, at least in so far as metropolitan divisions are concerned.

Local government boundaries exist at the pleasure of State Parliaments. They can be moved, amalgamated or abolished at the total and complete discretion of State legislature. Examples of such action are easily found.

It would be totally inappropriate for Divisions of the Federal House of Representatives to be so directly and significantly affected by decisions of State Parliaments.

This redistribution process exists by virtue of Federal laws. It should not directly or indirectly be influenced by State laws. Thankfully, we do not have the American system where state legislatures or Governors determine the boundaries for electoral districts in the US Congress.

Most importantly though, local government boundaries are not included in the Commonwealth Electoral Act. LGA boundaries cannot be found anywhere in the Act as a factor to be taken into consideration when determining federal divisional boundaries. There is no scope whatsoever to simply add them as new criteria or simply assert that they are a 'key indicator of community of interest'. If they are an indicator in rural areas, that has relevance only to the extent that the supporting evidence and argument about that community of interest can be substantiated. That is certainly so in situations where their use is disputed.

It is incumbent on the Committee in asserting LGA boundaries' key role as indicators of community of interest' to support their use with evidence of the claimed community of interest. Their simple existence, having been created by whatever method that suits the State, does not demonstrate anything of itself about a community of interest. (Even if it did, it would be wrong and inappropriate for the Committee to accept them without independently satisfying itself of their use in accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918).

Any claimed correlation between LGA boundaries and community of interest is nothing more than an unsubstantiated assertion until relevant additional supporting information is provided, assessed and substantiated.

To the extent that they are some reflection of community of interest, so too are existing Divisional boundaries. Unlike local government boundaries though, divisional boundaries are a product of past scrutiny by Federal Redistribution Committees and exist by virtue of Federal laws. More importantly, they are listed in the Act as a criterion in determining new Divisional boundaries. Unlike local government boundaries, not only can they be considered – they must be considered.

In addition, the various communities of interest criteria have been applied to previous divisional boundaries giving some guide to those criteria in the current review.

By way of comparison it is worth noting that in some States (eg South Australia) local government boundaries are included as a criteria in determining new state boundaries. The Federal Parliament has made no such provision. The Committee is in error in using local government boundaries. That the committee gave such weight to them in proposing new boundaries for the Division of Brisbane is clearly outside the terms of section 66 of the Act.

I note that the Liberal Party of Queensland submission also made reference to the use of local government boundaries in proposing a new border between the Divisions of Brisbane and Dickson. Their suggestion has been exactly followed by the Committee, resulting in the transfer of a substantial number of electors from Dickson to Brisbane to 'make use of the local government boundary'. For the reasons stated above, the Liberal Party's submission in respect of this matter is also wrong.

Ferny Grove

The Committee's report proposes to move the SLA of Ferny Grove from Dickson and include it in Brisbane. The only explanation in the report for this change is at paragraph 62.

'The proposed Brisbane gained the portion of the City of Brisbane in Dickson and a southern portion of Petrie'.

It is difficult to conclude this bare statement fulfils the requirements of section 67 of the Act.

The boundary between Brisbane and Dickson in the committee's proposal follows exactly the suggestions of the Liberal Party of Queensland. They support this with two claims. Firstly that it addresses the quota and secondly 'makes use of local government boundaries'.

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It appears that the proposed change is a result of the weight given by the Committee to local government boundaries. As discussed above, this is a wholly false and incorrect basis for determining boundaries.

There are a number of reasons why Ferny Grove should remain in Dickson.

Ferny Grove and the adjoining suburbs of Ferny Hills and Arana Hills have a good deal in common. Many who live in Ferny Grove use the same shopping, medical and banking facilities as those in Ferny Hills or even Arana Hills. Doctors, chemists and dentists on Ferny Way at Ferny Hills service all of these suburbs.

Banking facilities at Arana Hills are used by those in these suburbs.

The Arana Hills Plaza shopping centre is also well patronised by those from these suburbs.

These links are longstanding. When Ferny Grove developed, the established services in adjoining Ferny Hills and Arana Hills were the closest and most convenient. In a number of key areas that is still the case. For example, Ferny Grove has no bank. The established banking services in Ferny Hills and Arana Hills continue to provide that service for many in Ferny Grove.

When it comes to buying or renting in Ferny Grove the chances are the real estate agent used is in Ferny Hills or Arana Hills. There is only one real estate agent in Ferny Grove. That agency does not appear to be Ferny Grove or even Hills district specific. Its web site includes listings at places like Algester and Caloundra.

The real estate agents in Ferny Hills and Arana Hills who have traditionally covered Ferny Grove continue to do so. A search for 'Ferny Grove' at the www.yourestate.com.au website described as the 'Australian Real Estate Agents Directory' returns one agent located at the Arana Hills shopping Plaza.

A more detailed search using Google identifies the sole Ferny Grove agent and a First National agent at Ferny Hills. That First National real estate advertises their area as 'Ferny Hills, Arana Hills, Ferny Grove, Everton Hills, Bunya and Keperra'. Once again, the common link between Ferny Hills, Arana Hills and Ferny Grove has been recognised.

The simple fact is when people wish to move in to Ferny Grove, either to rent or buy, they will probably go to Ferny Hills or Arana Hills to do it. Similarly when they sell, they will go into the Pine Shire to list with the agents who have a long history of real estate experience at Ferny Grove.

People in these areas utilise many of the same social and recreational facilities. The tennis facilities on Samford Road to the west of Ferny Grove, the Woolshed Park and Waterslide and the Ironbark Gully recreational park are all key facilities used by residents in all of these adjoining suburbs. All are in the Pine Rivers Shire.

When people at Ferny Grove want to go swimming it is most likely that they will go to the nearest public pool on Ferny Way in Ferny Hills.

For about seven years my family and I lived at Arana Hills. When we looked to shift the local real estate agents took us to properties in the three adjoining suburbs; Ferny Hills, Arana Hills, Ferny Grove. They were basically seen as interchangeable. That is you shifted house but not location.

Ferny Grove is physically separated from Upper Kedron by a refuse station and a surrounding large park, much of which was once a landfill dump. In all the green belt separating the two suburbs is about 800-900 metres wide. It represents a significant physical feature and an appropriate divisional boundary.

The retention of the Ferny Grove SLA within Dickson would retain 3,840 electors in Dickson at 12-03-2003 and 4,176 as at the projected date, 31-07-2003. Dickson would then have an enrolment of 84,046 with a projected enrolment of 96,205. Contrary to the Liberal Party's assertion in their suggestions, there is no requirement for Ferny Grove to go into Brisbane to meet Dickson's quota. Nor, with the other changes proposed in this objection, is it necessary for the SLA to be placed in Brisbane to meet quota.

With Ferny Grove remaining in Dickson, Dickson has a variation from quota as follows; actual -0.04 %, projected 2.74%. Whilst this increases Dickson's enrolments, it remains comfortably within quota. Indeed it will have fewer electors in 2007 than Fadden as proposed by the Committee.

In addition, 3,840 (actual) and 4,176 (projected) fewer voters will be dislocated by the adoption of this measure thereby enhancing the requirements of subsection 66 (3) (b) (v).

Since 1984, Ferny Grove has been in the same federal Division as Ferny Hills. Given that similar tests of community of interest have existed in the Act over this period, it is reasonable to conclude that previous Redistribution Committees have acknowledged the closeness between Ferny Grove and neighbouring suburbs such as Ferny Hills.

I propose that the Ferny Grove SLA proposed by the Committee to be transferred from Dickson to Brisbane remain in Dickson.

The Gap

The Committee proposes to take 1,629 electors at The Gap from Ryan and place them in Brisbane. The Committee's report provides no explanation or reasons for this change.

It is simply impossible to argue how any criteria of section 66 of the Act would support this proposal. To separate this section of the Gap from the remainder of The Gap flies in the face of every subclause of section 66.

Retaining these electors in Ryan would result in Ryan's enrolment being as follows: actual – 88,215 and projected – 96,175 - both within quota requirements.

There can be no argument that the overwhelming community of interest of these residents is with other parts of The Gap. Shopping, travel, communication, existing divisional boundaries, and physical features all lead to the one conclusion. These areas should remain together in Ryan, where they have been for decades.

By adopting my proposal in respect of The Gap, 1,629 (actual) and 1,691 (projected) fewer electors are dislocated, thereby better meeting the requirements of subsection 66 (3) (b) (v).

The only way it could possibly be argued that the Committee's proposal is correct would be if there were no better alternative and it was necessary to make this change in order to meet quota. It is demonstrably the case that the Committee's proposed change is not necessary to meet quota. Furthermore, the proposals contained in this objection better meet all other requirements of section 66 whilst also complying with quota.

I propose that the portion of the Gap proposed by the Committee to be transferred from Ryan to Brisbane remain in Ryan.

There is also a part of The Gap (incl. Enoggera res.) that I understand to be part of CCD 3231001 proposed to be transferred from Dickson to Brisbane. This area is on the south side of Mount Nebo Rd. This area would be better united with the remainder of the CCD in Ryan. That would also place all of The Gap together in Ryan.

People living at Mt Nebo shop at The Gap and either go to The Gap or travel through The Gap for secondary education, work and social activity. A Mt Nebo bus transports children to and from The Gap for schooling.

The number of electors involved is small, 24 (actual) and 25 (projected). It therefore makes little difference in the quota but is a more sensible link for these Gap residents. These electors are proposed to be displaced from Dickson to Brisbane. My objection would therefore have no net impact on the number of dislocations; it simply places these electors in Ryan with the balance of their suburb rather than Brisbane.

I propose that the portion of the Gap proposed by the Committee to be transferred from Dickson to Brisbane be placed in Ryan.

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To be Retained or Added to the Division of Brisbane

The cumulative effect of the above two proposals on the division of Brisbane as proposed by the Committee results in the division of Brisbane having the following elector numbers – actual 74,758 and projected 85,154. The following changes are proposed to the Committee's proposal to be included or retained in the division of Brisbane.

Paddington/Bardon/Auchenflower

Curiously, at the same time as the Committee proposes to dislocate some 1,600 voters at The Gap from Ryan to Brisbane, it also proposes to dislocate a large number of Brisbane electors from Paddington, Bardon, and Auchenflower by placing them in Ryan.

The Committees Report provides no reasons to substantiate these changes.

The Liberal Party of Queensland suggestion included a proposal very similar to the proposal of the Committee. They suggested Toowong, Bardon and Auchenflower be relocated to Ryan. However they too offer no explanation other than the assertion that 'these suburbs are closely associated with the adjoining community of Toowong.'

Paddington, Bardon, and Auchenflower are increasingly identified as inner city suburbs. The lifestyle of those around Caxton St., Latrobe Tce. and Nash St., have much more in common with other inner city suburbs than they do with Toowong much less Indooroopilly, Kenmore, Pullenvale or Moggill.

Paddington

The Committee's proposal to remove a large part of Paddington from Brisbane ignores the strong community of interest in Paddington. The proposed boundary splits Paddington along the very roads that unite the suburb. Caxton St. and Latrobe Tce are the focal point of the suburb. They provide the commercial, entertainment, social and transport focus for all residents at Paddington, Milton and Bardon, (with Latrobe Tce. being more significant for Bardon residents.) Residents on both sides of that road use it as their major means of transport. The shops and businesses on it are a focus for those on both sides of the road. The restaurants etc. are a social focus for all of Paddington.

Dividing Paddington as proposed by the Committee unnecessarily dislocates 2,673 (actual) and 2783 (projected) electors at the same time as failing to meet the requirements of subsections 66 (3) (b) (i) and (ii).

There is no reason advanced by the Committee to explain this proposed shift of electors from Brisbane. It was not even proposed by the Liberal Party.

I propose the retention of all of Paddington SLA in Brisbane resulting in 2,673 (actual) and 2,783 (projected) fewer electors being displaced.

There are a couple of alternatives set out below that recognise the community of interest in this part of Brisbane and retain these electors in the Division of Brisbane.

Milton

Milton shares the same lifestyle and many of the same community of interest factors that Paddington does. Baroona Road serves as a commercial centre for both Paddington and Milton residents. There is a steady cross flow of residents in these adjacent suburbs, with Latrobe Tce, Park Rd., Nash St, and Caxton St. providing economic, social and travel links common to them all.

It would be both possible and desirable for Brisbane to retain all of Milton and Paddington, which has been proposed to be relocated.

The relevant elector numbers are as follows:

Brisbane as altered by changes to Ferny Grove and The Gap as set out above: actual 74,758 and projected 85,154

Retain Paddington (part) (2673/2783)	77,431	87,937
Retain Milton (1093/1009)	78,524	88,946

This would meet the community of interest criteria better than the Committee's proposal, and when taken together with other changes included in this objection, comply with quota. Importantly, it displaces far fewer electors: 1,093 (actual) and 1,009 (projected) residents from Milton and 2,673 (actual) and 2,783(projected) residents from Paddington, a total for these suburbs of 3,766 (actual) and 3,792 (projected) fewer disruptions.

The common identity of this area is recognised by businesses in the area. A local business guide for the area (Navigator 4064) encompasses precisely the area I have proposed to be retained in Brisbane (copy attached). The area covered extends from Kennedy Tce to Baroona Rd and from Latrobe Tce to Petrie Tce. Even on Given Tce most of the businesses are on the Brisbane side of the road.

This area is interdependent. Little wonder that there is such a cross flow of residents around Caxton St, Given Tce., Latrobe Tce., Nash St., and Baroona Rd.

I propose the retention of all of Milton in Brisbane resulting in 1093 (actual) and 1009 (projected) fewer electors being displaced.

My proposed changes to Paddington and Milton result in Ryan enrolment being as follows:

Ryan (with the inclusion of the A	e Gap (pan)) ctual 88,239	projected	96,200.
Remove proposed Paddingto	n 85,566		93,417
Remove proposed Milton	84,473		92,405

Ryan remains in quota following these constituents being retained in Brisbane.

The above changes to the Committee's proposal involving Paddington and Milton use the entire SLA boundaries. Alternatively, it would be possible to use Park Rd. and Baroona Rd as boundaries at Milton, resulting in CCDs 3190604 (actual 164 and projected 149) and 3190606 (actual 181 and projected 177) going into Ryan. Whilst this is not my preferred view, I am mindful of the possible attraction for more major roads to be used as boundaries rather than less significant roads that are none the less SLA boundaries. I would, however, urge the augmented commission to retain all of the Milton SLA in Brisbane.

Similarly, at Paddington it would be possible to use Baroona Rd. as the boundary, placing CCDs 3191111 and 3191108 in Ryan. Again, this is not my preferred view.

All of these options are superior to the Committee's proposal. They each meet the community of interest criteria better than the proposal and are a substantial improvement in meeting the requirements of subsection 66 (3) (b) (v).

Bardon

As with Paddington and Milton, there are no reasons or explanations advanced in the Committee's report concerning the dislocation of voters in Bardon from Brisbane to Ryan.

Given other changes affecting surrounding divisions, some loss of electors from Auchenflower and/or Bardon seems necessary to meet quota requirements. However it is both possible and desirable to retain significant parts of Bardon in Brisbane.

Those parts of Bardon proposed by the Committee to be shifted into Ryan clearly have a greater affinity and community of interest with the remainder of their Bardon suburb in Brisbane than with areas to the west.

There is no physical feature to distinguish the proposed boundary. Nor is there any discernable difference between the two parts of Bardon when considering economic or social interests, or means of transport. Simpson's Rd., Latrobe Tce etc are common means of transport. Sporting clubs like Bardon Soccer club at Bowman Park draw on both areas as part of their catchment.

The requirements of section 66 would be better met by retaining substantial parts of Bardon in Brisbane.

By retaining CCDs 3230806, and 3230807 some 879 (actual) and 972 (projected) fewer residents of Bardon will be displaced and remain with the balance of their suburb and stay in the division of Brisbane.

The best boundary in this part of Bardon is Boundary Rd. That road is unfortunately not a CCD boundary. It is nonetheless the best boundary to use. It is well known in the area as a major road linking Bardon and Rainworth.

The use of Boundary Road would require CCD 3230813 to be split. An estimated 180 (actual) and 200 (projected) fewer electors would then be displaced and would remain in Brisbane.

It is desirable to maintain as much of Bardon together, with a minimum of elector disruption.

Splitting CCDs is avoided not because of any requirement in the Act, but rather for administrative ease. The use of CCDs also enables more accurate statistical analysis of a range of factors by division. All of that is helpful, but in the end not a criteria that can be used in support of a divisional boundary.

I propose that CCDs 3230806, and 3230807 and part CCD 3230813 to Boundary Road be retained in Brisbane.

As a result of the changes I propose to Paddington, Milton and Bardon, Ryan would have an enrolment of 83,414(actual) and 91,233 (projected). Ryan remains in quota following these constituents being retained in Brisbane.

Stafford/Everton Park

The Committee proposes to add part of the Everton Park SLA to Brisbane affecting 2,961 (actual) and 2,960 (projected). The report simply notes that Brisbane gains 'a southern portion of Petrie'. No reasons or explanation are advanced.

It seems that the movement of some electors from Petrie to Brisbane is based on quota considerations, although that is not certain.

I propose that part of Stafford presently in Petrie should be moved to Brisbane rather than part of Everton Park.

Brisbane has a part of Stafford within its current boundaries. This area has been part of Brisbane for decades. It is desirable to unite more of Stafford within Brisbane and with an area with which it has much in common. Adoption of my proposal would place nearly all of Stafford in Brisbane rather than having it split between three divisions as in the Committee's proposal. Splitting a suburb between two divisions is not uncommon, although in some cases it would be undesirable. Splitting a suburb between three divisions is fairly rare and on most occasions will be contrary to the community of interest tests.

I propose that the area bounded by Stafford Rd in the South, Webster Rd. in the East, Wilgarning St, Barbigal St. and Redwood St. in the North and Trouts Rd. in the West be included in Brisbane. The CCDs affected are 3221101, 3221102, 3221103, 3221104, 3221105, 3221106 and 3221107.

These seven CCDs represent 2430 (actual) and 2378 (projected) electors.

The area of Everton Park proposed by the Committee to move from Petrie to Brisbane would remain in Petrie.

The boundary at Stafford proposed by my objection is exactly the same as the boundary between Brisbane and Petrie in this area at the 1996 election, adopted in the 1994 redistribution – a recognition by a former redistribution committee of the community of interest shared by those who live in this area.

Those who live in the area of Stafford I propose to be included in **Brisbane** use the same shopping, commercial and entertainment locations as those in the northern part of Brisbane. The Stafford shopping centre, which is in the division of Brisbane, is the major commercial centre for both areas. Its cinema complex is one of the areas principal social venues.

Residents in this area travelling to the city will immediately travel **through** the division of Brisbane using the same means and route as those in **that** part od Stafford currently within Brisbane.

Both areas of Stafford in question were settled about the same time with houses of a similar nature evident on both sides of Stafford Rd.

This part of Stafford has a clearer and more significant community of interest with the division of Brisbane than does the area of Everton Park proposed by the Committee. Whilst Everton Park does have a community of interest with Brisbane, it is less significant than the area of Stafford in question. Those in the relevant part of Everton Park are more likely to have shopping, banking, medical and similar links with services on the North side of Flockton St. such as the Flockton Plaza.

A large part of Everton Park in question was part of a much more recent real estate development than the adjoining parts of the division of Brisbane. Many of the social and economic ties are with the adjoining areas to the north which

were developed at about the same time. The old 'Trouts Estate' development includes the northern portion of that part of Everton Park in question and its adjacent northern area.

Those in the northern part of Everton Park have a much less significant community of interest with the Division of Brisbane than those in Stafford. Indeed, some would have closer links with McDowall, including the recreation and social facilities on Rode Rd.(eg Downfall Creek reserve) and Flockton St.(eg medical and economic services) than with facilities in the division of Brisbane.

My proposal better meets the requirements of subsections 66 (3) (b) (i) and (ii). In addition the net effect of retaining Everton Park in Petrie and placing part of Stafford in Brisbane as in my proposed changes dislocates 531 (actual) and 582 (projected) fewer electors than the committee's proposal. It therefore meets the requirements of subsections 66 (3) (b) (v) and the pre-eminent requirements of subsections 66 (3) (b) (i) and (ii) more satisfactorily than the Committee's report.

For completeness I also note that it would be possible to continue the boundary of Redwood St. west along Falstead St. to meet Old Northern Road. This would link the southern part of Everton Park together with the areas of Stafford identified in my proposal. However it would displace 3,769 (actual) and 3,719 (projected). There is no overriding community of interest that would justify dislocating this many electors. Such a decision in the current circumstances would be wrong.

The adoption of my preferred proposal results in Petrie having 85,018 (actual) +1.12% and 94,736 (projected)+1.19% thereby satisfying the quota requirements.

South Brisbane/West End

The removal of 20,039 electors in the area south of the Brisbane River is justified in the report by one sentence in paragraph 55. 'The Committee, in turn, recognised the need for the proposed Brisbane to return to the north of the Brisbane River'. That is a threadbare unsubstantiated assertion rather than a reason, upon which more than 20,000 electors are dislocated.

This adopts exactly the proposal of the Liberal Party of Queensland in relation to this very substantial change. Although it is worth noting that the Liberal Party's submission to the last redistribution committee in 1997 sought a number of changes to the division of Brisbane, but did not propose the river as a boundary. It can hardly be argued by them as 'logical' now when in the past it has not even been proposed.

Neither the report nor the Liberal Party of Queensland submission set out reasons to support the use of the river as the boundary.

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I propose that the area between the River and Vulture St. be retained in Brisbane. The CCDs involved are 3210101, 3210102, 3210103, 3210104, 3210105, 3210106, 3210110, 3210111, 3210202, 3210203, and 3210206. These eleven CCDs have 1,775 (actual) and 2436 (projected) electors.

With the exception of the 1993 election, the Brisbane River has not been a division boundary in this area since the 1983 election. The 1983 boundaries were created in 1977, some twenty-six years ago.

Put another way, for seventeen of the last twenty years the Brisbane River has not been a divisional boundary. That fact indicates that a number of former redistribution committees have understood that there is a community of interest amongst a number of inner city suburbs that is not broken by the river.

In the case of the CCDs in question, that link has been strengthened in recent years. The construction of the Goodwill Bridge, and riverside bikeways has made commuting between these areas easier.

A traffic count conducted in September - October 2002 by Southbank Corporation showed that the Goodwill Bridge is carrying almost the same amount of pedestrian and cycle traffic as the Victoria Bridge. Current numbers equate to over 3 million trips annually, or 60,000 per week, on average. That makes this transport corridor one of the busiest anywhere. Unlike other transport corridors, these commuters are largely on foot. That is it is local. Those involved obviously see their links with the adjoining CBD.

Anyone casually observing the steady flow of commuters between Gardens Point and this part of West End would quickly appreciate the common interests shared by people on both sides of the river. These links are for work, education, social and entertainment reasons.

The BCC city cats further enhance the transport link between this part of South Brisbane and the CBD. A ferry terminal at South Bank links it directly with Gardens Point on one side and North Quay on the other.

I venture to say that no other adjoining areas could boast such a regular and substantial cross flow of commuters. Their community of interest should be recognised in the divisional boundaries.

The 'need' mentioned by the Committee in its report presumably refers to quota requirements. However, as this objection demonstrates, the area referred to above can remain in Brisbane whilst maintaining Griffith in quota.

In addition, 1,775 (actual) and 2436 (projected) fewer electors are dislocated by adopting my proposal.

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Dislocation of Electors

By virtue of the Constitution, the Act and the rapid population growth in Queensland, redistributions in Queensland occur more frequently than anywhere else. This creates a greater inherent dislocation of electors in Queensland than occurs elsewhere.

Whilst this is beyond the influence of the committee and the augmented commission, it is desirable that in conducting reviews of boundaries, particular effort be made to minimise the dislocation of electors in these more frequent redistributions. Without some care in this matter, the dislocation of electors in Queensland would be very disruptive in a comparatively short time.

The Committee's report makes note at paragraph 31 that across the state one in six electors change division, a worse outcome than 1997. Yet in the case of the division of Brisbane, the report proposes to dislocate one in three electors. Of an actual enrolment of 96,355 some 30,863 electors would be dislocated by the committee's proposal.

I noted in my suggestion to the committee:

'The enrolment in Brisbane at 12th March 2003 was 96,355 and above the quota set for that date. The maximum electors in a Queensland electorate, having regard to the 10% variation provided for in the Commonwealth Electoral Act, are 92,485. Consequently, Brisbane must lose at least 3,870 voters, as at 12 March 2003 to bring it into line with the requirements set out in the Act.

The report proposes that about eight times as many electors are displaced from Brisbane than the quota requires. This extremely high level of dislocation is proposed with the barest of supporting statements and reasons.

I have already commented on the inconsistent way in which large enrolment numbers and growth have been applied, producing a massive elector dislocation in Brisbane.

Huge dislocations of the kind proposed by the Committee can only be justified if there are clear community of interest imperatives to support them or if it is necessary to meet quota. The committee's report provides absolutely no evidence or reasons to substantiate either point. Nor have any of the suggestions received by the Committee advanced reasons for such extreme adjustments. Furthermore, as my objection demonstrates, the quota can be met and all other requirements set out in section 66 better achieved if the alternative boundaries proposed in this objection are adopted.

Number of fewer dislocated electors in my proposal compared to the Committee's

	Actual	Projected
Ferny Grove	3840	4176
The Gap	1629	1691
Paddington SLA	2673	2783
Milton SLA	1093	1009
Bardon (part)	879	972
Stafford/Everton Pk change	531	582
Sth Bris/West End (part)	1775	2436
Total	12420	13649

Adoption of the boundaries proposed in this objection reduces by 12,420 the number of electors dislocated. The modification of my proposal by removing a couple of CCDs from Milton and/or Paddington, as discussed elsewhere in this objection, would slightly reduce this benefit. The principal advantages however, would be maintained.

For any other proposal with greater dislocation of electors to be adopted, it is necessary that the case be made and accepted that the provisions of subsections 66 (3) (b) (i) or (ii) or (iv) are better met in that other proposal, thereby requiring the subordination of subsection 66 (3) (b) (v). No such case has been put in either suggestions to the Committee or the Committee's report.

Indeed, this objection makes the point that the requirements of subsections 66 (3) (b) (i), (ii), (iv) and (v) are all met better by adoption of my proposal.

Conclusion

The adoption of my proposal would result in enrolment numbers as follows:

Enrolments following adoption of my proposal

Division	Actual	Variation	Projected	Variation
Brisbane	80,647	-4.08%	91,772	-1.98%
Dickson	84,046	-0.04%	96,205	2.76%
Griffith	84,615	0.65%	91,122	-2.67%
Petrie	85,018	1.12%	94,736	1.10%
Ryan	83,864	-0.25%	91,436	-2.34%

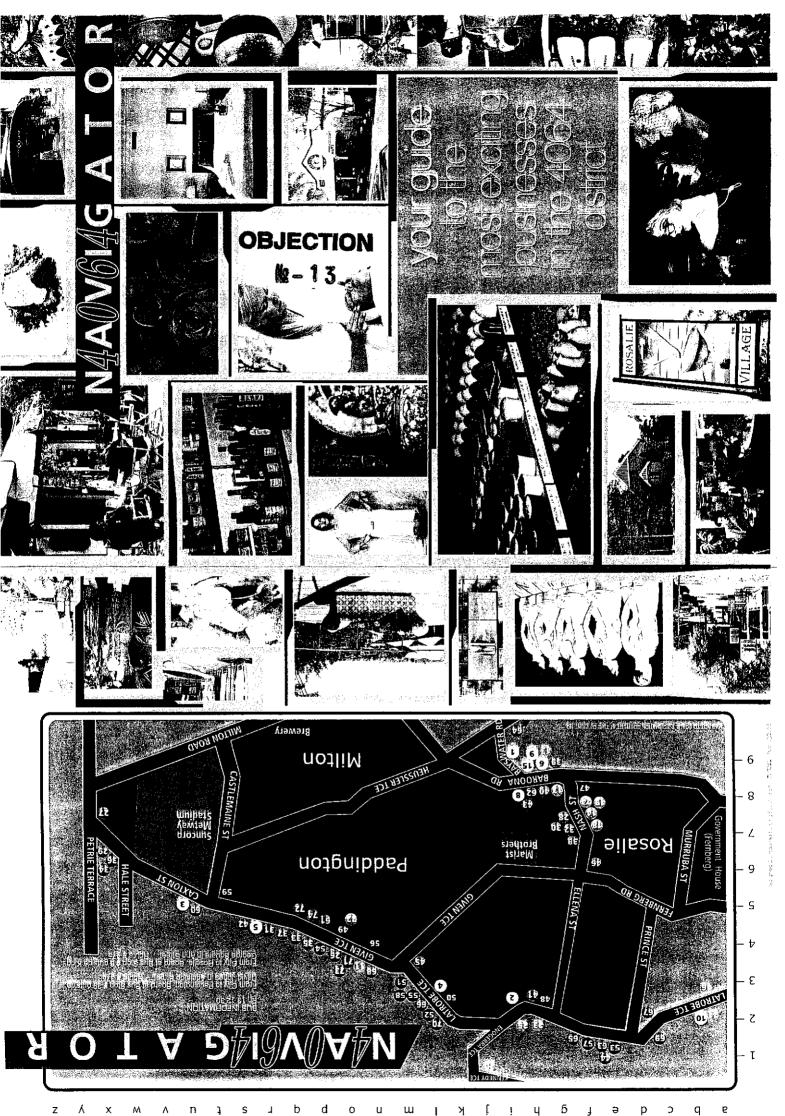
If Baroona and Park Roads were adopted as the division boundary, it would result in CCDs 3190604, 3190606, 3191111 and 3191108 going into Ryan. Enrolments in Brisbane and Ryan would then be:

Brisbane & Ryan Quota using Park & Baroona Rds.

Division	Actual	Variation	Projected	Variation
Brisbane	79,913	-4.95%	91,048	-2.75%
Ryan	84,598	0.62%	92,160	-1.56%

In both scenarios, all divisions are within quota.

I urge the augmented Electoral Commission to adopt the proposed boundaries contained in this objection.





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