



The Federal Redistribution 2003
QUEENSLAND



Public Suggestion Number 7

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Public submission to Queensland Redistribution Committee from
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Introduction

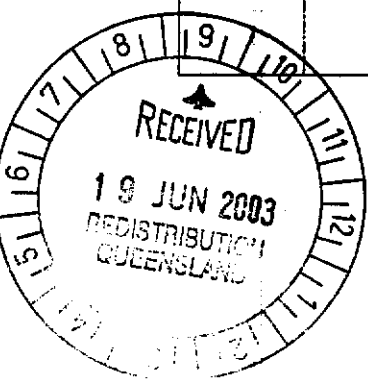
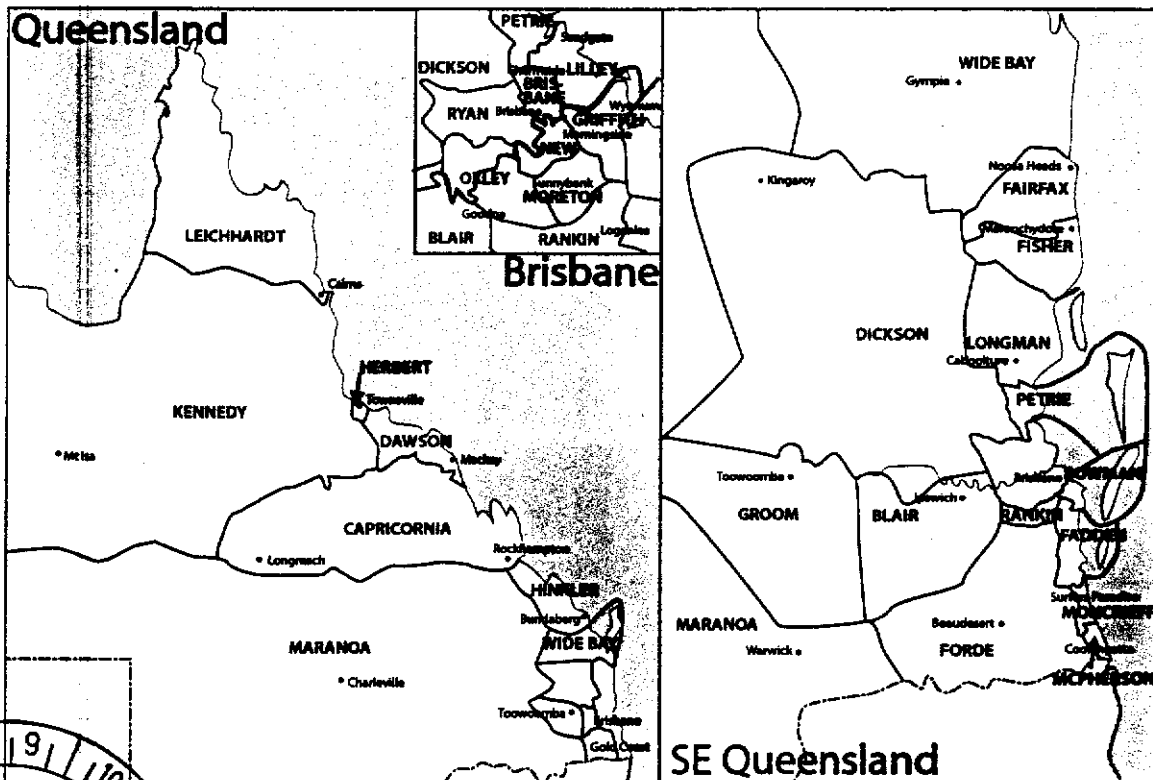
I am not a resident of Queensland. My interest in this redistribution is academic. Having studied electoral redistributions as part of a Graduate Certificate in Electoral Governance at Griffith University last year, I am interested in following a "live" redistribution. While studying the population figures provided by the AEC, I have found what appears to be a neat solution to this redistribution.

Past redistributions have tended to focus on disrupting current electoral boundaries as little as possible. In this case, it is inevitable that there will be substantial changes to electoral boundaries. Of the 17 seats in southeast Queensland, 14 will have populations more than 3.5% above the projected state quota in 2007 and seven of these will be more than 10% above quota. Between them they will be 143% above quota. Of the ten remaining seats, only one will be above quota while six will be under quota. The net result of this is a new seat needs to be created in southeast Queensland while almost half a seat's worth of population needs to be transferred to the rural areas.

So instead of concentrating on current electoral boundaries, I have focused on the community of interest criteria based on local government areas. I started by dividing Queensland into three areas:

- Metropolitan – Brisbane City, projected 2007 voting population 669,977 equals quota of 7.16 seats
- Outer metro/Regional towns – Gold Coast, Beaudesert, Redland, Logan, Ipswich, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe, Caboolture, Caloundra, Maroochy, Noosa, Townsville, Thuringowa and Cairns, projected 2007 voting population 1,241,284 equals quota of 13.26 seats
- Rural – all remaining local government areas, projected 2007 voting population 710,228 equals quota of 7.57 seats.

Based on this division, there should be seven metro seats, 13 outer/regional seats, some of which contain excess metro areas, and eight rural seats, some of which will contain excess outer/regional areas. Within these areas, I have not split any suburbs, as defined by the AEC's statistical local areas, in the metro and outer metro areas while in rural areas I have not split any towns between electorates. Below is a map of my suggested seats:



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Logic

With the metro seats, I have used the Brisbane River as the most distinctive natural boundary in the city placing three seats above and below it and one seat straddling it in the west of the city. With the outer/regional seats, the local government areas of Redland, Logan, Ipswich, Pine Rivers, Caboolture and Maroochy all have projected 2007 voting populations close to the quota for an electorate, so I have tried to base seats on these councils. It wasn't possible with Pine Rivers or Maroochy due to the populations of neighbouring councils but it was possible with the other four. With the rural seats, I have tried to keep local councils together within electorates and use major roads such as the Capricorn Hwy as backbones for electorates. The major exception to this is the seat of Leichhardt. Using the logic I used elsewhere it should be a much smaller seat based around Cairns City and some surrounding areas. But as it is close to the electoral quotas both now and in 2007 and borders only one other electorate, I have kept it largely as it is even though it splits the council areas of Cairns, Mareeba and Carpentaria.

Seat Descriptions

Blair - mainly outer metro seat based on Ipswich City plus Laidley shire.

Bowman - mainly outer metro seat based on Redland shire plus the Brisbane suburbs of Capalaba West, Lota and Ransome.

Brisbane - metro seat north of the Brisbane River containing the following suburbs: Albion, Alderley, Bowen Hills, Brisbane CBD, Chemsides, Chemsides West, Everton Park, Fortitude Valley, Grange, Herston, Kedron, Kelvin Grove, Lutwyche, McDowall, Milton, New Farm, Newmarket, Newstead, Red Hill, Spring Hill, Stafford, Wavell Heights, Wilston, Windsor, Woolloowin.

Capricornia - rural seat based on Rockhampton City and the following shires: Aramac, Barcaldine, Belyando, Broadsound, Emerald, Fitzroy, Ilfracombe, Jericho, Livingstone, Longreach, Mt Morgan, Nebo, Peak Downs plus most of Duaringa Shire excluding the six CCD areas specified for the seat of Maranoa.

Dawson - rural seat based on Mackay City and the shires of Bowen, Burdekin, Mirani, Sarina and Whitsunday.

Dickson - mainly rural seat based on the shires of Crows Nest, Esk, Kilcoy, Kingaroy and Nanango plus Part B of Rosalie Shire and the western part of the outer metropolitan Pine Rivers shire including the suburbs of Albany Creek, Central Pine West, Hills District plus Pine Rivers Balance and the outer Brisbane suburbs of Kawana-Lake Manchester.

Fadden - outer metropolitan seat based on the northern part of Gold Coast City including the suburbs of Beenleigh, Bethania-Waterford, Coombabah, Coomera-Cedar Creek, Eagleby, Edens Landing-Holmview, Helensvale, Hollywell, Hope Island, Mt Warren Park, Oxenford, Paradise Point, Runaway Bay, Windaroo-Bannockburn and the balance of Gold Coast city in the Brisbane statistical division; plus the eastern part of Logan City including the suburbs of Carbrook-Cornubia, Loganholme and Tanah Merah.

Fairfax - outer metro seat comprising the northern parts of Maroochy Shire including Maroochydore, Nambour, the Coastal North and the balances of Maroochy Shire in Sunshine Coast statistical subdivision and Moreton statistical division; plus the southern parts of Noosa Shire including Noosa-Noosaville, Sunshine-Peregian, Tewantin and the following CCDs from the balance of Noosa Shire: 3110103, 04, 13, 14, 16, 3112202, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16.

Fisher - outer metro seat comprising the southern parts of Maroochy Shire including Buderim and Mooloolaba and all of Caloundra City bar the southern CCDs included in the seat of Longman.

Forde - mainly outer metro seat based on the shires of Beaudesert and Boonah and the western part of Gold Coast City including the suburbs of Guanaba-Currumbin Valley, Mudgeeraba, Nerang and Worongary-Tallai.

Griffith - metro seat south of the Brisbane River containing the following suburbs: Balmoral, Belmont-Mackenzie, Bulimba, Burbank, Camp Hill, Cannon Hill, Carina, Carina Heights, Carindale, Chandler,

Gumdale, Hawthorne, Hemmant-Lytton, Manly, Manly West, Morningside, Murarrie, Rochedale, Tingalpa, Wakerley, Wynnum, Wynnum West.

Groom - rural seat based on Toowoomba City and the shires of Cambooya, Clifton, Gatton, Jondaryan, Pittsworth and Part A of Rosalie.

Herbert - regional seat based almost entirely on Townsville City with the suburbs of Kelso and Kirwan from Thuringowa and the following CCDs from the balance of Thuringowa: 3041001, 02, 03, 04, 05, 08, 09, 15, 16, 3041106, 07.

Hinkler - rural seat based on the cities of Bundaberg and Gladstone and the shires of Biggenden, Burnett, Calliope, Gayndah, Isis, Kolan, Miriam Vale and Perry.

Kennedy - mainly rural seat based on the cities of Charters Towers, Mt Isa and the part of Thuringowa City not included in the seat of Herbert plus the following shires: Atherton, Boulia, Burke, Cardwell, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Croydon, Dairymple, Eacham, Etheridge, Flinders, Herberton, Hinchinbrook, Johnstone, Mareeba, McKinlay, Mornington, Richmond, Winton and the parts of Cairns City, Carpentaria and Mareeba shires not included in the seat of Leichhardt.

Leichhardt - mainly regional seat based mainly on the city of Cairns including the statistical areas of Barron, Central Suburbs, City, Mt Whitfield, Northern Suburbs, Trinity, Western Suburbs plus CCD 31012004 from Part B of Cairns City; and the shires of Aurukun, Cook, Douglas, Torres, the following CCDs from Carpentaria Shire (3020201, 02, 06, 10, 11) and the following CCDs from Mareeba Shire (3030101, 3030201, 3030301, 02, 03, 04, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18).

Lilley - metro seat north of the Brisbane river containing the following suburbs: Ascot, Aspley, Banyo, Boondall, Bracken Ridge, Brighton, Carseldine, Clayfield, Deagon, Geebung, Hamilton, Hendra, Northgate, Nudgee, Nudgee Beach, Nundah, Pinkenbah-Eagle Farm, Sandgate, Stafford Heights, Taigum-Fitzgibbon, Virginia and Zillmere.

Longman - outer metro seat based on Caboolture Shire plus the following CCDs from the south of Caloundra City: 3122001, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12.

Maranoa - rural seat based on the towns of Dalby, Goondiwindi and Roma and the shires of Balonne, Banana, Barcoo, Bauhinia, Bendemere, Blackall, Booringa, Bulloo, Bungil, Chinchilla, Diamantina, Eidsvold, Inglewood, Isisford, Millmerran, Monto, Mundubbera, Murilla, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Stanthorpe, Tambo, Tara, Taroom, Waggamba, Wambo, Warroo, Warwick, Wondai plus the southern part of Duarina shire comprising the following CCD areas: 3080505, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12

McPherson - outer metro seat based on the south-eastern part of Gold Coast City including the suburbs of: Bilinga, Burleigh Heads, Burleigh Waters, Coolangatta, Currumbin, Currumbin Waters, Eleanora, Mermaid Beach, Mermaid Waters-Clear Island Waters, Miami, Palm Beach, Robina, Stephens and Tugun.

Moncrieff - outer metro seat based on the eastern part of Gold Coast City including the suburbs of Arundel, Ashmore, Benowa, Biggera Waters, Broadbeach, Broadbeach Waters, Bundall, Carrara-Merrimac, Ernest-Molindar, Labrador, Main Beach-Broadwater, Parkwood, Southport and Surfers Paradise.

Moreton - metro seat south of the Brisbane River containing the following suburbs: Calamvale, Coopers Plains, Eight Mile Plains, Kuraby, MacGregor, Mansfield, Mt Gravatt, Mt Gravatt East, Nathan, Robertson, Runcorn, Salisbury, Stretton-Karawatha, Sunnybank, Sunnybank Hills, Upper Mt Gravatt and Wishart.

Oxley - metro seat west of the CBD containing the following suburbs: Acacia Ridge, Algeester, Anstead, Archerfield, Bellbowrie, Darra-Sumner, Doolandella-Forest Lake, Durack, Ellen Grove, Figtree Pocket, Inala, Jamboree Heights, Jindalee, Kenmore, Middle Park, Moggill, Mt Ommaney, Oxley, Pallara-Heathwood-Larapinta, Parkinson-Drewvale, Pinjarra Hills, Pullenvale, Richlands, Riverhills, Seventeen Mile Rocks, Wacol, Westlake and Willawong.

Petrie - outer metro seat based on the city of Redcliffe plus the eastern part of Pine Rivers Shire including the suburbs of Bray Park, Dakabin-Kallangur-Murrumba Downs, Griffin-Mango Hill, Lawnton, Petrie and Strathpine-Brendale plus the Brisbane suburbs of Bald Hills and Bridgeman Downs.

Rankin - outer metro seat based on Logan City except for those suburbs in the seat of Fadden

Ryan - metro seat north of the Brisbane River containing the following suburbs: Ashgrove, Bardon, Brookfield, Chapel Hill, Enoggera, Ferny Grove, Indooroopilly, Kenmore Hills, Keperra, Mitchelton, Paddington, St Lucia, Taringa, The Gap, Toowong, Upper Brookfield and Upper Kedron.

Wide Bay - rural seat based on the cities of Hervey Bay and Maryborough with the shires of Cooloola, Kilkivan, Murgon, Tiaro, Woocoo and the part of Noosa Shire not contained in the electorate of Fairfax.

New seat - metro seat south of the Brisbane river containing the following suburbs: Annerley, Chelmer, Coorparoo, Corinda, Dutton Park, East Brisbane, Fairfield, Graceville, Greenslopes, Highgate Hill, Holland Park, Holland Park West, Kangaroo Point, Moorooka, Norman Park, Rocklea, Sherwood, South Brisbane, Tarragindi, West End, Woolloongabba, Yeerongpilly and Yeronga.

Naming

I have used all 27 current names for the proposed seats. However, not all the proposed seats correspond very well with existing ones. For example, with the seat I have called Blair, 61% of the population actually comes from the existing seat of Oxley and just 39% from the existing seat of Blair. Similarly, with the seat I have called Oxley, just 37% comes from the existing seat of Oxley and 51% comes from the seat of Ryan. However, 51% of the seat I have called Ryan came from the former seat of Ryan. They can't both be called Ryan. It's possible that the seat I have called Blair would be better called Oxley and a new name created for the seat I have called Oxley.

Two other seats have less than 50% of their population from the seats currently holding that name. 48% of the proposed seat Brisbane is from the current seat Brisbane with 28% from Lilley, 21% from Petrie and 3% from Dickson. And 47% of the proposed seat Fadden comes from the existing Fadden with 49% from Forde and 4% from Rankin. However, both have substantial connections to the current seats.

There is also a new seat that needs to be named. My personal feeling is it should be named after Neville Bonner, the first indigenous person to be elected to the federal parliament and who passed away in 1999. However, it would need to be done in consultation with his family to ensure no offence was created.

Political Implications

Although political implications aren't considered by the Committee, I think it is important to be aware of them so inadvertent gerrymanders aren't created. Currently the coalition holds 19 seats, Labor holds 7 with one independent. I haven't done a comprehensive analysis but there could be some changes as a result of this redistribution. The new seat would probably be a Labor seat. Blair would probably change from Liberal to Labor. Bowman and Brisbane could swing from Labor to Liberal and Petrie could swing from Liberal to Labor. Most other seats would probably stay as they are. The best Labor could hope for if voting patterns were as they are at the 2001 election would be 11 seats out of 28. The best the Coalition could hope for would be 20 seats out of 28 if Kennedy stayed independent. In the circumstances, I don't believe there would be an unfair advantage to either side.

Conclusion

There are two disadvantages of this proposal. One is that a number of seats will move substantially from their current positions potentially breaking connections between elected representatives and their constituents. The other is that the proposed seat of Dickson is a bit of a dog's breakfast, combining rural areas northwest of Brisbane with outer metro suburbs of Pine Rivers and a little bit of Brisbane. However, these rural areas do need to be combined with some outer metro communities and having considered the current option of combining them with parts of Ipswich and another alternative combining them with parts of Caboolture, I felt the Pine Rivers option caused the least disruption overall.

The advantage to this proposal is many seats now have a clear focus to their local communities which can be used in future redistributions to minimise further disruption.