



The Federal Redistribution 2003
QUEENSLAND



Public Suggestion Number 19

**Hon Bob Katter MP
Member for Kennedy**

3 pages

SUGGESTION**19**

20 June 2003

Redistribution Committee for Queensland
7th Floor, Collection House
488 Queen Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sirs,

Re : REDISTRIBUTION SUBMISSION FOR THE SEAT OF KENNEDY

It is submitted that the following matters are relevant to the redistribution of electoral boundaries in North Queensland and the consideration of the Committee is sought in respect of these matters.

The electorate of KENNEDY currently shares boundaries with the electorates of LEICHHARDT, HERBERT, DAWSON, CAPRICORNIA and MARANOVA.

Briefly the quota status at 2003 and projections to 2007 of the most relevant electorates are :-

KENNEDY is marginally under quota now and well under maximum. On projections to 2007 it will be well under minimum and considerably under quota.

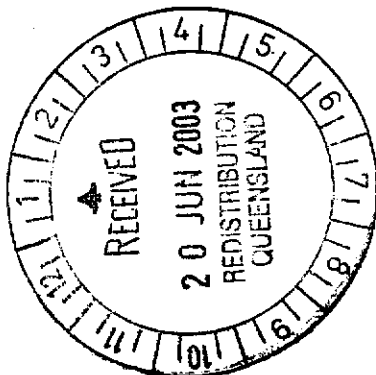
LEICHHARDT is a little over quota and well under maximum now. By 2007 it will be on quota.

HERBERT is considerably over quota and almost at maximum. The trend to 2007 shows a worsening situation.

DAWSON is moderately over quota but still comfortably under maximum. By 2007 it will be on quota.

A rationalization of the foregoing identifies a necessary reduction in Herbert and the placement of those voters into Kennedy as being the most practical option.

It is therefore apparent that the adjustments in North Queensland can and should be dealt with in relative isolation, and on this premise it is submitted that there are no grounds for major adjustment to Dawson and none whatsoever to support change to Leichhardt.



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However, it is anticipated that submissions from others may opportunistically suggest the relocation of certain groups of voters from Leichhardt and Herbert be transferred to Kennedy and on this basis the following points are offered for consideration.

1. Leichhardt is approximately 1500 over quota but on projections this will correct by natural attrition. No adjustment is necessary at this time so suggestions that the communities of Yarrabah, Kowanyama or Pormpuraaw should be relocated into Kennedy are unjustifiable both numerically and in terms of social and administrative linkages. Such a proposition would be strongly resisted as it was in the last distribution by people in these communities. Kennedy electorate embraces 142 towns and it would be virtually impossible to appropriately represent additional distant towns. It would adversely impact on the ability to represent the already long list of remote centres including Kurumba, Mornington Island, Burketown and Doomadgee.
The Yarrabah community traditionally looks towards Cairns for its medical, educational, administrative, parliamentary and social support, and this should remain. Similarly, the Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw communities consider themselves Cape communities rather than Gulf communities and identify with Cairns rather than Mount Isa as their regional centre. More importantly, the lines of communication with these centres are such that their only communication with the outside world is with Cairns. Transport links confirm their association with Cairns in any event. In Queensland, communications run east-west. This is demonstrated by the fact that children from Gulf, mid west and far west towns are educated at three Charters Towers boarding schools. Social events, such as horse racing, agricultural shows, cattle sale centres all inextricably link Charters Towers to its hinterland. As you drive in to Charters Towers a statue says you are in the country music city and there is another statue of a big droughtmaster bull. Mount Isa Mines has coal mining operations at Pentland, west of Charters Towers, and gold mining operations at Ravenswood, just east of Charters Towers. The areas are very homogenous, cattle and mining, mining and cattle.
Kuranda, similarly has only one industry, tourism and is in all ways a suburb of Cairns (its local government comes from west of Cairns, an historical throw-back to the days when it was a timber logging centre).
2. Palm Island, which is included in the Herbert electorate, is another example. The Palm Island community has always enjoyed close ties with Townsville and has been wholly supported from Townsville since it's earliest days. All of its transport links are with Townsville, and Palm Island has absolutely no communication with any town in the Kennedy electorate.
3. The Northern Beaches area north of Townsville is a very homogenous area. Many of the Rollingsstone and Northern Beaches residents now in the Kennedy electorate work at the Nickel refinery at Yabulu, whilst many of the non-Kennedy Northern Beaches residents work in the fruit picking industries at Rollingsstone. The Northern Beaches members consider themselves an extremely homogenous group with an almost identical community of interest – a lack of services and lack of an adequate access road in to Townsville and north to Rollingsstone. It would appear to be logical that these areas should

come in to Kennedy. I make the point that they are, I am advised, Labor voting areas both State and Federal. Even the briefest of interface with people of this area would demonstrate their very strong community of interest shared by all of the Northern Beaches residents. Similarly in Cairns there is a very definite Northern Beaches identity.

More detailed analysis will be following and we would like to officially request a verbal presentation in due course.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Bob Katter, MP
Member for Kennedy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SENT 20, 6, 03