



**The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND**



Comment Number One on Public Suggestions

Hon Bruce Scott MP

2 pages



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 ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER

BS:db

Redistribution Committee for Queensland
 GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE Q 4001



Dear Members,

I am writing to provide comment on the Public Suggestions in relation to the forthcoming Federal redistribution for Queensland, in respect to the seat of Maranoa.

I note that the Liberal party suggests that Maranoa Electorate meets quota as required under the Redistribution Act and that there would not be a need to transfer Clifton Shire into the Electorate of Maranoa, in the projected changes.

I further note that the Australian Labor Party (ALP) has also indicated that Maranoa meets the quota requirements of the Act; yet propose to transfer the Local Government areas of Dalby, Wambo and Chinchilla to the seat of Blair - furthermore on their suggested map Murilla Shire is also included in this transfer.

I strongly oppose this suggested boundary as Dalby, which is surrounded by the Shire of Wambo, is the second largest town in the Maranoa Electorate and has for decades had the Divisional Returning Officer for Maranoa based in Dalby.

Dalby and Chinchilla are regional centres servicing communities on the Darling Downs and Western Queensland, along transport corridors of the Moonie and Warrego Highways.

Dalby is the gateway for western bound tourism; and is also a major centre for cattle sales, drawing on large number of stocks from western regions of the Maranoa electorate.

These shires form part of a regional grouping of Local Authorities, based on the Darling Downs and South-West and Western Queensland, and have no communities of interest, east of the Great Dividing Range, which provides a natural boundary between Maranoa and Blair.

In relation to the ALP's suggested makeup of the seat of Blair, there are no connections business-wise, or of geographical relevance for these shires, with those from the South and Central Burnett areas.

Furthermore the ALP proposes to include the Shires of Boulia, Cloncurry, McKinlay, Richmond, Flinders and Mount Isa City, in Maranoa. These areas have historically formed the basis of the Kennedy Federal Electorate. Their communities of interest for business and travel, social and otherwise are connected by rail/road/air to Townsville.

I have also noted the public comments made by the Federal Member for Kennedy, The Hon Bob Katter, "...The suggestion of the North-West going to Maranoa is just ridiculous as there is no commonality of interest in any way, shape or form."

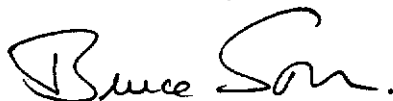
I strongly oppose the ALP's suggestion that these shires be brought into the Electorate of Maranoa.

The ALP's suggestion would make dramatic changes to the makeup of Maranoa which they themselves have indicated currently meets the quota requirement under the Act - requiring little, if any change. I believe these would be opposed by a broad cross-section of the communities in both areas of the Maranoa Electorate.

One of the requirements of the Act is to preserve communities of interest, if at all possible, something which is not achieved or completely ignored in the formation of the Australian Labor Party's suggestion.

Under the Redistribution Act the Maranoa Electorate meets quota requirements and I would therefore support the Liberal and National Party's proposals.

Yours sincerely



BRUCE SCOTT MP

10 March, 2006