



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Comment Number Five on Public Suggestions

Wambo Shire Council

2 pages

Wambo Shire Council
Proudly Rural

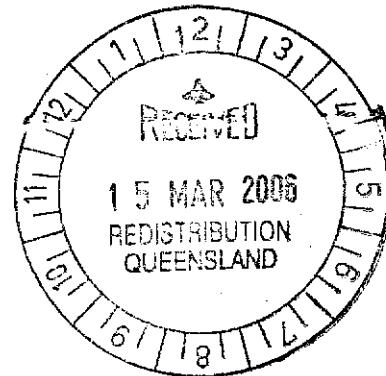
LRV 0801 (148071)

13th March, 2006

Redistribution Committee for Queensland
GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE 4000

COMMENT

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Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Electoral Redistribution of Federal Seat of Maranoa

The Council is aware of the current review being undertaken of the distribution of Federal Electorates in Queensland and is concerned in regard to the suggestions of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) about the seat of Maranoa in particular.

Wambo Shire is the rural Shire surrounding the town of Dalby and is situated in the Maranoa Electorate.

This Council's concerns are based on the following points:-

- The town of Dalby has the Maranoa Divisional AEC office.
- Dalby is the second largest town in the Maranoa electorate.
- Dalby and Chinchilla are hubs for business opportunities, social interaction, health and aged care services, agriculture, and sporting facilities for the Darling Downs region.
- Dalby Town/Wambo Shire is the gateway for western bound tourism.
- The roads through Dalby and the Wambo Shire link the main highways of Warrego and Moonie. Dalby is a major cattle selling centre which draws large number of stock from the western regions of the Maranoa electorate.
- The shires of Dalby, Wambo, Chinchilla and Murilla should be retained in the Maranoa electorate just as they have been for decades, because they are not connected in any meaningful way with communities north east of the Great Dividing Range in the current electorate of Blair.
- There is no relevance for business and no geographical relevance for these shires with the South and Central Burnett regions.

Heart of the Magnificent Darling Downs

COMMENT

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- The Dalby, Wambo, and Chinchilla Councils form part of the Darling Downs and Western Queensland Local Government Association Areas (LGA). The Murilla Shire is part of the South West Queensland LGA area.
- It is important to have communities of common interest in Federal electorates and it would make good sense to keep these shires in the Maranoa electorate and not have them included in the Blair electorate.
- It is understood that existing shires in the Central Western Queensland part of Maranoa supported the last redistribution and their inclusion in Maranoa as it meant they would be included with communities of common interests.
- It is understood that all of the shires being proposed to be moved from the electorate of Kennedy to Maranoa have always formed part of the Federal electorate of Kennedy.
- The shires being proposed to be removed from Kennedy have their main road, rail and air services linked to Townsville.
- The mining export terminal for Mt Isa mines is in Townsville.

In conclusion, it is advised that this Council supports the suggestions by the National and Liberal Parties in respect to the proposed future boundaries of the Maranoa Electorate as these proposals would preserve the current communities of interest.

Yours faithfully,



LEE VOHLAND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER