



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Comment Number Thirteen on Public Suggestions

The Nationals

5 pages

THE NATIONALS

COMMENT

№ - 13

16 March 2006

Redistribution Committee for Queensland
Level 7 - 488 Queen Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: qld.redistribution@aec.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Comments for Redistribution Committee on public suggestions

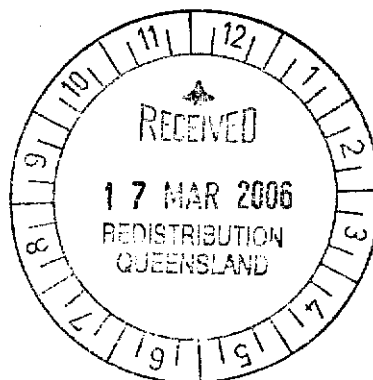
On behalf of The Queensland Nationals I attach comments on public suggestion submissions received by the Redistribution Committee in accordance with Section 64 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions on this paper.

Yours sincerely,



Brad Henderson
State Director



The Nationals Queensland

Comment on Public Suggestions

Prepared for:

**Australian Electoral Commission
Redistribution Committee for Queensland**

Purpose

To provide The Nationals Queensland comments to the Redistribution Committee for Queensland on public suggestion submissions lodged with the AEC in accordance with Section 64 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.

Submissions

The Australian Labor Party – Queensland Branch

The Nationals Queensland has significant reservations in relation to several suggestions made by the Australian Labor Party – Queensland Division.

It is clear in much of the submission that due consideration for community of interest, physical features and means of communication and travel were put secondary to political advantage. This is evident with the creation of the new electorate based on Ipswich that produces absurd boundary changes to Blair, Groom and Maranoa electorates, which disperse community of interest, ignore physical features and lack means of communication. This trend is also reflected across boundary suggestions throughout the submission.

In relation to specific electorate suggestions:

Maranoa

The Nationals Queensland are strongly opposed to the proposal for Maranoa to lose Dalby, Wambo, Chinchilla, and Murilla LGAs and gain Boulia, Mount Isa, Cloncurry, McKinlay, Richmond and Flinders LGAs.

- Boulia, Mount Isa, Cloncurry, McKinlay, Richmond and Flinders LGAs have always formed part of Kennedy. These LGAs have no community of interest or communication and travel links to Maranoa's base in the central and south west of Queensland. They have direct air, rail and road links to Townsville and the main mining export terminal for Mt Isa mines is in Townsville. These LGAs must remain in Kennedy where they are

logically placed. Projected numbers can be obtained for Kennedy and Maranoa without such radical changes to boundaries.

- Dalby, Wambo, Chinchilla, and Murilla LGAs should be retained in Maranoa as they have no connection with communities east due to the major physical barrier of the Great Dividing Range.

These LGAs provide important hubs for business, social interaction, health and aged care services, and sporting facilities for the Darling Downs and western Queensland. These services are not utilised by or logically available to eastern communities.

Dalby is the second largest centre in Maranoa and is home of the Maranoa Divisional AEC Office. It is a major cattle selling centre that draws stock from the western regions of the Maranoa electorate. In its position of gateway to the west and western bound tourism, Dalby provides central communication and travel links to these western regions through the Warrego and Moonie Highways.

There is no community of interest, social, economic or regional, between these LGAs with the south and central Burnett regions.

Kennedy

The Nationals Queensland are opposed to the proposal for Kennedy to lose Boulia, Mount Isa, Cloncurry, McKinlay, Richmond and Flinders LGAs into Maranoa.

- These LGAs have always formed part of Kennedy and for reasons stated in the Maranoa comments, it is logical and important that these areas remain in Kennedy.
- More minor changes around the Mareeba Shire would solve the population issues for the electorate.

Groom

The Nationals Queensland opposes the proposal for Groom to gain the Gatton Shire.

- The Great Dividing Range at Toowoomba imposes a major physical barrier that divides the Toowoomba and Cambooya LGAs with the Gatton LGA. This barrier historically has been an impediment to extending the boundary of Groom and similarly there is limited community of interest between the areas. Toowoomba has strong community of interest with the Darling Downs, while Gatton community of interest is drawn eastward through the Lockyer Valley to Ipswich. This is acknowledged on in the

ALP submission, which states that, "Gatton has a claim to be included in the Ipswich based division." (p.6)

Blair

- The ALP proposed electorate of Blair contains only a very small part of what was previously Blair. The ALP proposed electorate called Theodore should in fact be called Blair. Labor's Blair is a collection of rural shires, almost all of which have been cut off from their major provincial centre creating an electorate with no common identity or regional focus centre.
- Perry and Kolan Shires are closely linked to Bundaberg. The only sealed road to the Perry Shire is to Bundaberg. Perry is a very small shire and community and would be significantly disadvantaged in this proposed electorate.
- The electorate also crosses the natural barrier of the Great Dividing Range, illogically including Wambo, Chinchilla and Murilla Shires and Dalby town with the coastal Shires that make up the rest of their proposed electorate. Successive electoral redistributions have recognised the Great Dividing Range as a natural barrier, which should form the western and eastern boundaries of electorates wherever possible. There is no community of interest between Gympie and Miles, Gin Gin and Dalby, or Esk and Eidsvold.
- Clearly this proposed electorate would be cannibalised in future redistributions as growth continues on the Sunshine and Cooloola Coasts, causing a more radical redistribution again in just a few years.

Wide Bay/Hinkler

- The proposal to add parts of the Noosa Shire to Wide Bay via eastern parts of the Cooloola Shire is illogical. There is no practical coastal road system through Labor's proposed Wide Bay linking the Noosa Shire to Maryborough and Hervey Bay – it is cut-off by a national park and the Noosa River. Noosa's community of interest is overwhelmingly with the Sunshine Coast, not Hervey Bay and Maryborough. Noosa Shire people watch Sunshine Coast television, shop in Gympie or Maroochydore and receive their medical and other services from the Sunshine Coast. They rarely, if ever, have reason to travel to or do business with the Fraser Coast.
- The proposal to include the Isis Shire in the Wide Bay electorate is apparently justified simply to make up the numbers. There are better ways of achieving this objective than taking the Isis Shire away from its community of interest with Bundaberg City. While Isis Shire and Hervey Bay City are joined, they are divided by the Burrum River at its mouth, which can only be crossed further inland.

Liberal Party Submission*Wide Bay/Hinkler*

- The submission has failed to consider community of interest issues in Central Queensland. Duaringa Shire has absolutely no community of interest with the Fraser Coast. The Duaringa Shire is a part of the Rockhampton hinterland and looks to Rockhampton for its hospital and community services. It has nothing in common with Hervey Bay and Maryborough, the major centres in the electorate.
- The Perry Shire's community of interest is Bundaberg City; the only sealed road to the Perry Shire is to Bundaberg. The proposal to include the Isis Shire in the Wide Bay electorate is apparently based simply on a desire to make up the numbers. There are better ways of achieving this objective than taking the Isis Shire away from its community of interest with Bundaberg City. While Isis Shire and Hervey Bay City are joined, they are divided by the Burrum River at its mouth, which can only be crossed further inland.
- It is illogical to divide the small Kilkivan Shire between two Federal electorates. If it were to be divided, it should be along the range separating the Burnett Valley town of Goomeri from the Mary Valley town of Kilkivan. However, such an option would only realistic if Kilkivan was included in the same Federal electorate as the city of Gympie or perhaps Maryborough which is its centre of interest.
- The submission excludes both of the geographical features carrying the name of Wide Bay from the electorate, namely Wide Bay which is at the southern tip of Fraser Island and Wide Bay creek in the Kilkivan Shire.

NAME OF NEW ELECTORATE

- Labor - Theodore would be a poor choice for the name of the new electorate. Edward Theodore, "Red Ted" was the subject of considerable political controversy and derision in Queensland and it would not be appropriate to name an electorate in his honour. The name would also cause confusion with the town with the same name, which is not located near the electorate identified in the Labor Party's submission. Edward Theodore never represented Queensland in the Federal Parliament; he was the Member for Dalley in NSW for just over three years.
- Liberal - The Liberal Party's choice of Sir Gordon Chalk is also inappropriate. Sir Gordon was merely a Deputy Premier of Queensland, most noted for opposing the abolition of death duties. Since most Queensland Premiers have not had a Federal electorate named in their honour, it would be inappropriate to name one after a Deputy Premier. Sir Gordon Chalk represented the Lockyer Valley in the Queensland State Parliament, not the areas identified by the Liberal Party for their proposed new electorate.