



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
**QUEENSLAND**



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**Comment Number Fifteen on Public Suggestions**

**Liberal Party of Australia – Qld Division**

**4 pages**

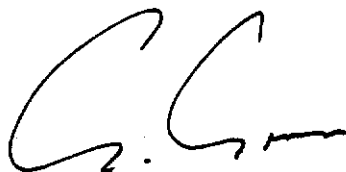
17 March 2006

Mrs Anne Bright  
Australian Electoral Commission  
488 Queen Street  
Brisbane Q 4001

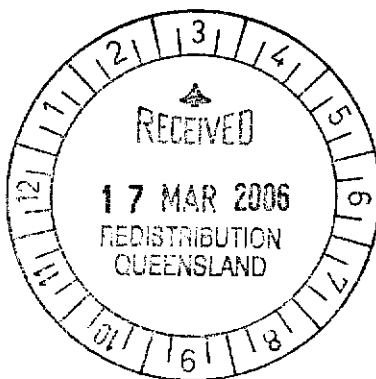
Dear Mrs Bright

In my capacity as the Returning Officer for the Liberal Party of Australia, please find attached the Liberal Party's Comments on Public Suggestions in regard to the 2006 Federal Electorate redistribution.

Sincerely,



**Geoffrey Greene**  
State Director



**LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (QLD DIVISION)****COMMENT ON PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS****17 MARCH, 2006****Introduction**

In reviewing the public suggestions submitted to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) for the 2006 Queensland redistribution, the Liberal Party has identified a number of issues, which it believes should be given further scrutiny by the redistribution committee.

**Name of New Electoral Division**

The Liberal Party has proposed the name of Chalk for the division, which is to be created in this redistribution. In support of this we would note that Sir Gordon Chalk was a Member of the Qld State Parliament from May 1947 until August 1976. In this time he was Minister for Transport (1957-65), Deputy Premier and Treasurer (1965-76) and was Premier (1 August 1968 - 8 August 1968). During his 29 years as a Member of State Parliament, Sir Gordon vigorously pursued Queensland's economic development and developed a reputation as a fighter for Queensland. Among his achievements was his role as an advocate for the development of the mining industry and coal exports, the development and electrification of railways, the construction of the Queensland Cultural Centre and the financing of Brisbane's city bus network at that time. Sir Gordon was known as a true patriot who through his vision has helped build modern Queensland into the dynamic and economically viable state it is today. It is appropriate that the new seat be named in his honour.

**Correction to Original Submission (28 February, 2006)**

We note that in the Liberal Party of Australia (Qld Division) submission on p. 5 the paragraph regarding the seat of Ryan should have read: "Ryan remains largely intact with the only changes being undertaken to accommodate neighbouring seats. It therefore gives Karana Downs to Blair, and gains the area of Sinnamon Park and Seventeen Mile Rocks from Oxley. These suburbs have a greater community interest with Ryan than with the seat of Oxley."

**Comments on Proposed Boundaries**

The Liberal Party of Australia (Qld Division) acknowledges the considerable effort associated with preparing a submission for the Commission and notes the number of people and organisations that have contributed proposals for the redistribution of divisions.

Specific comment is provided on each submission that identifies a specific boundary change.

**Submission 1 – Marcus Ringuet**

We reviewed the proposal and have no comment

**Submission 2 – Aramac Shire Council**

We reviewed the proposal and have no comment

**Submission 3 – Munduberra Shire Council**

We reviewed the proposal and have no comment

**Submission 4 – Kolan Shire Council**

We reviewed the proposal and have no comment

**Submission 5 – Hon Bob Katter MP**

We note that this submission considers Kennedy, Leichhardt and Herbert in isolation and while it may make some valid points, it does not take into account the scale of the redistribution changes required for the whole State.

**Submission 6 – Fiona Simpson MLA**

Ms Simpson identifies a very valid point of the current splitting of Maroochydore and the Liberal Party (Qld Division) submission takes this into account.

**Submission 7 – Bob Irwin**

We reviewed the proposal and have no comment

**Submission 8 - Liberal Party of Australia (Qld Division)**

We would reiterate that our original submission satisfies the enrolment quota range set by the AEC and has the major objective of causing minimum disruption to voters while siting the new seat in an area where population growth will be sustained over the foreseeable future. We have also taken into account the AEC's stated objectives of ensuring that where possible Local Government boundaries, communities of interest and other criteria are actively protected.

**Submission 9 – William A Green**

We reviewed the proposal and have no comment

**Submission 10 – Australian Labor Party (Queensland Branch)**

The ALP (Qld Branch) submission places the new seat in an area where it impacts unnecessarily on large numbers of electors. In addition, it is clear from figures provided by the Australian Electoral Commission itself that projected levels of population growth does not support this proposal. Substantial boundary changes throughout the State are proposed by ALP submission causing huge disruption through un-necessary dislocation of voters.

The ALP (Qld Branch) submission would appear to ignore key aspects of the criteria set out in Section 66 (3) (b) of the Act – community of interests, means of communication and travel, physical features and area, and boundaries of existing Divisions.

An examples of this is the lack of logic in the splitting of Noosa with the dislocation of voters - even admitted by Labor in their submission to be a concern – “..we are forced to split Noosa..”; and “... turning to the future its almost certain that the redistribution that will follow during the next Parliament will result in a division containing all of both Noosa and Cooloola LGA’s ”. This of itself is an admission by the ALP that there is no logic in the splitting of Noosa! Further examples include the un-necessary major changes to the seats of Petrie, Bonner, Moreton, Maranoa, Groom and Griffith.

Added to this is the un-necessary changing of Blair into a seat that will be an amorphous rural conglomerate with no centre but extending from west of Toowoomba onto the Darling Downs, north through the Brisbane Valley to the Burnett Valley. This is a direct consequence of drawing the new seat around Ipswich rather than in the area where the projected growth suggests it should go.

The Liberal Party of Australia (Qld Division) would argue that the current redistribution should attempt to minimise this dislocation bearing in mind the likelihood of another redistribution in three years. This is a further argument against the unnecessary extent of the ALP (Qld Division) proposals.

Under the ALP (Qld Division) proposal, over 1000 Census Collection Districts (CCDs) are affected which is substantially greater than changes mooted in any other submission. Implementation of this proposal would have serious consequential effects on around 320,000 people which represents more than 70,000 extra electors who would be dislocated compared with the Liberal Party submission and breaking up communities of interest around the State. We argue strongly that under the ALP (Qld Division) submission there would be an unnecessary and substantial dislocation of voters which, we submit, breaches the spirit of the guidelines under the Electoral Act.

### **Submission 11 - The Nationals**

We agree in principle with The Nationals submission, in particular the general location of the new seat is in line with projected population growth figures, but we would argue that the Liberal Party submission for a new electorate of Chalk is better placed to fit the criteria. However, we consider proposed changes to Petrie, especially the splitting of Redcliffe City, are not logical and contrary to the community of interest and Local Government boundary criteria in the Act. Further, it should be noted that there is a very strong community feeling covering the whole of the Redcliffe City.