



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
QUEENSLAND



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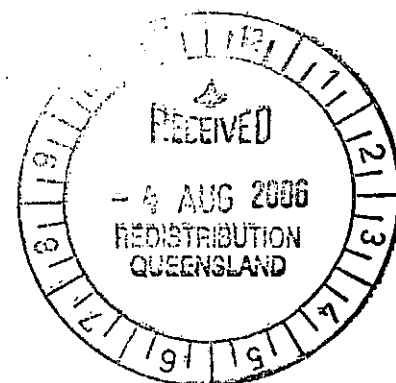
**Comment Number 36 on Objections**

**Mr John Cherry**

**4 pages**

3 August 2006

Mr John Cherry  
PO Box 12009  
Brisbane Q 4003



Secretary  
Redistribution Committee for Queensland  
GPO Box 2590  
Brisbane Q 4001

Dear Madam/Sir,

**COMMENTS ON OBJECTIONS TO THE 2006 ELECTORAL  
REDISTRIBUTION OF QUEENSLAND**

Having read the 191 objections to the proposed redistribution, I would submit that the Commission needs to make substantial changes to the proposals to better reflect communities of interest across the state and reduce the number of displaced electors. The Commission, in my view, should have particular regard to the views expressed by local government authorities, who are able to accurately represent to the Commission the communities of interest in their region and the impact that has on political representation.

It is worth summarizing the submissions received from local authorities on community of interest objections, which mostly concerned Wright, Maranoa, Hinkler and Wide Bay.

Council objecting	proposal
Aramac SC (2)	Retain in Maranoa rather than Wright
Longreach SC (17)	Retain in Maranoa rather than Wright
Taroom SC (25)	Retain in Maranoa rather than Wright
Tambo SC (34)	Retain in Maranoa rather than Wright
Blackall SC (37)	Retain in Maranoa rather than Wright
Barcaldine SC (45)	Retain in Maranoa rather than Wright
Ilfracombe SC (70)	Retain in Maranoa rather than Wright
Winton SC 9172)	Retain in Maranoa rather than Wright
Maryborough CC (6)	Retain Hervey Bay and Maryborough in Wide Bay
Hervey Bay CC (124)	Retain Hervey Bay and Maryborough in Wide Bay
Woocoo SC (172)	Reunite all of shire in Wide Bay
Biggenden SC (19)	Retain in Wide Bay
Wondai SC (23)	Retain in Wide Bay
Kingaroy SC (113)	Move to Wide Bay rather than Maranoa
Esk SC (13)	Retain in Blair rather than Dickson
Kolan SC (20)	Retain in Hinkler
Burnett SC (168)	Reunite all of shire in Hinkler
Livingstone SC (28)	Retain all of Fitzroy shire in Capricornia
Rockhampton CC (169)	Base Capricornia more closely on Rockhampton region
Fitzroy SC (18)	Re-unite all of shire in Capricornia
Sarina SC (36)	Retain in Dawson

**COMMENT**

**№ - 3 6**

Mirani SC (86)	Retain in Dawson
Eidsvold SC (68)	Retain in Hinkler
Perry SC (88)	Retain in Hinkler
Townsville CC (158)	Retain all of city in Herbert
Noosa SC (24)	Object to Wide Bay, retain in Fairfax
Caboolture SC (151)	Improve border between Longman and Fisher

Most of these proposals were supported by the individual submissions, with:

- 79 objections to the moving of the western shires out of Maranoa;
- 10 objections to placing Hervey Bay and Maryborough in two separate seats (including from both Chambers of Commerce and from local member Warren Truss MP);
- 2 objections to Biggenden being moved out of Wide Bay;
- 4 objections to the splitting of Fitzroy Shire between Capricornia and Wright (including from local member Kirsten Livermore MP);
- 2 objections to Esk being placed in Dickson (including from local member Cameron Thompson MP);
- 5 objections to inclusion of Mackay, Mirani and/or Sarina in Capricornia rather than Dawson (including from local member Deanne Kelly MP);
- 2 objections to the splitting of Burnett Shire between Hinkler and Wright;
- 1 objection to shifting Wondai from Wide Bay to Maranoa;
- 5 objections to the borders of Moreton (including from local member Gary Hardgrave MP);
- 2 objections to the splitting of Caboolture between Longman and Fisher;
- 7 objections to Noosa being placed in Wide Bay (including from local MP Alex Somylay);
- 4 objections to Yarrabah being shifted from Leichhardt (including from local member Bob Katter MP);
- 6 objections to shifting part of Townsville to Dawson

Comments on political party submissions:

**a. Nationals:**

The Nationals propose modifications to Maranoa to include the western shires and exclude Kingaroy/Wondai, with the enrolment shortfall made up from Groom. Their proposals reduce the enrolment of Maranoa by 4445, leaving it well below quota, and involve splitting Rosalie and Jondaryan shires. For quota purposes, I think it makes more sense to leave Emerald in Maranoa, linking up the Capricorn Highway transport corridor to Longreach. The Nationals submission leaves Wright as large seats stretching from Emerald and Peak Downs in the north, to Gladstone in the east, to Kingaroy in the south, a seat with little community of interest between its parts. The Commission's approach of linking coastal communities to adjacent inland areas, amplified in my objection, is a better approach I think. The Nationals also propose pushing Capricornia north to Charters Towers to reduce transfers from Herbert to Dawson. This makes no sense on community of interest grounds. Indeed, there is a stronger community of interest along the Bruce

Highway corridor from Mackay into southern Townsville than there is between Rockhampton and Charters Towers, which looks more to Townsville.

**b. Liberals:**

The Liberals objection is extensive and covers a range of seats. They object to the inclusion of Hervey Bay in Hinkler rather than Wide Bay (as did I). They object to the shift of Noosa from Fairfax to Wide Bay (as did I) and to the new border between Fairfax and Fisher. They object to the splitting of parts of Caboolture (e.g. Morayfield) due to the shift of Dakabin from Dickson to Longman (as did I). Their argument to leave Dickson unchanged makes much sense on community of interest grounds, and would mean less extensive changes to Longman. They object to the new border between Petrie and Lilley (although this returns Lilley to its pre 2004 borders). They object to the proposed borders of Bonner, Griffith and Moreton. While the case for changing Bonner appears weak, there may be a case for looking again at the border between Moreton and Griffith, possibly transferring more of Tarragindi from Griffith to Moreton. They object to the shift of Algester and Parkinson from Moreton to Oxley, although their alternative of shifting Sherwood/Chelmer instead would leave Moreton some 3000 electors short. And, they object to the transfer of Kingaroy to Maranoa, a view I agree with.

**c. Labor:**

The Labor Party proposed shifting Yarrabah back to Leichhardt and parts of Edmonton to Kennedy. I note this view is supported by several other objections (including Bob Katter MP), pointing to the strong community of interest between Yarrabah and Cairns and other indigenous communities on the Cape. Labor proposes changes between Dawson, Herbert and Kennedy, but, for the reasons outlined above, I think the Commission had little choice on community of interest grounds than to split Townsville. Labor raises concerns about Bowman, Rankin, Forde, Oxley and Blair. As a former resident of Boonah, I endorse their view that Boonah Shire should be retained in Forde, and Blair consolidated into Ipswich city. Boonah and Beaudesert have been grouped into the same Federal division for most of the last five decades, and in the same state division (Fassifern and Beaudesert) for all but a few years of that period. This would reduce the changes to Forde and Rankin as well as allow for a clearer border between Blair and Oxley. Labor proposes that Bowman be left unchanged, with lesser transfers from Rankin to Oxley as a result, a modification that leaves Bowman within tolerance (albeit above quota).

**Summary of observations:**

The proposals attracting the most criticism appear to be:

- excising the western shires from Maranoa;
- including the South Burnett shires in Maranoa rather than Wide Bay;
- excising Hervey Bay from Wide Bay;
- including Noosa Shire in Wide Bay;
- the northern and southern borders of Capricornia and Dawson;
- including Esk in Dickson.

**COMMENT**

**№ - 3 6**

I note that my objection satisfied the bulk of these concerns, with a substantially smaller number of transfers of electors. I submit that a better strategy, reflecting the clear community of interest requirements expressed in the objections, would be:

- Retain Maranoa with its current borders with the addition of Clifton Shire (to bring Groom and Maranoa within tolerance);
- Retain Mackay City entirely in Dawson and Fitzroy Shire entirely within Capricornia;
- The rest of the proposed seat of Wright to be renamed Hinkler, with the addition of the city of Bundaberg. To bring the seat back to quota, the north Burnett shires of Monto, Mundubbera, Eidsvold, Perry, and Kolan would be returned to Wide Bay (where they were prior to the last redistribution);
- Hervey Bay, Woocoo and Biggenden would be returned to Wide Bay, less the south Burnett shires of Wondai, Murgon and Kilkivan, and the shire of Cooloola.
- The new seat of Wright would be based on the fast growing shires of Cooloola and Noosa and the south Burnett shires (Kingaroy, Nanango, Crows Nest, Murgon, Kilkivan, Wondai), linking transport links across the Wide Bay Highway between Kingaroy and Gympie;
- Dickson remains unchanged and Esk Shire is shifted to Fisher, with more of Caboolture shire returned to Longman;
- Retain Boonah in Forde and shift Blair further into Ipswich.

These changes better reflect the communities of interest, involve fewer transfers of electors and meet most of the objections raised to the boundaries. I note that my proposal for the new seat to be based on the shires of Cooloola and Noosa was also proposed by the Federal MP who formerly represented both areas, Alex Somlyay.

In terms of the name of the new division, I note the large number of objections to creating a seat of Wright in Central Queensland. My proposal addresses this issue by establishing Wright in the South East corner avoiding the local name identity problem, and also placing the new seat in a faster growth corridor (northern Sunshine Coast).

I hope these comments assist the Commission in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely,



John Cherry

**COMMENT**

**№ - 3 6**