



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 4

Mr John Cherry

14 pages



28 June 2006

Mr John Cherry
PO Box 12009
Brisbane Q 4003

Secretary
Redistribution Committee for Queensland
GPO Box 2590
Brisbane Q 4001

Dear Madam/Sir,

OBJECTION TO THE 2006 ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION OF QUEENSLAND

I wish to lodge an objection to the 2006 electoral redistribution. My objection is that the proposed boundaries of electorates between Ipswich and Rockhampton fail to take into account long established communities of interest, and result in transfers of substantial numbers of electors for no good purpose. I submit that boundaries can be established that involve fewer transfers of electors while better meeting the community of interest criteria established in section 66(3) of the act.

1. Standing of the Objector:

I am an elector in the seat of Ryan (and am not objecting to the unchanged boundaries of that seat) but have been a long standing observer and commentator on electoral boundaries in Queensland. I served as a Senator for Queensland for four years (2001-5) and traveled extensively throughout the State. I also acted as an electoral research analysis for the Australian Democrats from 1993 to 2004, and wrote that party's objections to the 1997 and 2003 redistributions. I have no vested interest in the outcome of the redistribution, but make this submission in the interests of maximizing the democratic process in Queensland through effective representation. In my view, electorates based on strong communities of interest (including media markets) is essential for strong electoral contests. Further, maintaining a degree of certainty of boundaries also assists in that process.

2. Historical context of this redistribution

This is the fifth redistribution over six electoral cycles in Queensland, caused by continuing population growth. Continuous redistributions involving large scale transfers of electors has seen some districts shuffled between various electorates to 'make up the numbers', particularly in the region between Ipswich and Rockhampton. While the criteria of existing boundaries in 66(3A) is subordinate to the criteria of community of interest, the frequent redistributions in Queensland add a particular poignancy to the case for seeking to maintain boundaries as far as practicable consistent with the community of

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interest criteria. In my view, the proposed boundaries in central and southern Queensland fundamentally fail to do so. This is particularly the case given that more effective communities of interest can be established with lesser transfers of electors.

3. Communities of interest

I do not object in broad terms to the Commission's approach to describing communities of interest, particularly the emphasis on 'readily recognizable' boundaries utilizing local government boundaries. Previous redistributions have also given strong weight to local government boundaries, which are a good proxy for determining regional interests in many cases. This redistribution involves a large degree of splitting of local authorities which, in several cases, has no good reason in terms of recognizing economic, social and regional interest or transport and communications or physical features. This redistribution appears to place a lot less emphasis on recognizing local government authorities than the previous one did. The boundaries of Dawson, Capricornia, Wright, Hinkler, Wide Bay, Dickson, Longman, Fisher and Blair involve splitting local authorities in means which, in my view, do not maximize community of interest and should be reviewed.

It is also submitted that this redistribution provides less emphasis on means of communication and travel than the previous one. Communications and travel are vitally important in electoral campaigning. It makes sense, for example, to have electorates located in the same media markets as much as possible, as this assists greatly in maximizing media coverage of the campaign. Similarly strong transport links are important for both campaigning in and servicing of electorates. The proposed boundaries of electorates like Wright, Hinkler, Wide Bay and Dickson cross several media markets and also several often not well linked transport networks. As such, the boundaries are substandard in terms of meeting criteria 66(3)(ii).

4. Recommended alternative strategy

The broad strategy outlined in this objective involves centres on better recognition of community of interest considerations, particularly defined regional links and local authorities, and minimizing changes to existing electorates. I propose retaining the current electorate of Maranoa (plus Clifton shire from Groom), retaining all of Mackay City in Dawson and all of Fitzroy Shire in Capricornia. The Committee's proposal for Wright would then swing further south to include the city of Bundaberg and retain the name 'Hinkler', and lose the north Burnett shires, which would return to Wide Bay (where they were prior to the last redistribution). These changes reduce the number of transfers of electors considerably.

The new electorate of Wright would be based on the south Burnett shires which would finally be united in a single electorate (Kingaroy, Nanango, Rosalie and Crows Nest from Blair; Wondai, Murgon and Kilkivan from Wide Bay) and the shires of Cooloola and Noosa and part of Maroochy (from Fairfax) This is a much more compact seat linked with strong economic, political, social and transport links. The electorate of Fairfax would be largely unchanged with Eumundi added to Wright for quota purposes. minor transfers with Fisher to establish clear boundaries.

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The electorate of Dickson should be left unchanged as the community of interest of the entire seat being contained within Pine Rivers Shire is far more compelling than the committee's strange proposal of attaching Esk Shire. Leaving Dickson unchanged also means more of Caboolture Shire can be retained in Longman, again better meeting community of interest needs. The deficiency in electors in Fisher would be met by adding Esk Shire, uniting all of the interlinked communities of the upper Brisbane Valley in the same electorate rather than split between two.

The electorate of Blair would be more closely focused on Ipswich by uniting all of Redbank Plains in the one electorate, with Boonah shire remaining in Forde with which it has strong geographic, transport, social and economic links. Changes to Forde would then need only be minor, retaining its existing northern border with Rankin. Rankin would be entirely within Logan City, but with two suburbs west of the Mt Lindsay Highway (Forestdale and Hillcrest) shifted to Oxley, which has been augmented by shifting suburbs west of the Mt Lindsay Highway from Moreton.

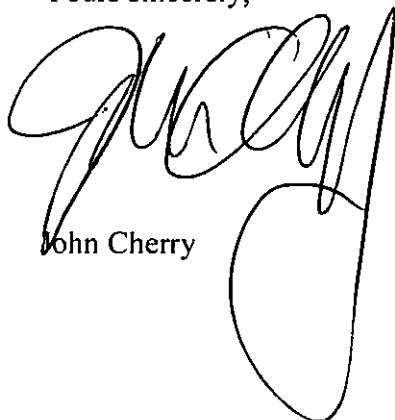
Electorates would also, in most cases, be more closely focused on existing local government authorities and defined regions. For example:

- Mackay city would be retained fully in Dawson;
- Fitzroy Shire would be retained fully in Capricornia;
- Woocoo Shire would be retained fully in Wide Bay;
- Dickson would be entirely focused on Pine Rivers Shire;
- The proportion of Ipswich City in Blair would rise from 72% to 78%;
- The proportion of Caboolture Shire in Longman rises from 86% to 95%;
- All of the south Burnett shires would be in the same electorate (Wide Bay);
- The twin cities of Maryborough and Hervey Bay would be retained in Wide Bay;
- All of the upper Brisbane Valley would be in the same electorate (Fisher).

The committee's proposals involve the transfer of 353,141 electors (or 14.29% of the state) with one in seven electors in new electorates. The proposals attached to this objection involve the transfer of 275,234 electors (or just 11.1% of the state), allowing 77,907 additional electors to stay in their existing electorates. It is submitted that this approach better meets the criteria of section 66 and as such better meets the objective of promoting fair elections and effective representation for the people of Queensland.

The specific objections and suggested changes to the various seats is attached. Should you require any further information from me, I can be contacted on 0408 066 105.

Yours sincerely,



John Cherry

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SUBSTANCE OF OBJECTIONS:

1. Dawson and Capricornia:

It is submitted that no good purpose is served by transferring part of Mackay City from Dawson to Capricornia. This leaves Dawson under quota in 2005 and 2007 and Capricornia over quota, and necessitates in turn the splitting of Fitzroy Shire in Capricornia in turn. Retaining all of Mackay City in Dawson and all of Fitzroy Shire in Capricornia recognizes the very strong communities of interest between Mackay and its immediate environs and Rockhampton and its immediate environments. To bring Wright up to quota would require the transfer of Kilkivan from Wide Bay, and an offsetting transfer from Fairfax to Wide Bay.

DAWSON

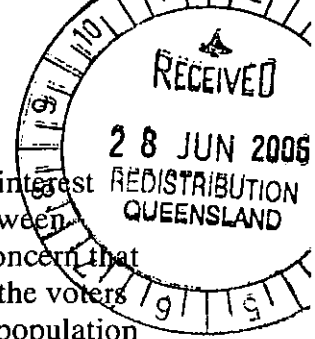
	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	91834	95703		
AEC proposed	83220	87293	13489	13878
Suggestion	85969	90129	10740	11042
- Retain Mackay B	2749	2836		
Difference	+2749	+2836	-2749	-2836
Quota variation	+0.88%	+0.6%		

CAPRICORNIA

	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	90614	92797		
AEC proposed	87225	89680	16878	16995
Suggestion	86330	88856	15024	14983
- Retain Fitzroy B	1854	2012	1854	2012
Difference	-895	-824	-1854	-2012
Quota variation	+1.3%	-0.82%		

2. Maranoa/Wright

This redistribution proposes major changes to Maranoa, losing the leg from Emerald to Longreach and picking up the south Burnett shires. The committee appears to place great emphasis on reducing the area of Maranoa. However, in doing so, it ignores the very strong community of interest in western Queensland, and creates 'artificial links' between coastal communities and western Queensland in Wright and between south west Queensland and the south Burnett in Maranoa. The communities of the existing electorate of Maranoa enjoy a strong community of interest, with pastoral, cotton and grains being the major industries of the central Queensland shires and pastoral, cotton and grains being the major industries of south west Queensland. This very strong community of interest, recognized by the previous redistribution committee, is far stronger than the east-west links in the proposed boundaries of Wright and Maranoa. Longreach, Emerald and Charleville are in the same State Electorate (Gregory) as well. While questions may



be raised about the size of Maranoa, it should be noted that the community of interest between the various shires is substantial, and certainly stronger than exists between Longreach and the coastal communities of Gladstone. Indeed, there is a real concern that the inland communities could be ignored in the new electorate, where 70% of the voters would live within a 200km radius of Gladstone, rather than the more diffused population (and hence political) pattern across Maranoa. It is submitted that Maranoa should retain its existing borders plus the shire of Clifton from Groom to meet quota requirements.

MARANOA

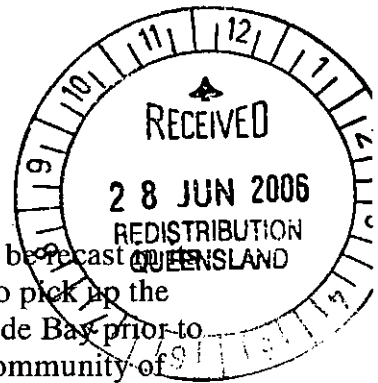
	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	86387	87681		
AEC proposed	88201	89957	20465	20720
Suggestion	88169	89497	0	0
<i>- Retain current boundaries plus Clifton (S)</i>	<i>20465</i>	<i>20720</i>		
Difference	-32	-460	-20465	-20720
Quota variation	+3.46%	10.1%		

3. Wright/Hinkler

The suggested changes to Capricornia and Maranoa which enhance the communities of interests in those electorates leave the proposed division of Wright well below quota. This can be fixed by transferring the city of Bundaberg from the proposed Hinkler back into the electorate, offset by the loss of the north Burnett shires (Monto, Mundubbera, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Perry, Kolan) and Isis to Wide Bay. The new boundaries would now include 68,548 electors (or 74%) of the current seat of Hinkler, and should retain the name of Hinkler. This would remove the unfortunate co-incidence of the electorate name of Wright occurring in central Queensland, which was for a number of years, represented by a subsequently jailed MP of that name. The new boundaries of Hinkler would recognize the strong transport corridor between Gladstone and the coal towns in Duaringa and Banana shires along the Dawson and Burnett Highways, as well as the Bruce Highway connection between Gladstone and Bundaberg. The seat would also see Mt Morgan returned to Hinkler, which it was part of prior to the last redistribution.

HINKLER

	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	93064	97025		
AEC proposed	82485	87202	46658	48588
Suggestion	83472	86465	24516	25543
<i>Retain Gladstone, Calliope, Burnet, Miriam Vale, Burnett A&B (nth of river)</i>	<i>37630</i>	<i>39576</i>		
<i>lose Isis, Burnett A&B (sth of river)</i>	<i>-15488</i>	<i>-16531</i>		
<i>Gain Mt Morgan, Banana and Duaringa</i>	<i>14924</i>	<i>14983</i>		
<i>Lose Hervey Bay, Woocoo (to W. Nay)</i>	<i>36079</i>	<i>38765</i>		
Difference	+987	-737	-22142	-23045
Quota variation	-2.1%	-3.5%		



4. Wide Bay

With the suggested changes to Hinkler, the electorate of Wide Bay would be recast along long standing Maryborough/Hervey Bay axis, and swing north and west to pick up the rural shires of the north Burnett. Most of these shires were included in Wide Bay prior to the last redistribution. It is submitted that Maryborough has much more community of interest with the rural shires to the north and west and its twin city of Hervey Bay than it does with the Sunshine Coast based urban shire of Noosa with which it paired in the committee's proposals. The shire of Cooloola, which was added to Wide Bay at the last redistribution, would be transferred to the new electorate of Wright, along with the south Burnett shires (Wondai, Murgon, Kilkivan) which link into Gympie along the Wide Bay Highway. This proposal has the added advantage of retaining a much larger number of former electors from Wide Bay in the electorate (59,423 or 64.7%) compared to the committee's proposal (51,647 or 56.2%).

WIDE BAY

	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	91927	97344		
AEC proposed	84857	88298	40253	43935
Suggestion	84021	89191	32422	33696
<i>Retain Hervey Bay, Woocoo</i>	36079	38765		
<i>Retain Biggenden</i>	1119	1135		
<i>Lose Wondai, Murgon, Kilkivan</i>	8334	8498		
<i>Lose Cooloola</i>	24088	25198		
Difference	+836	+893	-7831	-10239
Quota variation	-1.41%	-0.44%		

5. Longman/Dickson/Fisher

There is no logic to the committee's proposal to excise out the suburbs of Dakabin/Kallangur from Dickson and substitution for Esk Shire. This means that Dickson goes from a seat entirely contained within Pine Rivers shire to a seat including a rural shire with virtually no links (other than a single tourist road) with the bulk of the electorate. Esk shire has a stronger community of interest with the other shires in the upper Brisbane Valley and should continue to be based in the same seat as shires such as Kilcoy. Dickson on its current boundaries is well within the quota requirements and enjoys clear borders of the boundaries of Pine Rivers shire west of the Bruce Highway. There is no better permutation for it and it is submitted no changes should be made. The retention of Dakabin in Dickson then allows for the bulk of Caboolture Shire (other than the rural component, Part B, around Woodford, and part of Elimbah north of Caboolture) to be retained in Longman. Esk shire would then be included in Fisher (under the Committee's proposal) or Wright (under the proposals in this paper). These changes ensure that Dickson is contained entirely within Pine Rivers Shire and Longman contains a lot more of Caboolture Shire (95% rather than 86%), with the result that 20,000 fewer electors are transferred out of both seats. The committee's proposal to place all of Caloundra City in Fisher, and to draw Fairfax entirely within the borders of Maroochy



Shire is supported, even though it involves a substantial transfer of electors. It is unclear why the committee has gone to such trouble to respect the community of interest of electors in these two local authorities, but not those of Caboolture and Pine Rivers to the south. The border between Fisher and Longman would follow the Part B boundary to the Daguilar Highway, then east along O'Shea, Ziviani, Brucknell, Alcock and Breadsell Roads, a line through the reservoir to Beerburum Rds and east along Mansfield Rd then north along the Bruce Highway

DICKSON

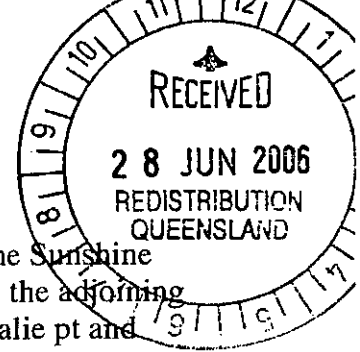
	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	84518	89956		
AEC proposed	83792	88870	10751	11505
Suggestion	84518	89956	0	0
<i>Retain Dakabin/Kallangur</i>	<i>10751</i>	<i>11505</i>		
<i>Lose Esk</i>	<i>10025</i>	<i>10419</i>		
Difference	+726	+1086	-10751	-11505
Quota variation	-0.82%	+0.4%		

LONGMAN

	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	88118	94242		
AEC proposed	82830	89995	22631	24269
Suggestion	81568	88837	13142	12222
<i>Retain</i>				
<i>Morayfield</i>	<i>2507</i>	<i>2863</i>		
<i>Caboolture East</i>	<i>6982</i>	<i>7434</i>		
<i>Lose Dakabin</i>	<i>10751</i>	<i>11505</i>		
Difference	-1262	-1158	-9489	-10347
Quota variation	-4.35%	-0.84%		

FISHER

	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	87133	96267		
AEC proposed	80391	87882	31574	35012
Suggestion	80981	87954	31574	35012
<i>Gain Esk</i>	<i>10025</i>	<i>10419</i>		
<i>Lose Caboolture Bal. in BSD (Excl Eudlo)</i>	<i>6928</i>	<i>7434</i>		
<i>Lose Morayfield</i>	<i>2507</i>	<i>2863</i>		
Difference	+590	+72	0	0
Quota variation	-5.04%	-1.82%		



6. Wright/Fairfax

Under these proposals, Wright would then be created in the area north of the Sunshine Coast hinterland areas (Cooloola, Noosa and part of Maroochy shires) and the adjoining south Burnett shires (Kingaroy, Nanango, Wondai, Murgon, Kilkivan, Rosalie pt and Crows Nest). These shires enjoy very strong road links along the Bruce, Wide Bay, Burnett, and New England Highways, and very strong economic and social links. The seat is more compact, interlinked and serviceable than the seat proposed by the committee. It also covers a high growth corridor, and as such is likely to survive future redistributions. Further, by basing the seat in the southern part of Queensland, it avoids the unfortunate naming issue of having a seat called Wright created in the central Queensland region. The town of Eumundi would be transferred from Fairfax to Wright to bring Wright closer to quota. Eumundi has strong economic and transport links to Noosa. The border between Wright and Fairfax would follow the Noosa shire border, south along the Bruce Highway, east along the southern locality border of Eumundi, Verrierdale Forest Road, Venning Road, Verrierdale Road, Doonan Bridge East Road and the Noosa Shire border.

WRIGHT

	2005	2007
AEC proposal	85120	87438
Suggestion	84646	88430
<i>From Blair</i>		
<i>Crows Nest, Kingaroy, Nanango, Rosalie pt</i>	17542	19045
<i>From Wide Bay</i>		
<i>Cooloola, Murgon, Wondai, Kilkivan</i>	32422	33696
<i>From Fairfax</i>	31069	32506
<i>Noosa Shire</i>	3163	4182
<i>Maroochy(Eumundi, Doonan)</i>		
Difference	-1722	+133
Quota variation	-1.56%	-2.25%

FAIRFAX

	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	84338	89597		
AEC proposed	82730	89720	33182	34889
Suggestion	81230	88920	34682	36689
<i>Lose Maroochy (Eumundi)</i>	1500	1800		
Difference	-1500	-1800	+1500	+1800
Quota variation	-4.75%	-0.74%		

7. Blair/Forde/Rankin/Oxley

Previous redistribution committees have had some difficulty with the electorate of Blair, which split the city of Ipswich right through its inner suburbs, when previously the city was in a single electorate (Oxley). This redistribution goes some way to alleviating this



difficulty by pushing the eastern border well into Ipswich city. Unfortunately, the border splits the suburb of Redbank Plains in half, which is not entirely satisfactory. It is submitted that it would be more logical for the electorate of Blair to include all of the suburb of Redbank Plains, increasing the proportion of Ipswich City residents in Blair from 72% to 78% (border formed by Six Mile Creek south to Eagle Street, east to Brennan Street, Jones Rd and Happy Jack Gully, and south along Woogaroo Creek), Redbank and Collingwood Park. This could be achieved within quota restraints by leaving Boonah shire in Forde (where it has been since 1993). Boonah has been mostly aligned with Beaudesert Shire in State and Federal electorates over many years (both are in the State Electorate of Beaudesert), recognizing considerable links between the two rural shires. This would allow the northern border of Forde to stay the same, and avoid the unfortunate outcome of separating Tanah Merah and much of Loganholme from its main shopping centre. It would mean that the new seat of Forde contained electors entirely contained in the old seat of Forde, as Forde comes into quota range after the transfer of electors to Fadden. The western end of Logan City would then move to Oxley (Forestdale and Hillcrest). These changes result in fewer transfers of electors from Forde and Rankin, and a small increase in transfers from Oxley. Overall, it results in a better boundary between Blair and Oxley, and a stronger community of interest across Blair, focusing the seat more clearly on Ipswich City.

BLAIR

	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	90944	94655		
AEC proposed	86594	90199	29722	30822
Suggestion	85043	88839	29722	30822
<i>Lose Boonah Shire</i>	6051	6160		
<i>Gain Ipswich East (Redbank Plains, Redbank)</i>	4500	4800		
Difference	-1551	-1360	0	0
Quota variation	-0.21%	-0.83%		

FORDE

	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	88410	95205		
AEC proposed	81721	87189	10525	11974
Suggestion	83936	89391	4474	5814
<i>Retain Boonah Shire</i>	6051	6160		
<i>Lose Loganholme to Rankin</i>	3836	3958		
Difference	+2218	+2202	-6051	-6160
Quota variation	-1.51%	-0.22%		

RANKIN

	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	91046	94727		
AEC proposed	87334	90449	8272	9031
Suggestion	86631	89714	7336	8072
<i>Retain Loganholme</i>	3836	3958		
<i>Lose Browns Plains (Forestdale)</i>	1639	1694		
<i>Lose Browns Plains (Hillcrest)</i>	2900	3000		
Difference	-703	-735	-936	-959
Quota variation	+1.66%	+0.14%		

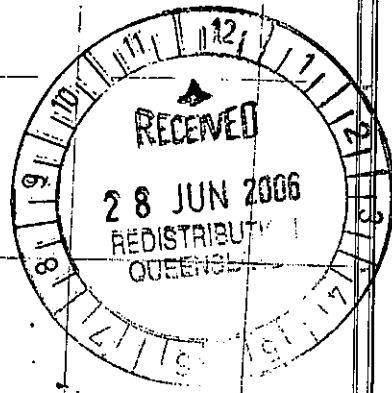
OXLEY

	2005	2007	Transfers 2005	Transfers 2007
Current	91116	98426		
AEC proposed	81337	88895	20960	21900
Suggestion	81376	88789	23821	25006
<i>Retain Browns Plains (Forestdale)</i>	1639	1694		
<i>Gain Browns Plains (Hillcrest)</i>	2900	3000		
<i>Lose Ipswich (Redbank Plains)</i>	4500	4800		
Difference	+39	-106	-2861	-3106
Quota variation	-4.51%	-0.9%		

8. No changes

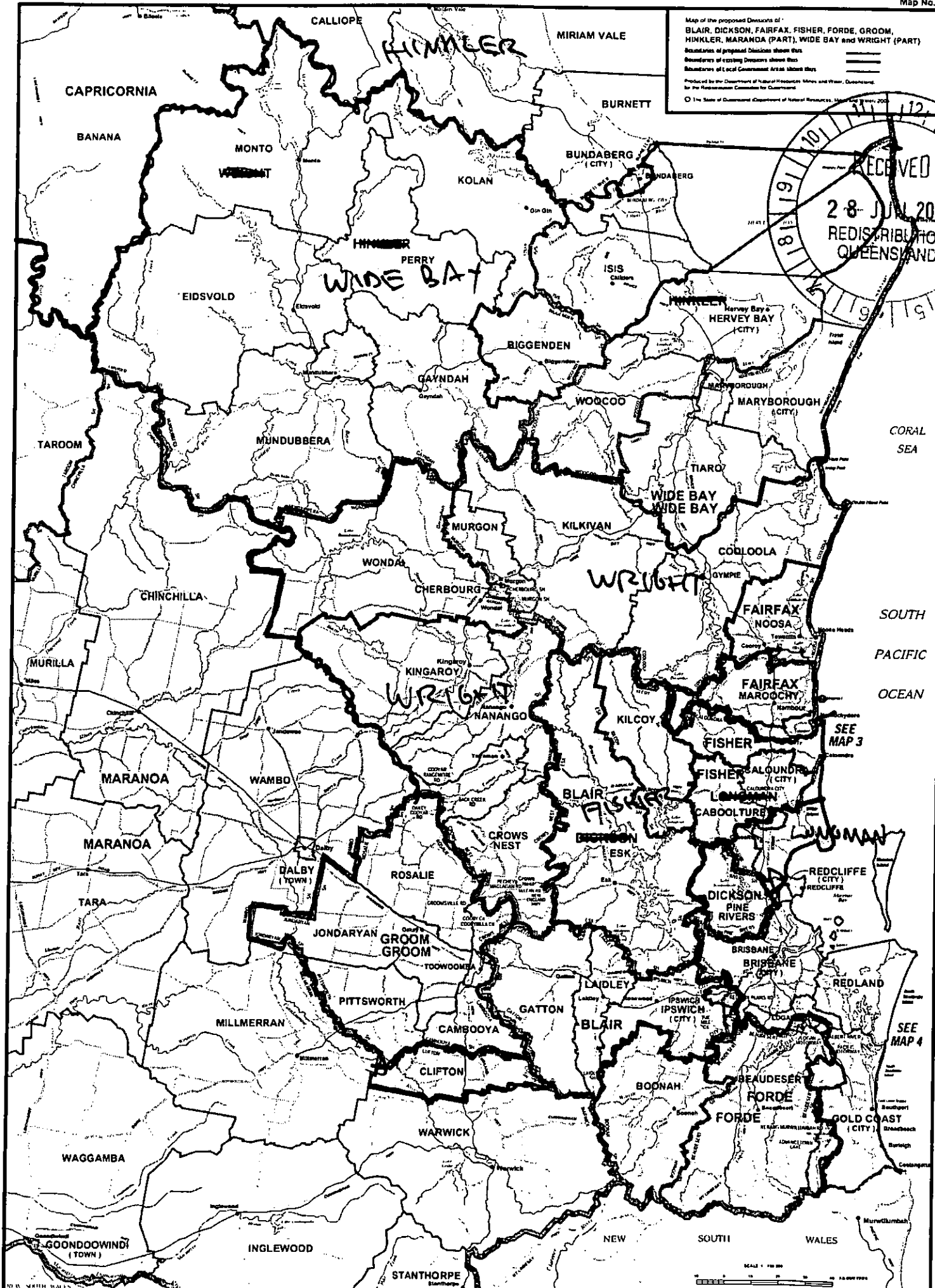
No objection is raised to the proposed boundaries of the other 15 electorates: Groom, McPherson, Moncreiff, Fadden, Bowman, Bonner, Griffith, Oxley, Ryan, Brisbane, Lilley, Petrie, Herbert, Leichhardt and Kennedy.





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




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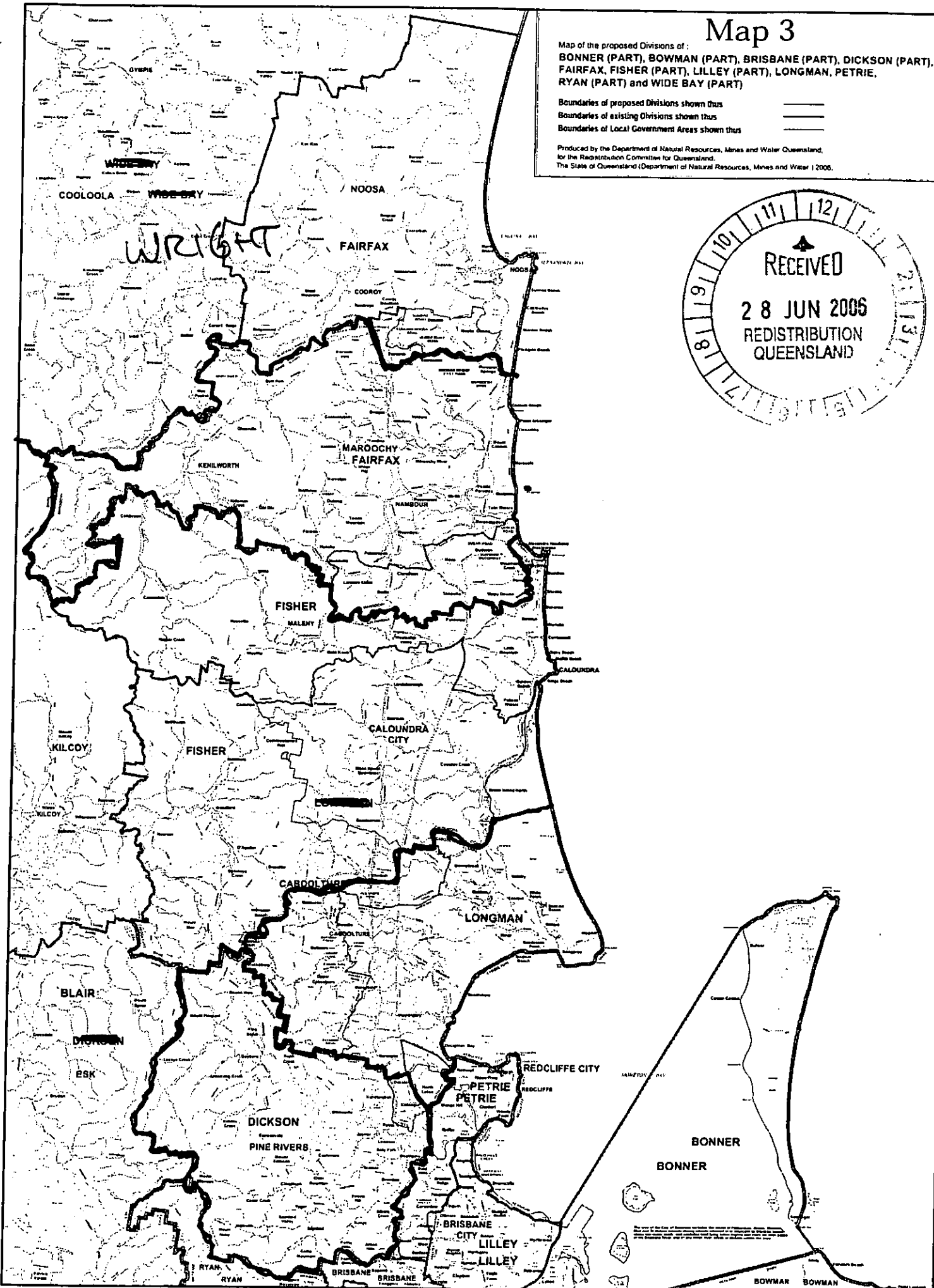
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Map 3

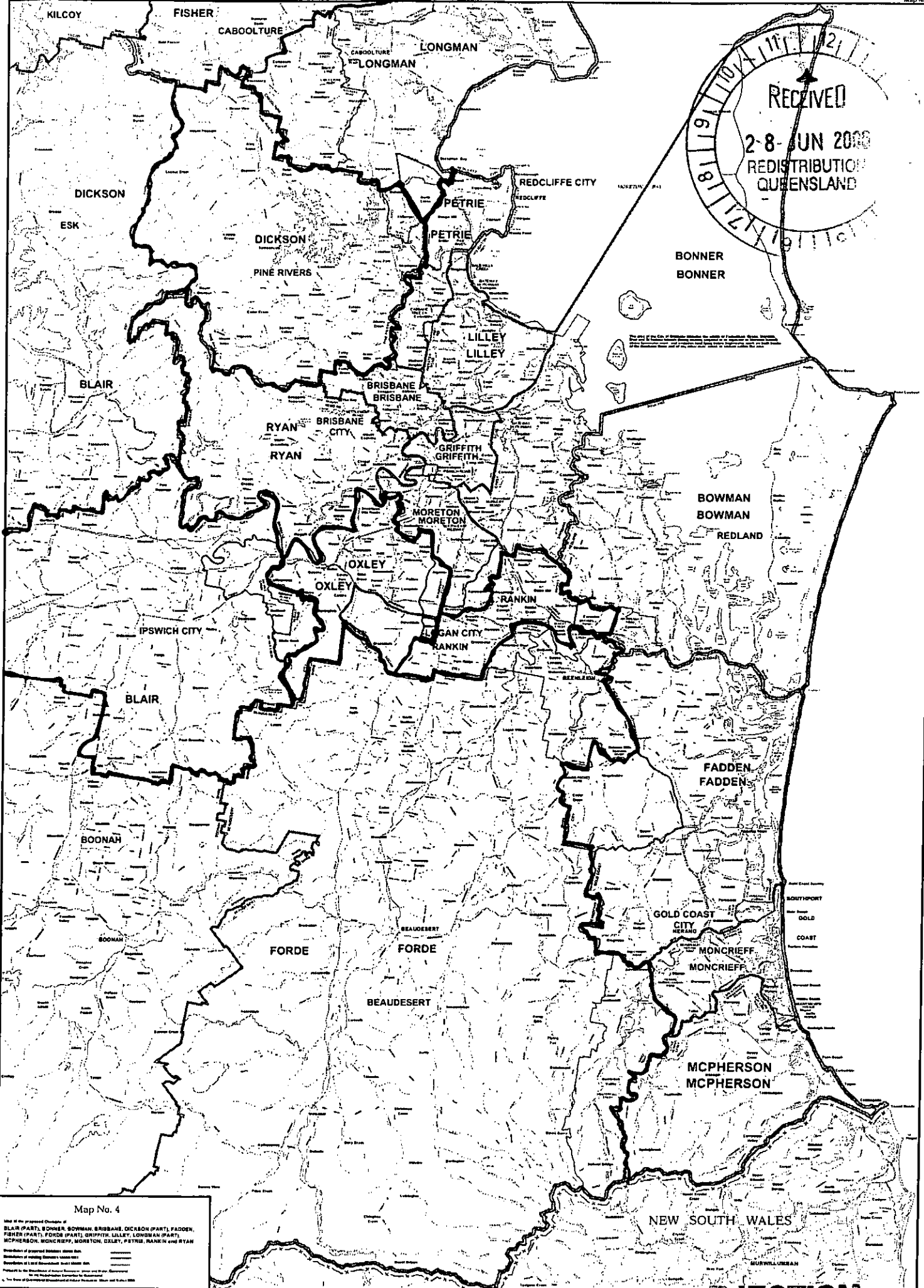
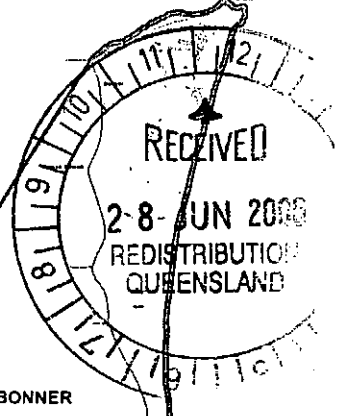
Map of the proposed Divisions of:
**BONNER (PART), BOWMAN (PART), BRISBANE (PART), DICKSON (PART),
 FAIRFAX, FISHER (PART), LILLEY (PART), LONGMAN, PETRIE,
 RYAN (PART) and WIDE BAY (PART)**

Boundaries of proposed Divisions shown thus 
 Boundaries of existing Divisions shown thus 
 Boundaries of Local Government Areas shown thus 

Produced by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water Queensland,
 for the Redistribution Committee for Queensland.
 The State of Queensland (Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water) 2006.



OBJECTION



Map No. 4

Map of the proposed changes of
BLAIR (PART), BONNER, BOWMAN, BRISBANE, DICKSON (PART), FADDEN,
FISHER (PART), FORDE (PART), GRIFFITH, LILLEY, LONGMAN (PART),
MCPHERSON, MONCRIEFF, MORETON, OXLEY, PETRIE, RANKIN and RYAN

Boundaries of proposed LGAs shown as thick black lines.
Boundaries of existing LGAs shown as thin black lines.
Boundaries of 2008 Queensland local government areas.
Produced by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Public Services.
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