



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 113

Kingaroy Shire Council

10 pages



KINGARROY SHIRE COUNCIL

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Redistribution Committee for Queensland
GPO Box 2590
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Dear Members

Kingaroy Shire – Objection to being placed in proposed Maranoa

Introduction

The Kingaroy Shire is the peanut capital and regional centre of the South Burnett. It is located east of the Great Dividing Range which forms a physical barrier between the black soil country of the Darling Downs to the west and the red volcanic clay loams of the South Burnett to the east.

The Shires and towns which form South Burnett include Kingaroy Shire with its main towns of Kingaroy and Kumbia; Kilkivan Shire with its main towns of Kilkivan and Goomeri; Wondai Shire with its main towns of Wondai and Proston; Murgon Shire with its main town of Murgon; Cherbourg Shire; Nanango Shire with its main towns of Nanango and Blackbutt; and the eastern part of the Rosalie Shire with the town of Yarraman.¹

The South Burnett's significant linkages are to the east. It is promoted as being "just two hours drive from the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane or Fraser Coast".²

The Kingaroy Shire is a member of the twenty-two strong Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisations of Councils³ (WBBROC) and in the sub-region of South Inland.⁴

Electorally, the Kingaroy Shire has been in the division of Blair since its establishment in 1997 but has a long term attachment to electorates east of the Great Divide. Kingaroy's electoral history shows that it has been in Wide Bay from 1901-34; Maranoa 1934-49; Fisher

¹ See website: <http://tourism.southburnett.com.au> and www.southburnetttholidays.info/

² Ibid and website: www.kingaroy.gov.qld.au

³ Biggenden Shire Council (SC); Bundaberg City Council (CC); Burnett S C; Cherbourg SC; Cooloola SC; Eidsvold SC; Gayndah S C; Hervey Bay CC; Isis SC; Kilkivan SC; Kingaroy SC; Kolan SC; Maryborough CC; Miriam Vale SC; Monto SC; Mundubbera SC; Murgon SC; Nanango SC; Perry SC; Tiaro SC; Wondai S C; Woocoo SC

⁴ Kingaroy SC; Kilkivan SC; Murgon SC; Nanango SC; Tiaro SC

1949-69; Wide Bay 1969-77; Maranoa 1977-84; Wide Bay 1984-96; Fisher 1996-98; and Blair 1998-2007.⁵

We did not respond to the Queensland Redistribution Committee's (QRC) call for suggestions for the redistribution as we believed that whilst there would be changes, the cohesive nature of our region, the community of interest and the interconnectedness would be retained.

Following the release of the QRC's Redistribution report, we were shocked to find that the proposal excises the Kingaroy Shire from its natural geographical, commercial, social, historical and cultural linkages and locates us with the proposed diverse and predominantly western division of Maranoa with which we have few issues and linkages in common.

Regional strength derives from units working together for shared outcomes. The QRC's proposal for the Kingaroy Shire cuts us from our natural region, demanding that we have dual associations and linkages. We believe the QRC proposal disadvantages us with our efforts to service our ratepayers, the communities that form our Shire and our participation in our region where our natural affiliations, associations and history lies.

We urge reconsideration of the proposal to locate the Kingaroy Shire in the proposed western division of Maranoa and recommend transfer to the proposed division of Wide Bay for the reasons developed below.

QRC's General Strategy

The Kingaroy Shire disagrees with the general strategy which underpins the QRC's proposal. We believe the application of the "principle of equality of electors" and the "east-west and north-south orientation" has led to distortions and dislocations that would not have occurred if the QRC had confined its approach to the requirements of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 S 66(1), (3), and (3a)*.

Paragraphs 34 and 48

- We note the "high importance" the QRC placed on the "principle of equality of electors" rather than maximum margin of allowance permitted under section 3 (a) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. It is disappointing that the QRC did not forewarn of its intention to put emphasis on "equality of electors" prior to public suggestions so that the consequences could be considered in responses. It seems the goal posts have been moved half way through the process to the disadvantage of rural communities.
- This approach it seems to us has resulted in dislocations that break long and successful partnerships that have delivered and achieved outcomes for communities and regions. It is occurring at a time when communities, particularly rural communities, are struggling to meet the service and policy requirements of Government - policy issues such a, drought, regional funding, labour, environment, transport and road funding and struggling with difficult economic, social and infrastructure problems⁶.
- The emphasis on "equality of electors" appears to be a departure from the practice of previous Queensland Redistribution Committees.

⁵ Parliament Library, Department of Parliamentary Services, Canberra

⁶ National Institute of Economic & Industry Research, May 2006: The South Inland sub-region of the Wide Bay – Burnett region: Demographic and economic change – a perspective and prospective analysis "Wide bay burnett – Country Coast", An Australian Government Initiative Sustainable Regions. A report for the Wide Bay-Burnett Regional Organisations of Councils and the Queensland Department of State Development Trade and Innovation.

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Kingaroy Shire – Pioneering the 21st Century

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Paragraph 41

- Considering the southern non metropolitan changes generally, we are of the view that the QRC's focus on the "east-west or a north-south" strategy coupled with the pursuit of "equality of electors" has resulted in an unnecessary mismatch of communities of interest and dislocations particularly when there were other options that would meet the requirements of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 S 66(1), (3), and (3a)*. As an example we specifically mention our instance of being located in the western division of Maranoa when our focus and linkages are to Wide Bay Burnett and Fraser Coast in the east.

Paragraph 45

- We challenge the statement that the "resultant effect on neighbouring divisions reflected contemporary population and enrolment trends." Having studied the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Council's Report "The South Inland sub-region of the Wide Bay – Burnett region: Demographic and economic change – a perspective and prospective analysis"⁷ we find nothing that suggests that our "contemporary population and enrolment trends" for our Shire to be located with a division with which we have minimal community of interests and linkages.

Community of Interest Issues

Historical

Kingaroy Shire's historical links lie with the Wide Bay Burnett region and not to the Northern Downs west of the Great Dividing Range.

- History of settlement of the South Burnett and its growth shows no significant social or economic development ties with the Northern Downs Shires of Wambo, Chinchilla and town of Dalby in the proposed western division of Maranoa.
- The Great Dividing Range was a major impediment or physical barrier to interactions and it was only the upgrading of the Bunya Highway over the years that enabled improved economic and social linkages.

Networks, Associations and Affiliations

The Kingaroy Shire's associations and affiliations with organisations are several, the chief of which emphasise our affinity to the Wide Bay Burnett region and not areas west of the Great Dividing Range in the proposed inland division of Maranoa.

- The Kingaroy Shire is a member of the twenty-two strong Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils which has its regional brand of "Country Coast"⁸ The office is located in Maryborough.
 - A WBBROC priority includes holistically addressing matters that demand a regional approach such as economic development, communications and natural resource management.
 - There are two examples initiated by WBBROC which stress the ties of the Kingaroy Shire to the Wide Bay Burnett region.
 - The first is the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research study into the impact of demographic change in the Wide Bay Burnett region which was compiled into four sub-regional reports – North Coast, South Coast, North Inland and South Inland which pertained to the South Burnett.⁹

⁷ Ibid

⁸ See website: www.wbbroc.org.au/

⁹ Ibid.

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- The second example is WBBROC's project currently underway to provide enhanced broadband access throughout the Wide Bay-Burnett region. The aim of the project is to provide the widest possible broadband coverage throughout the region at costs comparable to capital city prices.¹⁰
- The Kingaroy Shire is a member of the South Burnett Local Government Association (SBLGA)¹¹ which is the umbrella organisation of the seven local government authorities of the South Burnett region. It includes representatives from the councils of Nanango, Rosalie, Wondai, Murgon, Cherbourg and Kilkivan. All seven councils work together to promote development, investment and employment opportunities for the benefit of all our region's residents.
- We are affiliated with the Fraser Coast South Burnett Tourism which is "a membership based organisation that is recognised as the peak tourism body for the Fraser Coast South Burnett region by the Tourism Australia and Tourism Queensland."¹²
- The Kingaroy Shire is part of the community based South Burnett Online Network¹³ which was established by the SBLGA in 1999. It is the official portal of the South Burnett region which promotes the economic growth and development of the South Burnett region; assists the region's world-class exporting businesses to expand their markets and spread knowledge about how to conduct effective online business as widely as possible through the South Burnett local communities.
- The Kingaroy Shire is included in the Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation which focuses on economic development issues in the South, Central and North Burnett.¹⁴
- For Natural Resource Management issues we are in the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) which is the peak coordinating body for natural resource management in the Burnett Mary region. BMRG is tasked with oversight of such natural resource and environmental management issues as water quality, salinity and sustainability – sustainable development of the Burnett Mary region's land, vegetation, weeds and pest management, coastal and marine management and water resources.¹⁵
- We are in the Australian Government's Wide Bay Burnett Area Consultative Committee region.¹⁶ It is a not for profit, community-based organisation working to generate sustainable development, create jobs, and support business in the region which encompasses twenty-one local government authorities.¹⁷
- The Kingaroy Shire and the South Burnett is recognised by the Queensland Department of Development, Innovation and Trade for Regional Development Program and Services purposes as being in the Maryborough region. It is a combination of the Fraser Coast and South Burnett areas which extend north from the Sunshine Coast to Burrum Heads, including all of Fraser Island, and inland to farming country around Kingaroy. It covers ten local authorities.¹⁸
- The Centrelink Customer Service for the South Burnett is based in Kingaroy.¹⁹

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ See website: <http://sblga.asn.au>

¹² See website: www.frasercoastholidays.info/

¹³ See website: www.southburnett.com.au

¹⁴ See website: www.kingaroy.qld.gov.au

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ See website: www.wbbacc.com.au

¹⁷ Monto S, Kolan S, Burnett S, Eidsvold S, Perry S, Bundaberg City, Mundubbera S, Gayndah S, Isis S, Biggenden S, Hervey Bay C, Woocoo S, Maryborough City, Tiaro S, Murgon S, Wondai S, Cherbourg S, Kilkivan S, Cooloola S, Kingaroy S, Nanango S

¹⁸ See website: www.sdi.qld.gov.au "Regions at a Glance"

¹⁹ See website: <http://cgi.centrelink.gov.au>

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- The Queensland Government has Family Services, Corrections, Transport, State Emergency Service, Primary Industry (to name a few only) positioned in Kingaroy to service the South Burnett.
- The South Burnett which includes Kingaroy is classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as being in the Wide Bay Burnett statistical division.

As can be seen from the above, the Kingaroy Shire has powerful and long term networks, associations and affiliations with Wide Bay Burnett and none of any significance with west of the Great Dividing Range and the proposed inland division of Maranoa.

The Kingaroy Shire Council's business activities are within the Wide Bay Burnett Region and connections with State Government Departments are to the east and not to west of the Great Dividing Range and the proposed inland division of Maranoa.

Currently our workload is overflowing in managing and administering our responsibilities in the interests of our Shire and region. We object strongly to the imposition of another layer of networking - which would result if we, the Kingaroy Shire, remain located in the proposed western division of Maranoa. We recommend that we be repatriated to the proposed division of Wide Bay.

Commercial

Kingaroy is the major service, retail, financial, and professional centre for the South Burnett. Additional requirements needed by residents are sourced from Brisbane, Toowoomba and Maryborough but as a general rule not to towns west of the Great Dividing Range in the proposed inland division of Maranoa.

Primary Industry

The State Development, Trade and Innovation "Regions at Glance" website describes the Kingaroy Shire as depending on agricultural production²⁰ and in this instance there are similarities with the neighbouring Shires of Wambo and Chinchilla but there are clear differences exemplified by soil type.

- The Kingaroy Shire is the home of the red volcanic clay loams in which peanuts and corn crops thrive.
- The Kingaroy Shire does not have the broadscale farming similar to that of the Shires immediately to the west. This is exemplified by statistics which show the value of cropping in the Wambo Shire at June 2001 being \$101 million which compares with the Kingaroy Shire of \$26 million.²¹
- There are cattle and pig movements to meatworks for slaughter on the South Burnett from areas west of the Great Dividing Range.
- Cattle from the east of the Great Dividing Range access the major Dalby Wambo selling centre but must be dipped before being freighted to the west.
- The Great Dividing Range forms the tickline which is a mandatory barrier.²²

Tourism

South Burnett is and is promoted as a tourism destination in its own right.²³ It is "just two hours drive from the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane or Fraser Coast, the South Burnett is an area

²⁰ See website: www.sdi.qld.gov.au "Regions at a Glance"

²¹ See website: <http://www.oesr.qld.gov.au/queensland>

²² Australian Standards Definition and Rules, Cattle Tick Control in Australia; Primary Industries Standing Committee, August 2000; Qld Stock Act 1915, Stock (Cattle Tick Notice) 2005

²³ See websites: <http://tourism.southburnett.com.au/> and www.southernburnett.holidays.info/

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rich in history, agriculture, wineries and welcoming country towns. It is also the home of the majestic Bunya Mountains".²⁴

- The South Burnett Tourism Association's promotional material does not highlight any linkages with its neighbours west of the Great Dividing Range and in the inland division of Maranoa.
 - Visitor Information Centres endeavour to provide visitors with an understanding, insight and feeling for the Wide Bay Burnett region. For example a visual story is told by cameras which takes the visitor from Bunya Mountains to Hervey Bay and vice versa –but not west of the Great Dividing Range in the proposed inland division of Maranoa.

Transport

The Kingaroy Shire is in the Southern Main Roads District²⁵ centred on Toowoomba.

- Explanatory material on its activities refers to the Southern Main Roads District including "Kingaroy in the South Burnett".²⁶ meaning separate from the Darling Downs and Northern Darling Downs.
- The recognition of the South Burnett as a recognised region is underscored by the following reference in the Southern Main Road District material, "Work was completed in March 2006 on a new concrete bridge over Wallaby Creek near Benarkin on the D'Aguilar Highway. This is the first of a program to replace 31 timber bridges in the Wide Bay, South Burnett region"²⁷.
- The main roads which service the Shire and the South Burnett are New England Highway (Yarraman to north of Warwick); D'Aguilar Highway (Kilcoy - Kingaroy); Burnett Highway (Nanango to Biloela); Brisbane Valley Highway (west of Kilcoy to Ipswich); and Bunya Highway (Dalby to Goomeri).²⁸
 - The main thoroughfare to the west is the Bunya Highway which is the Great Dividing Range crossing.
- Kingaroy residents accessing Toowoomba use the eastern highways and rarely the longer route via the Bunya and Warrego Highways.
- Public transport linkages from Kingaroy to west of the Great Dividing Range and the inland division of Maranoa are minimal.
 - There are no rail services from Kingaroy to west of the Great Dividing Range and the inland division of Maranoa.
 - There are no air services to the west but a charter service is available on demand.
 - There is a daily coach service emanating from Gympie and terminating in Toowoomba which has pickup and putdown stops that include Kingaroy and towns to the west.
- Freight services are primarily from the east.

Education

The Kingaroy Shire is in the Wide Bay – Burnett Education Region and in the Wide Bay West Education District.

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ See website: www.mainroads.qld.gov.au

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Ibid

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- The office for the Wide Bay West District ²⁹ is in Kingaroy and is responsible for Primary, Secondary, Special Schools and an Environmental Education Centre in the Shires of Eidsvold, Mundubbera, Gayndah, Wondai, Kingaroy, Biggenden, Kilkivan and East Rosalie.
- Private Schools are available within the region or from Brisbane or Toowoomba - which is a key educational centre for rural regions hosting a number of private schools along with the University of Southern Queensland.

Health

The Kingaroy Shire is in the South Burnett Health Service District³⁰ which includes the Shires of Kilkivan, Murgon, Nanango and Wondai. There are Rural Health Centres at Kingaroy, Murgon, Nanango and Wondai.

- The main referral centres for Kilkivan, Murgon, Nanango and Wondai is the Kingaroy Rural Health Centre.³¹
- The main referral centre for Kingaroy Rural Health Centre is the Toowoomba Hospital at a distance of 166 kilometres (k) and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital at a distance of 210 k.³²
- Residents in the Kingaroy Shire and South Burnett also source health services from professionals and major hospitals in Brisbane.

Communications

The Kingaroy Shire and the South Burnett share radio and television signals with the area west of the Great Dividing Range and the proposed inland division of Maranoa but we also have communication services specific to the region.

- The Kingaroy Shire supports and uses Burnett.Net.Au which is the regional Internet Service Provider for the South, Central and North Burnett.
- The Kingaroy Shire is working on an initiative within the WBBROC framework to achieve the widest possible broadband coverage throughout the Wide Bay Burnett region.
- The South Burnett, including areas west of the Great Dividing Range in the proposed division of Maranoa; receive public and commercial radio communication signals from Toowoomba.
 - Anecdotal information shows that Community Radio covering the South Burnett has the largest listener base of any commercial radio station in the area. It is based in Wondai and has an office in Kingaroy.
 - Commercial operators and the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) have television towers on the Bunya Mountains. The signals cover both west and east of the Great Dividing Range.
 - The eastern parts of the Kingaroy Shire also receive television signals that service Wide Bay and Maryborough. Anecdotally, some Kingaroy residents prefer to watch Channel 7 Local News from Maryborough than local news emanating from Toowoomba, as there is more coverage of South Burnett and Kingaroy events and news.
 - The Kingaroy Shire is on the inland Brisbane/Cairns fibre optic network.

²⁹ See Education Queensland Wide Bay West Education District Map at Education Queensland website

³⁰ See Queensland Health website, District Profiles

³¹ Ibid

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The Community of Interest factual information and discussion emphasises the Kingaroy Shires strong ties to the Wide Bay Burnett region and its leadership role in the South Burnett for which Kingaroy is the main centre.

Linkages to west of the Great Dividing Range and the proposed inland division of Maranoa are minuscule compared with those with the Wide Bay Burnett region to the east, which historically, organisationally, geographically, economically and socially is our natural home.

We urge the QRC to reconsider the proposal to locate the Kingaroy Shire in the proposed Division of Maranoa and repatriate it to the proposed division of Wide Bay.

Parliamentary Representation

As said previously the Kingaroy Shire has been in the division of Blair since its establishment in 1997 but has a long term attachment to electorates east of the Great Divide. Kingaroy's electoral history shows that it has been in Wide Bay from 1901-34; Maranoa 1934-49; Fisher 1949-69; Wide Bay 1969-77; Maranoa 1977-84; Wide Bay 1984-96; Fisher 1996-98; and Blair 1998-2007.³³

Since Federation the Kingaroy Shire has been east of the Great Dividing Range for a total of eighty-five years out of a maximum of one hundred and seven years. In contemporary terms we have been continuously in divisions east of the Great Dividing Range for twenty-three years.

Contact with the Federal Parliamentary representative is an important function of a Local Government particularly in terms of road and regional funding programmes, grants, social services, skilled workers, natural resource management, financial assistance grants etc. The practice is for local governments to coalesce and form deputations to make representations to Federal Parliamentarians. The process would be severely complicated and lengthened if the Kingaroy Shire was electorally excised from a House of Representative Member whose electorate responsibilities related to east of the Great Dividing Range.

It is our fervent desire to remain located in a division whose focus is to the east and not the west of the Great Dividing Range and in the proposed division of Maranoa. Our preference is the proposed division of Wide Bay where we have had electoral ties for some fifty-seven years.

INQUIRY INTO OBJECTIONS

The Kingaroy Shire Council requests the Australian Electoral Commission to include Kingaroy as a sitting destination so that organisations, electors and industry leaders and Councillors may attend and fully explain the negative impact of the redistribution proposal to dislocate the Kingaroy Shire from its historically linkages, networks, affiliations and associations by placing it in the proposed inland division of Maranoa.

³³ Parliament Library, Department of Parliamentary Services, Canberra

Alternative Proposal

Maranoa -	projected	89957
LESS - Kingaroy & Wondai (S) to Wide Bay	11360	78597
LESS Crows Nest (S) (Part) to Groom	2580	76017
PLUS Western Shires from Wright	6829	82846
PLUS Pittsworth (S) from Groom	3231	86077
PLUS Jondaryan (S) (Pt B) (Jondaryan-Mt Tyson Rd, West Prairie Rd Jondaryan-Evanslea Rd, Cranks Rd, Motely-Mt Tyson Rd	601	86678
Groom	projected	91565
LESS Pittsworth (S) to Maranoa	3231	88334
LESS Jondaryan (S) (Pt B) to Maranoa	601	87733
Plus Crows Nest (S) (Part) from Maranoa	2580	90313
Wide Bay	projected	88298
LESS Woocoo (S) (part) to Hinkler	1131	87167
LESS Noosa (S) – Sunshine – Perigean	6186	80981
PLUS Kingaroy & Wondai (S) from Maranoa	11360	92341
Wright	projected	87436
LESS Western Shires to Maranoa	6829	80607
PLUS Belyando (S) from Capricornia	6134	86741
Capricornia	projected	89680
LESS Belyando (S) to Wright	6134	83546
PLUS Charters Towers from Kennedy	4779	88325
PLUS Dalrymple (S) (part) – south of Flinders Highway approx	500	88825
Kennedy	projected	90442
LESS Charter Towers	4779	85663
LESS Dalrymple (S) (part) – south of Flinders Highway approx	500	85163
Hinkler	projected	87202
PLUS Woocoo (S) (part) from Wide Bay	1131	88333
Fairfax	projected	89720
LESS Maroochy (S) (part) western & southern areas approx	6000	83720
PLUS Noosa (S) – Sunshine - Peregian (Boundary area)	6186	95906
Fisher	projected	87882
LESS Kilcoy (S) to Dickson	2358	85524
PLUS ground from Fairfax	6000	91524
Dickson	projected	88870
Plus Kilcoy (S) from Fisher	2358	91228

Conclusion

We believe we have made a cogent case for the Kingaroy Shire to be repatriated from the proposed inland division of Maranoa and located in the proposed division of Wide Bay.

We recommend that the Kingaroy Shire be located in the proposed division of Wide Bay and not the inland division of Maranoa.

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The Kingaroy Shire Council is passionate about its location in the Wide Bay Burnett region and takes seriously its leadership role and responsibilities as the service, retail, professional, social and business centre for the region. We value our networks, affiliations and associations with the Wide Bay Burnett region and work co-operatively within them and for them.

The QRC's proposal to dislocate us electorally from the Wide Bay Burnett region by placing us in the proposed inland division of Maranoa contradicts our community of interest and conflicts with our historical, cultural and economic linkages to the Wide Bay Burnett region.

We have developed an alternative proposal, which uses approximate figures for the proposed Fairfax, Fisher, Dickson, Capricornia and Kennedy divisions, but reflects our fervent desire to remain in our region located in the proposed division of Wide Bay and not in the proposed inland division of Maranoa.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully



J Kersnovski
Chief Executive Officer

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