



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 115

Mrs Helen Collins

2 pages



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To <qld.redistribution@aec.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject objection to the boundaries of the Division of Wright

Classification Unclassified

History:  This message has been replied to

Redistribution Committee for Queensland
PO Box 2590
Brisbane Q. 4001.

E: qld.redistribution@aec.gov.au

Objection to the proposed Federal redistribution of portion of Maranoa into Wright.

I write to object to the proposed movement of the shires of Aramac, Barcaldine, Blackall, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Longreach, Tambo and Winton, from the Federal Division of Maranoa, into the new Division of Wright, on the grounds that there is no community of interest between these western shires and the eastern coastal city of Gladstone

The statement that these primary industry areas are united by geographic proximity and dependence on Gladstone is not borne out by the evidence:

Commercial:

- There is no cropping (as opposed to grazing) in the western shires
- There is no large scale mining. The small scale opal and gypsum mining in the Winton shire have no connection with Gladstone.
- Wool is not exported through Gladstone
- Some beef cattle for slaughter are sold through Rockhampton, but the majority go south to Roma or beyond

Transport:

- There are more restrictions on road trains using the Capricorn Highway than the Landsborough & Warrego Highways
- Western rail services are under threat due to the volume of coal traffic east of Emerald
- While there are daily coach services from Brisbane to Mt.Isa, there are only 2 services a week from Longreach to Rockhampton, and they do not connect with the north-south services
- There are no air services between the western shires and Gladstone
- Winton is further away from Gladstone (1010km), than Winton is from Townsville (600km), or Roma (890km)

Tourism:

- The western shires are in the Outback Qld Tourism Authority which represents the outback area of Qld from the Gulf to the Border
- There are no tourism links with Gladstone
- The Matilda Highway is the principal travel promotion, running north/south

Education:

- There are no education links with Gladstone – no distance education, no boarding schools or hostels. The State education region is based in Longreach and Mt.Isa.
- Children in western shires use Schools of Distance Education in Mt.Isa, Longreach or Charleville, and boarding schools in the Charters Towers/Townsville cluster, the Rockhampton/Yeppoon one, or the Toowoomba/Warwick/Brisbane one

A far more reasonable solution to this complete lack of community of interest with Gladstone, would

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be to return the 8 western shires named earlier, to Maranoa, and move Wondai and part of Kingaroy from Maranoa into Wright. This would retain equivalent numbers in both Divisions.

Lastly, you may not realize that for many people in Central Qld, the name Wright refers to the disgraced former politician from the Rockhampton region, who was convicted and jailed for paedophilia. This is a most unfortunate choice of name for an electorate in this region, and serious consideration should be given to changing the new Division's name.

Submitted by Mrs Helen Collins
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20.7.06

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