



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
**QUEENSLAND**



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**Objection Number 120**

**Mr George R Christensen**

**2 pages**



"George R. Christensen"  
<georgechristensen@hotmail.com>  
20/07/2006 01:50 PM

To qld.redistribution@aec.gov.au  
cc  
bcc

Subject Submission

Classification  Unclassified

History:  This message has been replied to.

Dear Sir,

I write regarding the proposed federal divisional boundary changes recently announced for Queensland.

In particular, I refer to changes made to the federal divisions of Dawson and Capricornia.

As the elected local government representative for the areas of Pleystowe, Homebush, Eton, McEwens Beach, Dunrock, Oakenden, Sunnyside, Balberra, Marwood, Munbura and other southern rural parishes situated within the Mackay City Council boundaries, I object to their excision from Dawson.

These areas have nothing in common with Rockhampton, which is the principal focus of Capricornia.

Dawson is principally based on the sugar industry. These areas are all sugar-growing areas within Mackay. A lot of the concerns and issues raised by residents of these areas relate to the problems facing the sugar industry. By having them lumped in with a mining/cattle industry based electorate will surely diminish their overall impact in terms of their federal representation.

Along with this, the residents of these areas will find it difficult to see their Federal Member of Parliament, should the boundaries change and their parliamentarian be based out of Rockhampton. In particular, non-farmers who live in these areas - who are more often than not poorer than Mackay city's counterparts, will find it financially impossible to drive to Rockhampton to see their Federal Member and the long distance phone calls that will be needed to be made to contact their Federal Member will be costly. Their capacity for adequate representation and support from their Federal Member will then be reduced.

While I understand that the AEC has simply picked up Mackay City Council's Statistical Division B and shifted it from one division to another, it has had other disturbing impacts.

For instance, the suburb of Walkerston is a centre for neighbouring townships and parishes such as Pleystowe and Eton. It is also a service centre for most of Mirani Shire. In fact Walkerston, Eton, Pleystowe and all of the Mirani Shire make up what is commonly known as the Pioneer Valley.

Given this, I also object to the separation of the Mirani Shire from the division of Dawson.

The AEC's proposition that some of this area be shed to Capricornia not just divides as local government area but it divides a strong community of interest, both socially and economically.

If the AEC is adamant that Eton, Pleystowe and the Mirani Shire should go

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to  
Capricornia, then it is probably only right that Walkerston (which is the  
main service/economic/social/business centre for those areas) goes to  
Capricornia as well. However, I do not advocate this and would rather all  
these areas remain in Dawson.

I hope you will take this input into consideration in your review of the  
proposed divisional boundary changes.

Regards,

Cr George Christensen  
4 Kennedy Street,  
Walkerston Qld 4751  
Ph 0438344453

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