



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
**QUEENSLAND**



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**Objection Number 128**

**Hon Alex Somlyay MP**

**Member for Fairfax**

**2 pages**



# The Hon Alex Somlyay MP

Federal Member for Fairfax



Ms Anne Bright  
State Manager  
AEC Queensland

Dear Ms Bright

## **RE: Proposed Electorate Boundaries for Wide Bay**

I wish to make a submission regarding the electorate of Wide Bay and the Queensland Electoral Redistribution announced on 23 June 2006.

The proposed redistribution divides Maryborough from Hervey Bay, which is virtually a suburb of Maryborough. I believe the strong community of interest shared by these two centres means that they should not be divided. They should be kept in the one electorate – preferably Hinkler because of Maryborough's connections with Bundaberg.

The physical feature "Wide Bay", after which the electorate is named, runs from Double Island Point to Inskip Point – all of which is in Cooloolool Shire. I believe the electorate of Wide Bay should extend from Noosa to Rainbow Beach, incorporating all of the Cooloolool and Noosa Shires, which are growing increasingly intertwined via social, economic and environmental links.

The less populated rural Shires, such as Murgon and Kilkivan, would also remain in Wide Bay, with neighbouring ones in the South Burnett region added if necessary to balance the numbers.

The drift from country to city is causing huge problems in Regional Australia. An important factor in retaining regional populations and services is the building and protection of communities of interest, which can in turn develop into strong communities. We need to encourage strength through cohesion; and careless placement of electoral boundaries endangers that cohesion. It makes it more difficult for regional communities to feel that they have a voice, and for the elected representative to be effective in assisting them.

I have no self-interest in this submission, as my electorate is Fairfax. However, having had the honour of representing most of Cooloolool Shire for two terms, and all of Noosa Shire for sixteen years, I know and care about these communities.

Also, while Federal Minister responsible for Local Government, I spent a lot of time in Regional Australia talking to Local Governments and their people, and I saw that areas with a strong sense of

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**OBJECTION**

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community were more likely to prosper, despite difficulties. Electoral boundaries dividing such communities of interest make this more difficult.

That is why I submit that the electorate of Wide Bay should be based on the Cooloola and Noosa Shires plus abutting rural shires. My first preference would, of course, be to retain Noosa Shire in the Fairfax electorate; but realising such a major change to the new boundaries would be highly unlikely, I submit a smaller change which I believe would benefit the region while not causing undue difficulty for the AEC.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Yours sincerely



Hon Alex Somlyay MP  
Member for Fairfax

Ref:AS:rb

20 July 2006

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