



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 14

Mr Jim Pearce MP

Member for Fitzroy

3 pages

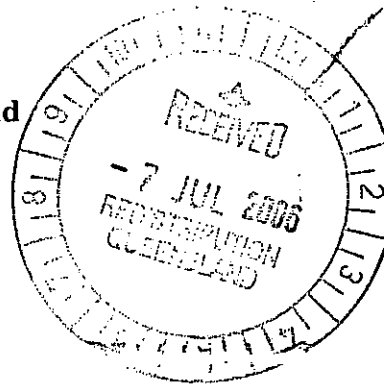
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06 JUL 2005
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Electoral Commission
QUEENSLAND
REGISTRY

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objections to proposed boundaries for new Division of Wright

As the State Member for Fitzroy, I write to voice my concerns about the suggested boundaries for the proposed new Federal Division of Wright which is to be based in Central Queensland.

As the State Member for Fitzroy, I represent a large section of the area which is to be incorporated into the new seat of Wright, including the shires of Mount Morgan, Fitzroy, and Duarunga, and parts of the Banana Shire.

Having reviewed the proposed boundaries, I wish to advise the Australian Electoral Commission of a number of concerns I personally have, namely a) the removal of Mount Morgan Shire from the seat of Capricornia; and b) the splitting of the Shire of Fitzroy between Capricornia and the new seat of Wright.

Removal of Mount Morgan Shire from the seat of Capricornia

The town of Mount Morgan has significant historical and social connections with the city of Rockhampton and it is therefore vital that Mount Morgan Shire remain within the Capricornia Electorate.

Historically, the discovery of gold in Mount Morgan led to the development of Rockhampton which prospered on the back of the gold rush. Mount Morgan Mine was a major employer in the district for many years and many Rockhampton residents therefore have strong work and family connections with Mount Morgan.

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THE FITZROY ELECTORATE INCLUDES

Allenstown, Alton Downs, Bajool, Banana, Baralaba, Blackwater, Bluff, Bouldercombe, Depot Hill, Dingo, Duarunga, Dululu, Dysart, Eina Creek (west), Glendale, Glenlee, Gogango, Goovigen, Gracemere, Jambin, Kabra, Marmor, Middlemount, Mount Morgan, Moura, Port Curtis, Ridgeland, Stanwell, The Caves (west), Westwood, Woorabinda, Wowan



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Mount Morgan shares a significant 'community of interest' with Rockhampton with its residents accessing Rockhampton for medical, educational, shopping, recreational and social purposes. There is no similar contact with Gladstone.

Because of relatively low housing prices over the last few decades, Mount Morgan can also be seen as a de facto residential suburb of Rockhampton with many residents living in Mount Morgan but working in Rockhampton which is only a fifteen minute drive away.

While Mount Morgan has its own individual identity, there is no doubt that its people recognise and acknowledge their connection with Rockhampton.

I know there is strong resentment in the town that, every time there are federal boundary changes, Mount Morgan's federal division appears to change which offers the community little stability in terms of its federal representation.

Because of the significant connection between Mount Morgan and Rockhampton, Mount Morgan residents assume and expect that their Federal representative will and should be based in Rockhampton, not in Gladstone or a locality further south.

Residents are concerned that they will suffer from a lack of adequate Federal representation if the town is included in the new seat of Wright, to be based on Gladstone.

Splitting of Shire of Fitzroy between Wright and Capricornia

The boundaries proposed for the new seat of Wright will see the Fitzroy Shire cut in half with the town of Gracemere remaining within the Capricornia Electorate while the remainder of the Shire is included in Wright.

I understand that Fitzroy Shire Council has strong objections to this proposal and, as the local State representative, I share these concerns.

It is simply absurd to split the shire in half when the Fitzroy Shire, in its entirety, has strong connections with Rockhampton on which the seat of Capricornia is based.

Many residents live in the Fitzroy Shire but work in Rockhampton. Their children attend Rockhampton high schools, they access medical services, shopping, sporting, recreational and cultural pursuits within Rockhampton. Likewise, there are many Rockhampton residents who work within the Fitzroy Shire, including at the Stanwell Power Station, which is set to be included in the new seat of Wright.

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The shire's grazing industry was integral to the early development of Rockhampton so there are also strong historic links between Rockhampton and the Fitzroy Shire. The grazing industry continues to maintain strong links with Rockhampton, providing jobs for Rockhampton residents at local meatworking plants.

In terms of the boundaries used for statistical analysis and regional planning, Fitzroy Shire is included within the Rockhampton District.

While the Fitzroy Shire has its own strong identity, it is clear that its people, its industries, and its local authority acknowledge and appreciate the strong connection forged with the city of Rockhampton and the current and future prosperity that this close association is providing for both the Fitzroy Shire and Rockhampton.

Given the factors outlined above, I personally believe the interests of Mount Morgan and Fitzroy Shires and their people would be best served by the federal representative whose seat encompasses the city of Rockhampton, that is, the Member for Capricornia.

I respectfully seek your assistance in giving these matters serious consideration before any final decision is made with regard to the boundaries for the new seat of Wright.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Pearce MP
Member for Fitzroy
29th June 2006

C/C:- **Kirsten Livermore MP, Federal Member for Capricornia**
 Fitzroy Shire Council
 Mount Morgan Shire Council

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