



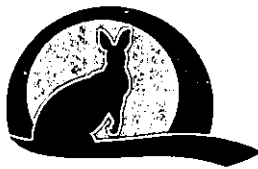
The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 152

Outback Queensland Tourism

2 pages



Queensland's Outback
Adventure out there



Australian Electoral Commission, Queensland
GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Commissioner

Objection to the movement of the shires of Longreach, Winton, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Aramac, Blackall, Tambo and Isisford to the proposed electorate of Wright

The Outback Queensland Tourism Authority (OQTA) is the peak body representing tourism within 21 local government areas covering 832,000 sq km of the Outback and almost half of Queensland. It is our responsibility to undertake marketing and promotional activities to attract visitors to Queensland's Outback. In addition, we provide support to tourism operators and local government authorities in terms of further developing tourism infrastructure and general growth of the industry.

The 21 local government areas represented by the OQTA are Aramac, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall, Booringa, Boulia, Bulloo, Cloncurry, Diamantina, Flinders, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Longreach, McKinlay, Mount Isa City, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Richmond, Tambo, Winton.

At present, the shires of Longreach, Winton, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Aramac, Blackall, Tambo and Isisford are part of the inland electorate of Maranoa.

At the recent OQTA Board meeting the issue of redistribution of the Queensland electoral boundaries was discussed at length by directors and as such, the Board of the Outback Queensland Tourism Authority **do not support** the proposal to move these shires into the proposed electorate of Wright.

Tourism has a major impact on the local communities in Queensland's Outback – economically and socially. Throughout the traditional tourism season from 1 April to 1 October, communities throughout Queensland's Outback are awash with visitors.

Tourism is promoted utilising the collective voice through a fully integrated marketing campaign. This campaign is supported by a series of smaller sub-regional groups who are actively involved in further development of a unique outback experience in their communities. The Central West OQTA sub-committee comprises the eight shires mentioned above, as well as neighbouring shires that will remain as part of Maranoa, under the proposed redistribution of boundaries.

In transferring the eight shires from Maranoa to Wright, the collective bond and unity of tourism in the Central West OQTA sub-region will be lost. In further developing the tourism industry in Queensland's Outback, it is necessary for the group to present a unified and collaborative front and to make representation to their local federal member.

OBJECTION

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OUTBACK QUEENSLAND TOURISM

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Under the proposed redistribution of boundaries, it will be necessary for the Central-West OQTA Sub-committee to make representation to two federal members – both with potentially differing viewpoints on particular issues based on community necessities – as such, potentially hampering the development potential of this part of Queensland's Outback.

The Outback Queensland Tourism Authority strongly recommends that the Commission undertake visits to the affected Shires and hold public hearings to gather a better understanding of the impact that this redistribution will have on these communities and industry sectors.

In the interests of ensuring the future development of the tourism industry in Queensland's Outback, the Outback Queensland Tourism Authority:

- **do not support** the transfer of the shires of Longreach, Winton, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Aramac, Blackall, Tambo and Isisford into the proposed electorate of Wright;
- recommend that the shires of Longreach, Winton, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Aramac, Blackall, Tambo and Isisford remain within the inland electorate of Maranoa; *and*
- that the Commission undertake visits to the affected communities for public hearings about the issues.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me on 07-3236 4996.

Yours sincerely



Barry Duncan
General Manager
19 July 2006

cc

Cr Rob levers, Chair – OQTA Inc.
Cr Rob Chandler, Deputy Chair – OQTA Inc.
Ms Margaret Ryder, Secretary – OQTA Inc.
Mr Bruce Wallace, Treasurer – OQTA Inc.
Mr Tony Edwards, Board Member – OQTA Inc.
Ms Merry Higgins, Board Member – OQTA Inc.
Cr Carmel Meurant, Board Member – OQTA Inc.
Mr Alan Smith, Board Member – OQTA Inc.

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