



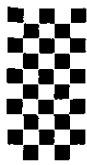
The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 158

Townsville City Council

2 pages



61747279053

CORPORATE SERVICES
GOVERNMENT OF COUNCIL



Date >> 21 July 2006



Australian Electoral Officer Queensland
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RE: Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in Queensland

Dear Sir

The Townsville City Council at its meeting of 18 July 2006, expressed grave concern over the proposed changes to the Federal boundaries for the seat of Herbert which do not account for the "community of interest", and have instructed me to submit these concerns to you.

The suburbs within the Townsville City Council area, such as Stuart, Oonoonba, Idalia, and the southern catchment, have economic and community ties with the voters in the Townsville community.

The proposed changes would mean that the bulk of these residents would have a Federal Member who resides in Mackay, representing their interests in Townsville. It has the potential to split the community. No other regional city under the proposed changes is at risk of this.

This dramatic shift in the boundaries would mean a resident would need to drive four hours to see the Federal Member, while their current member is a short five minute drive away. Townsville is an urban centre and much of its economic growth is driven by mining operations west of the city. Pushing the boundary of Herbert past the Bohle River should be reconsidered.

The Port Development, and associated infrastructure, currently reside in the seat of Herbert and are a vital part of the economic development of this region. Townsville needs a Federal Member who can represent this area, rather than a Federal Member whose loyalty is split between three major areas, Bowen, Mackay and Townsville. Government funding is limited and each community has the right to

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demand that the Federal boundaries are designed to allow the best possible representations of community interest.

The Council believes the seat of Dawson would be better served having its boundaries moved westward, through the Bowen Basin, where it has strong economic links. The voters in that area travel to Bowen and Mackay for the use of community and sporting facilities. Many miners and businesses identify with Mackay or Bowen and not with Townsville.

While the Council understands the need for the redistribution, it is of the opinion that the proposed changes for the seats of Herbert and Dawson fail to adequately account for the "community of interest". The ability to push westward and the need to look at better options for the regional cities should be considered by the Committee. On behalf of the Council and the Townsville community, I ask you to reconsider the proposed boundary changes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "PC Askern".

PC Askern

Acting Chief executive Officer

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