



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



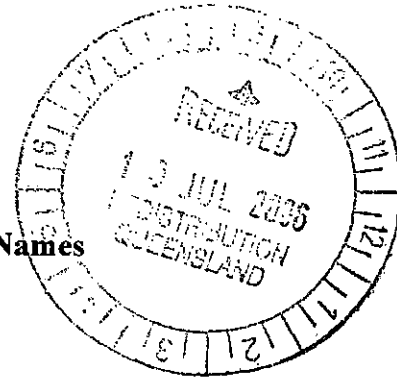
Objection Number 16

Mr Christopher J Wolfs

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5 July 2006

Redistribution Committee for Queensland
GPO Box 2590
Brisbane Q 4000



Objection to Proposed Redistribution for Queensland – Electorate Names

I object to two (2) proposed electorate names of the proposed redistribution:

1. the proposed seat of “Wright”; and
2. the existing/ amended seat of “Forde”.

The new Federal electorate for Queensland, to be centered on the Central Queensland city of Gladstone, is proposed to be named “Wright” after the poet Judith Wright. The name is not appropriate given that Judith Wright has no connection to Central Queensland, but her notorious namesake and former State member for Rockhampton (1969-84) and Federal member for Capricornia, Keith Wright, unfortunately does.

Judith Wright (1915-2000) was born and raised near Armidale New South Wales, but resided in South East Queensland from the mid 1940s to the mid 1970s, including Brisbane, Boreen Point (Noosa Shire) and Mount Tamborine (Beaudesert Shire). Mount Tamborine, in particular, was special to her, and her ashes were scattered at the cemetery there. Her latter years were spent at Braidwood, south of Canberra.

Mount Tamborine is located in the Federal electorate of “Forde”.

Similarly, the electorate of “Forde” has no connection to Frank Forde, the former Prime Minister (July 1945). Frank Forde was born in Charleville, educated in Toowoomba, began his adult working life with PMG Department in Rockhampton, and served as State member for Rockhampton (1917-22) and as Federal member for Capricornia (1922-46). Capricornia has at times included much of the region proposed for the new electorate.

The existing seat of Forde is a more appropriate geographical location to bear the name “Wright”. And the proposed seat of Wright would be more appropriately named “Forde”.

I note that the AEC “Guidelines for the Naming Divisions” states that . . . “Names of Divisions should not be changed or transferred to new areas without very strong reasons”. Such a good reason is that the names of electorates should have a substantial connection to the geographical places they represent. Most existing electorates do (e.g. Kennedy and Leichhardt in North Queensland are named after nineteenth century explorers of those regions, and Hinkler is named after the aviator who was born in Bundaberg). I urge that this trend not be abandoned.

May I suggest to the committee that:

- the new Central Queensland electorate not be named “Wright”, because of the CQ’s association with Keith Wright and lack of association with Judith Wright;
- that the name “Wright” be applied to a south-east Queensland or northern New South Wales electorate where Judith Wright has a connection; and
- a most efficient solution is to name the new Central Queensland electorate “Forde” and re-name the Beaudesert-based electorate as “Wright”.

My interest in this matter is as a former long term resident of Rockhampton.

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OBJECTION

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