



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 185

Australian Labor Party – Qld Branch

6 pages



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21 July 2006

Redistribution Committee for Queensland
Australian Electoral Commission
7th Floor Collection House
488 Queen Street
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Commissioners

On behalf of the Australian Labor Party, please find enclosed our objections to the proposed redistribution of Queensland.

Yours Sincerely

Milton Dick
State Secretary

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Objections to proposed Redistribution

The Australia Labor Party welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed redistribution of Queensland. Overall the ALP believes that the Commission has done a good job in drafting the proposed boundaries, however, we do have some concerns with particular seats.

Following are the concerns that the ALP has with the proposed redistribution.

Leichhardt

With respect to the Commissioner's proposed inclusion of the Yarrabah community within the seat of Kennedy, the Australian Labor Party has identified several problems.

Chiefly, there are several social, cultural and traditional political ties between the people of Yarrabah and the rest of the Cape York Peninsula, including the city of Cairns.

Strong commonality of interests between Yarrabah and the city of Cairns have been built up for more than a century.

Cairns is where all Yarrabah's Federal service provider regional headquarters are located. It is where all non-government service providers are located.

But it is not simply a matter of the physical location of service providers alone: it is the physical proximity of service providers and Yarrabah's elected representatives that is crucial.

The Australian Labor Party therefore recommends that Yarrabah be retained in Leichhardt and that additional CCDs in Edmonton be transferred into Kennedy. The Member for Kennedy supported this proposal in an earlier submission to the redistribution committee.

There are already parts of Edmonton in Kennedy and it makes sense to transfer it completely into Kennedy.

Edmonton already has its own town centre and there are plans to further develop this. There is therefore a community of interest around Edmonton that fits well with Kennedy and centres like Gordonvale.

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EDMONTON CCDs

The quota at present is 92,722.

Leichhardt currently has 94,049 voters enrolled

Kennedy has 93,262 voters enrolled.

Redistributing Yarrabah CCDs 3012008, 3012007, 3012003, 3001204 and 3012006 transfers 1390 people (as at 2-12-05) into Kennedy from Leichhardt (est. 1557 as at 30-11-07).

The Yarrabah proposal would mean 92,659 (on 2-12-05 data, 92,492 on 30-11-07 est.) voters enrolled in Leichhardt (assuming no other change). Kennedy voters would increase to 94,652 (on 2-12-05 data and 94,819 on 30-11-07 est.)

The ALP's preferred option is to transfer three Edmonton CCDs, 3012220, 3012212 and 3012203 to Kennedy. These CCDs are on the west of the Bruce Highway between Petersen Road and Mount Peter Road. There is a total of 1486 voters on 2-12-05 data and 1669 voters on 30-11-07 est. in these CCDs.

On 2-12-05 data, this would leave Leichhardt with 92,563 voters and 92,380 voters respectively. Kennedy would rise to 94,748 and 94931 voters enrolled respectively, assuming no other change.

Further, there are four other adjoining Edmonton CCDs that might be considered in the calculations. They are 3012214, 3012213, 3012202 and 301221, to the north and west of the above Edmonton CCDs. They have 1736 voters enrolled on 2-12-05 data and 1894 voters enrolled on 30-11-07 estimates.

The population growth rate across all Cairns SLAs is generally high, averaging 5.6 per cent. The growth rates for the seven Edmonton CCDs referred to average 8.3 per cent (CCD 3012202 3.66%, 3012203 6.01%, 3012212 19.93%, 3012213 13.25%, 3012214 10.26%, 3012220 9.14% and 3012221 9.40%)

It is in the strategic interest to deal with these high growth rates across Cairns now by removing the Edmonton CCDs, and preferably all seven, recognising the low growth rates in other parts of Kennedy.

The Yarrabah growth rate is 4.75% (based on the two main CCDs of 3012007 at 4.80% and 3012006 at 4.69% - the other three CCDs register zero growth). Removing Yarrabah will not solve the problem - it will allow it to worsen.

Herbert

The Australian Labor Party objects to the inclusion of the suburbs of Stuart, Wulguru, Idalia and Oonoonba in the proposed Federal Electorate of Dawson.

All these suburbs are contained within the City council boundary of Townsville, and are all within 10 kilometres of Townsville's Central Business District. Placing these

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electors within the division of Dawson based around the city of Mackay, some 400 kilometres to the south, completely ignores the community of interest that these electors have with the city of Townsville.

To compensate for this, the western boundary of Dawson with the seat of Kennedy could be altered to bring Dawson to quota.

Divisions of Bowman; Rankin; Forde; Oxley and Blair

Effect of ALP Objection:

Retains existing boundaries between Forde and Blair; Rankin and Forde; Rankin and Bowman; Rankin and Oxley. Rankin remains, as proposed by the Commissioners a purely Logan LGA Division. The Division of Blair becomes more focussed on Ipswich.

Reasons for ALP Objection:

1. The ALP Objection is more in accordance with the Community of Interest criteria, including the boundaries of existing Divisions than the Commissioners proposals.
2. The Town of Boonah has been in the Division of Oxley for many years spanning across several Redistributions. At the 2003 Redistribution, the Commissioners united Boonah LGA in Forde by transferring those parts in Oxley and Blair.
3. The removal of Boonah from Blair allows that Division to further consolidate itself as an Ipswich LGA based Division. In 2003 the Commissioners increased the Ipswich component of Blair from 35% to 47%. The current Commissioners propose that Ipswich's proportion of Blair rise to 71%. The ALP's Objection would increase it to 74.4%.
4. The only extra adjustment required of Oxley to give effect to the above would be the restoration of its boundary with Rankin. Forestdale has been in Oxley for several years. Moreover, the retention of the current boundary is retention of the clearly understandable railway boundary.
5. The restoration of Boonah with Forde allows that Division to also restore its boundary with Rankin.
6. Rankin remains a purely Logan LGA Division.
7. The restoration of Rankin's boundary with Forde allows it to also restore its existing boundary with Bowman.

If the Commission does not find favour with all of the boundary variations for Rankin proposed in this submission, then at least it should consider returning Cornubia to Bowman. There is no compelling case for moving Cornubia from Bowman to Rankin. Both seats would remain within the acceptable tolerances of quota if Cornubia remained in Bowman. The dislocation of the electors of Cornubia therefore seems unnecessary and unwarranted.

A variation on the proposal to return all of Cornubia to Bowman is to return to Bowman that part of Cornubia to the east of California Creek Road. This road acts as a natural boundary. To the west of it is the more densely settled part of

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Cornubia, whereas to the east is acreage property more akin to the neighbouring area of Carbrook which, under the provisional boundaries, remains in Bowman.

Under the ALP's objection the average variation from the projected quota of the above five Divisions is 1.46% which is similar to the Commissioners average of 1.3%.

DIVISION	Commissioners Projections	
BOWMAN	88315	
Plus Carbrook-Cornubia (part)	+1509	Ex Rankin
Plus Loganholme (part)	+1550	Ex Rankin
	91 374	
RANKIN	90 449	
Less Carbrook-Cornubia (part)	-1509	To Bowman
Less Loganholme (part)	-1550	To Bowman
Less Browns Plains (part)	-1694	To Oxley
Plus Loganholme(part)	+3366	Ex Forde
Plus Tanah Merah (part)	+592	Ex Forde
	89654	
FORDE	87189	
Less Loganholme (part)	-3366	To Rankin
Less Tanah Merah (part)	-592	To Rankin
Plus Boonah SLA	+6160	Ex Blair
	89391	
OXLEY	88895	
Plus Browns Plain LGA	+1694	Ex Rankin
Less part Ipswich East LGA	-3585	To Blair
CCD's	3130803,5	
	3131301,7	
	3131406,10,11	
	87 004	
BLAIR	90199	
Less Boonah LGA	-6160	to Forde
Plus part Ipswich East LGA	+3585	Ex Oxley
CCD's	3130803,5	
	3131301,7	
	3131406,10,11	
	87 624	

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In conclusion

The Australian Labor Party believes that, with these proposed changes, there will be minimal unnecessary displacement of voters in the seats mentioned.

The ALP firmly believes that existing cultural, political and economic links where possible should be retained, hence the recommendation to ensure that Yarrabah remains within the seat of Leichhardt. The same can be said for our recommendation to retain the southern suburbs of Townsville within the seat of Herbert, and not to place them in Dawson, which is centred on Mackay—400 kilometres to the south. These are suburbs of Townsville and should remain within the Federal seat of Herbert.

With regard to Bowman, Rankin, Forde, Oxley and Blair, the ALP would like to see the Commission leave the boundaries as they are, where possible, but with the changes we have recommended. We believe that this will minimise the unnecessary dislocation of voters from seats where alternative options exist.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this redistribution.

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