



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 186

Mr Barry McMurdo

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21/07/2006 05:05 PM

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Subject OBJECTIONS TO ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION

Classification Unclassified

My objections to the proposed redistribution of our Federal Seat are based on the following grounds in no particular order.

The name. Should you wish to name a Queensland Seat after that so-called poet, do it, but down in the South East where she used to live, not up in a region where the name Wright has a more sinister, disgusting connotation, that of the notorious Paedophile Parson Parliamentarian of both State and Federal Houses, one Keith Wright. There are quite a few of us up here who resent that we are going to be until the next reshuffle, associated with such a name.

Why is it that whenever there is a perceived need for a new seat or new seat boundaries, we rurals and regionals, particularly here in the Jericho Shire, are the whipping boys to be reshuffled, regardless of what we think, or need. In the last few elections we have gone from Kennedy, where we were when I first registered when I became of voting age, 21, back in the mid '70s, to Capricornia, where we were ignored, or at best treated as we did not count, to Maranoa, where we do now get positive acknowledgement, from the current incumbent under very trying conditions due to the physical size of his electorate.

The seat of Maranoa is quite big enough so how can anyone be expected to represent a seat which takes in approximately 1/3 of the 2nd biggest land mass state in the nation? The fact that a major industry represents an income to this nation in the top 3, obviously counts for less than zero when it comes to fair electoral treatment for any one who decides to work in such industries.

The Boston Tea Party, some 200 - odd years ago in the United States of America, was over something that is being foisted on us out in central western Queensland in 2006, only by slightly different and underhandedly coward means. "No Taxation Without Representation" was the reason for the Boston Tea Party and I fail to see why we should be expected to shoulder a share of the Tax take of this country when we are being virtually ignored when it comes to Parliamentary Representation.

Why, in a decentralised country like ours, do we not still have electoral weightage for the rural-based electorates, when, in a country like Great Britain, granted with a much larger population, it is still in practice? Urban electorates in this state and country don't have the vast distances to cover and are therefore much easier to represent and those voters get proper representation. Out here not through any fault or action of their own our representatives cannot give the same level of representation, so why and why make their job any tougher?

As for community of interest, where but from their own ignorance of which no doubt they are quite proud did anyone come up with any such thing between Western Queensland and Gladstone? We got precious little representation when we were in Capricornia, based in Rockhampton where some of us do have some contact, how much less are we going to be subjected to when Gladstone will be the Centre of the seat's universe. If we have no community with Gladstone, what about Birdsville? Gladstone is an urban centre based on mining and bauxite refining, with a city's egocentric population. Apart from Emerald and Blackwater, the rest of us have a rural, primary industry base and our towns are scattered and small, already struggling to survive.

The decision to reshuffle has probably already been made therefore this will have less than no impact.

OBJECTION

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