



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 187

Liberal Party of Australia

Qld Division

19 pages

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22 July 2006

Australian Electoral Commission Redistribution Committee
GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE Qld 4001

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to object to the Proposed Redistribution of Queensland into 29 electoral divisions as reported by the Redistribution Committee and published on 25 June 2006.

The Liberal Party of Australia (Queensland Division) has serious objections to the Committee's proposal, with a primary contention that, in arriving at its proposal, the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 has not been applied.

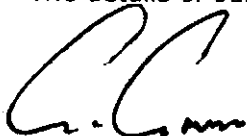
In summary, the Liberal Party objects to the Proposed Boundaries because the Redistribution Committee has adopted an approach to the redistribution which is not required or specified in the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.

The approach is clear throughout the Committee's report. The 'equality of electors between divisions' is deemed 'of high importance', despite this criteria not being contained within the statutory requirements of the Electoral Act for the purposes of a conducting a Redistribution.

Moreover, this approach has the effect of requiring changes to existing divisional boundaries, contrary to the provision contained in the Act at 33(b)(v). There are also serious consequences in terms of communities of interest flowing from the Committee's approach to the Redistribution.

As such, the Liberal Party rejects the overall approach of the Committee and calls for the Committee to reconsider the Redistribution in accordance with the statutory requirements, including the reconsideration of the public comments and suggestions submitted in accordance with the Act.

The details of our objections are spelt out in the following pages.



Geoffrey Greene
State Director

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**Objection to the
Proposed Redistribution
of Queensland Divisional Boundaries**

Liberal Party of Australia (Queensland Division)

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1. Overall objection

The Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 states as follows:

“66 Redistribution Committee to make proposed redistribution

- (1) *A Redistribution Committee for a State or the Australian Capital Territory shall, in accordance with subsections (2), (3) and (4), make a proposed redistribution of the State or Territory.”*

It is apparent both in explicit statements and throughout the Committee’s report that it has not made the proposed redistribution ‘in accordance with’ the relevant subsections of Section 66 of the Act.

An irrelevant principle has guided the Redistribution Committee’s proposal, not the explicit requirements of the Act.

The Liberal Party notes that the Electoral Commissioner directed a redistribution of electoral boundaries within Queensland as a result of the change to Queensland’s entitlement to 29 Members of the House of Representatives (pursuant to Section 48(1) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*) and notes that the Electoral Commissioner subsequently determined a quota of electors for each Division (as per Section 65(2)).

The Liberal Party accepts the establishment of the quota at 85 220, with the required 10% margin of allowance giving a range of 76 698 to 93 762 electors at the quota determination date and the required range of +/- 3.5% at the enrolment projection date giving a range of 86 452 to 92 722 electors.

The Liberal Party notes that these figures were published by the Australian Electoral Commission in the document entitled ‘Redistribution Statistics’, taking these figures as the basis upon which the Party would work to develop its submission to the Redistribution Committee. Using these figures and the .CSV data provided by the Commission, the Liberal Party submitted a proposal for the entire state of Queensland that fulfilled the statutory requirements outlined above.

The Liberal Party also noted the inclusion of projected growth figures by census collection district (CCD) as part of the detailed enrolment projection data, taking the view that the inclusion of this data reflected the legislative intention of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act* that redistributions are required to account for growth.

At no stage was the Liberal Party made aware that the Committee had in mind a non-statutory criteria of the ‘equality of electors’, leading to a requirement that proposed boundaries minimised the ‘variation from the projected average divisional enrolment’.

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Under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, the Redistribution Committee has a clearly specified set of requirements in relation to quotas upon which it is required to undertake its work. These requirements are stated explicitly in the Act as follows:

- “(3) *In making the proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee:*
- (a) *shall, as far as practicable, endeavour to ensure that, if the State or Territory were redistributed in accordance with the proposed redistribution, the number of electors enrolled in each Electoral Division in the State or Territory would not, at the projection time determined under section 63A, be less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment of that State or Territory at that time;”*

Other considerations in determining the redistribution (contained within Section 3 of the Act) are subject to these specific quota requirements.

The Act states clearly that, ‘...subject thereto the quota of electors for the State or Territory shall be the basis for the proposed redistribution...’ (Section 66(3)).

The Liberal Party objects, therefore, to the basis of the proposed redistribution. Under the Committee’s statement of its ‘General strategy’, the Committee has elevated a non-statutory principle above the statutory requirements of the Act. In its report, the Committee states as follows:

“The Committee considers that the equality of electors between electoral divisions is of high importance.”

(Paragraph 34)

The Liberal Party notes the similarity of this assertion to the proposition of ‘one vote one value’, deemed worthy but ultimately irrelevant in shaping the submission made to the Committee by the Australian Labor Party:

“Whilst in a system of one vote one value it’s desirable to produce an outcome whereby the Party with the most votes wins the most seats we have been forced to discard such arguments when framing our submission. There aren’t provisions in the Act to allow us to do otherwise.”

(Public Suggestion Number 10, Australian Labor Party Queensland Branch)

The Committee’s proposal diverges in a fundamental respect, not only from the Australian Labor Party – as explicitly rejected above – but from each of the other political parties in their public submissions to the Committee.

The state-wide divisional boundaries as proposed by the Committee ultimately meet the statutory requirement that the number of electors enrolled in each Electoral Division is not less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment. However, the Committee’s proposal alone specifies a substitute consideration or criteria not required by the Act. It is the view of the Liberal Party that the Committee has consistently applied a criteria – the ‘equality of electors’ – over and above the requirements of the Act.

This erroneous approach leads the Committee to assert the value of minimising variation from projected average divisional enrolment. Without exception, in the commentary for each specific Division, the Committee includes a statement about the results of the proposed changes in terms of ‘variation from the projected average divisional enrolment’.

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Further statements exhibiting where the Committee has chosen to adopt this criteria include:

"...to achieve the relative equality of numbers between electoral divisions, previously noted as being of high importance"

(Paragraph 49)

"It endeavours to have all divisions south of the Brisbane River as close as practicable to the average divisional enrolment."

(Paragraph 56)

In paragraph 166, towards the conclusion of the Committee's commentary, the committee leaves no doubt that it has applied a criteria not required by the Act. The Committee goes even further, however, adding an additional consideration – whether proposed divisions are within +/- 1.5% of the average divisional enrolment. The Report states:

"The Committee notes that under its proposal four divisions are above the variation of plus 1.5%, five divisions are below the variation of minus 1.5% and twenty divisions are within the range of plus or minus 1.5%."

(Paragraph 166)

According to the Act which provides the statutory basis for conducting a Redistribution, it is clear that it is sufficient for the number of electors in proposed divisions to be within a range of +/- 10% of the quota and within a range of +/- 3.5% from the average divisional enrolment at the projection time. There is no statutory requirement for the consideration that the number of electors in proposed divisions takes into account the Committee's 'variation from the projected average divisional enrolment'.

The Liberal Party thereby objects to the Committee's proposal overall, including the location of the new division (and the associated outright rejection of each alternate statewide proposal made by the major political parties), as well as specific changes made to existing divisional boundaries purely on the basis that enrolment figures are not deemed to be sufficiently close to the projected average divisional enrolment.

The Liberal Party also notes that, although each of the three statewide proposals submitted to the Committee were framed in accordance with the provisions contained within the Act, these proposals were together rejected and disregarded, seemingly on the basis of a criteria which is not relevant:

"The Committee noted that once all divisional boundaries are redrawn its proposal results in more proposed divisions being closer to the projected average divisional enrolment."

(Paragraph 57)

The Liberal Party further objects to the manner in which this has serious effects at the Divisional level.

The Committee's application of this principle, has resulted in adjustments to a number of divisions where no such change was required by the Act. In the process of adopting this principle, the Committee's proposal offends the criteria (at 3(v)) that the Committee shall have regard to 'the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory'.

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In paragraph 63, the Report states:

"The Committee notes that the existing divisions of Herbert, Dawson and Capricornia must lose 3 846, 6 166 and 3 210 electors respectively, to meet the projected average enrolment."

In proposing boundary changes in this manner, the Committee has not applied the statutory requirements for the conduct of the Redistribution (ie. not 'less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment'). In applying a requirement that enrolment numbers 'meet the projected average enrolment', the Committee has offended the requirement to take into account existing divisional boundaries (Section 33(b)(v)).

Proposed Division	Enrolment 2/12/2005	Projected Enrolment 30/11/2007
Blair	85,418	89,444
Bonner	88,660	91,840
Bowman	86,435	91,374
Brisbane	85,915	90,314
Capricornia	88,511	90,920
Dawson	87,536	91,278
Dickson	84,427	89,956
Fadden	83,917	91,109
Fairfax	81,352	86,533
Fisher	81,063	87,282
Forde	85,044	91,107
Griffith	88,493	91,836
Groom	87,101	91,186
Herbert	85,834	92,173
Hinkler	82,734	86,585
Kennedy	87,462	89,843
Leichhardt	87,732	92,111
Lilley	90,246	92,197
Longman	80,070	87,373
Maranoa	86,387	87,681
McPherson	83,031	87,977
Moncrieff	83,369	86,831
Moreton	88,124	92,038
Oxley	80,607	86,944
Petrie	83,837	86,850
Rankin	85,761	89,928
Ryan	88,243	91,722
Wide Bay	83,409	86,886
New Division (Chalk)	80,654	86,716
Sum of all Divisions	2471372	2598034

Table 1: Liberal Party proposal

The Liberal Party thereby objects, as per above, the methodology adopted by the Committee in framing its Proposed Boundaries, and therefore suggests that the Committee reconsider its proposal, taking into account the statutory requirements.

2. Consideration of public submissions

Under Section 64(4) of the Act, the Committee is required to consider Suggestions and Comments lodged within the statutory timeframe. The Committee is required to consider these proposals, but cursorily and inappropriately dismissed the proposals thus:

"After consideration of the above factors, the Committee decided that it was not possible to adopt the new division as proposed by the major political parties."

(Paragraph 52)

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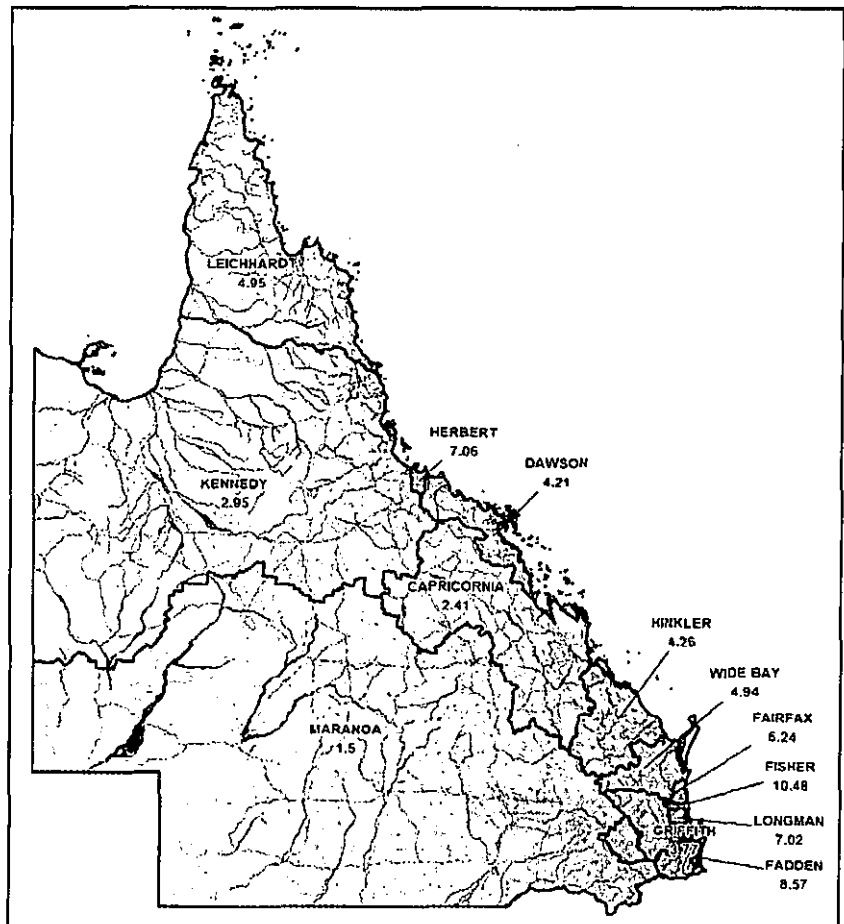
The Liberal Party notes that the Committee received eleven submissions by the required date, three of which made proposals for the entire state, the remaining eight relating to parts of the state only (refer paragraphs 23 and 24). Each of the whole-of-state submissions complied with the quota requirements of Section 66(3)(a) of the Act.

3. Location of the new division

Queensland's enrolment numbers are increasing rapidly, with a projected growth rate of 5.13% from the determination of the redistribution to the projection date in November 2007. This Redistribution differs, however from that conducted in 2003. The growth rate across Queensland has slowed from 11.35% to 5.13%.

In many ways, managing this growth is the most substantial task for the Committee in this Redistribution. The Liberal Party objects, however, to the manner in which the Committee has opted to take account for the growth.

Map 1:
Growth projections, Queensland



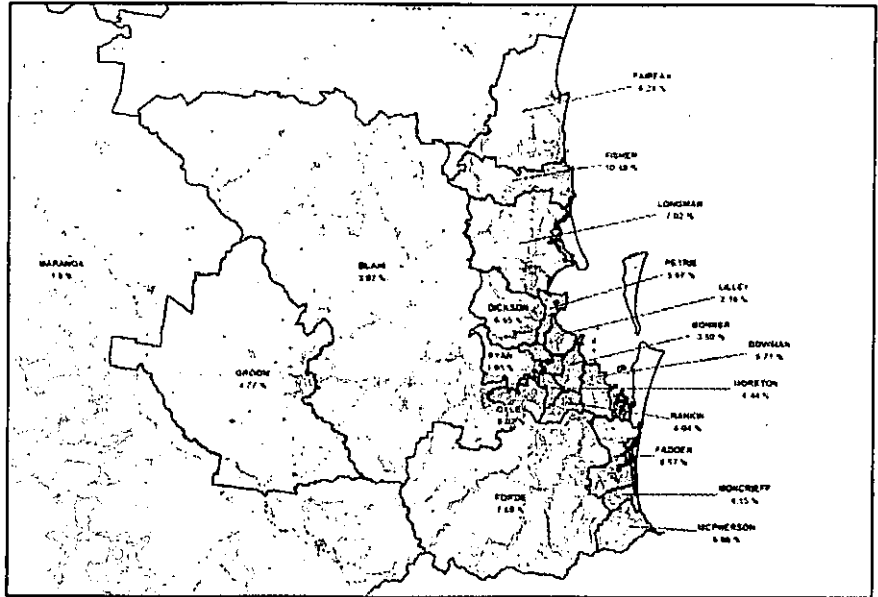
The Liberal Party acknowledges – in accordance with its submission to the Committee – that extensive population growth is occurring along the coast from the outer-north of Brisbane through the Sunshine Coast. This growth pattern, combined with the minor changes required to Queensland's northern divisions, requires significant boundary changes to the divisions of Fairfax, Fisher & Longman.

The Liberal Party notes the Committee's account of the differential growth rates within Queensland, however objects to the proposed redistribution as an inappropriate solution to the statutory requirement of accommodating growth.

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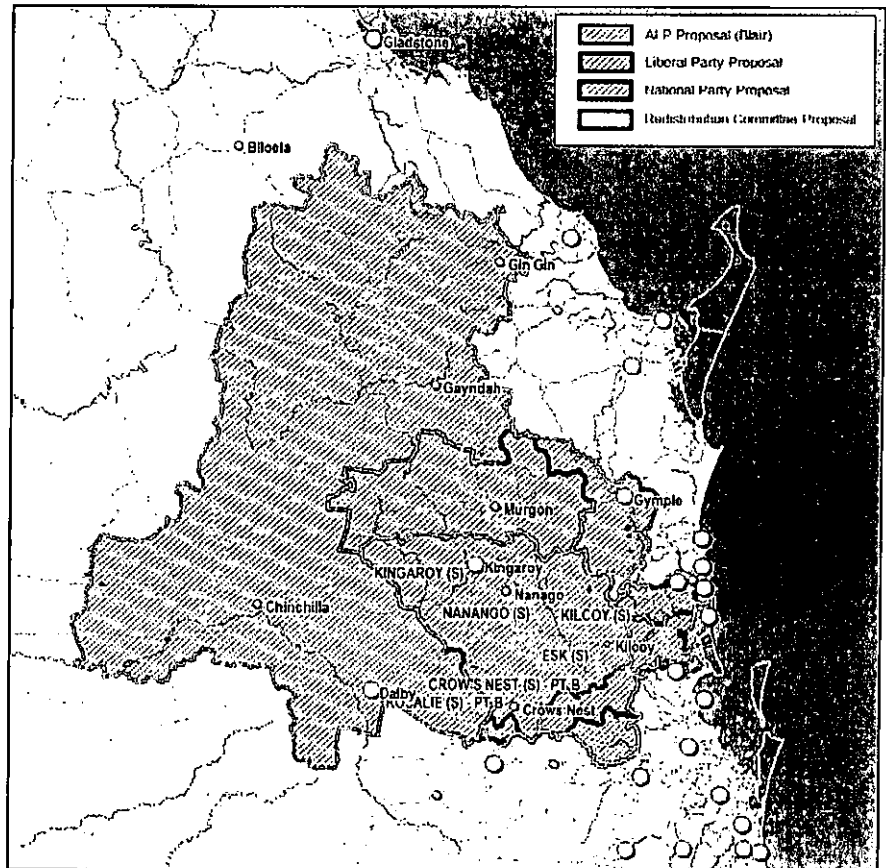
In our submission to the Committee, the Liberal Party suggested the location of the new Division in a manner that would take account of the growth. The proposed new Division would have had a projected growth rate of 7.51%. As proposed, adjoining divisions would also have had relatively high projected growth rates – Fairfax 6.37%, Fisher 7.68%, Longman 7.48%, Dickson 6.55%.



Map 2: Growth projections, south-east Queensland

With the determination of an increase in Queensland's entitlement to 29 divisions, a practical problem is posed – where to establish a new division.

Of the three submissions to the Committee which made statewide proposals, it is relevant – and instructive – that the new division was proposed in a relatively similar geographic area – to the west and north of Brisbane, with a population centre in that region. (The Labor Party nominates the new Division as Theodore based on Ipswich, however this area is predominantly comprised of the existing Division of Blair.)



Map 3. State-wide proposals for location of new Division submitted to the Committee

The regional centre of Kingaroy is within the proposed new division for all the state-wide proposals put to the Committee, as are the towns of Nanango, Crows Nest and Kilcoy.

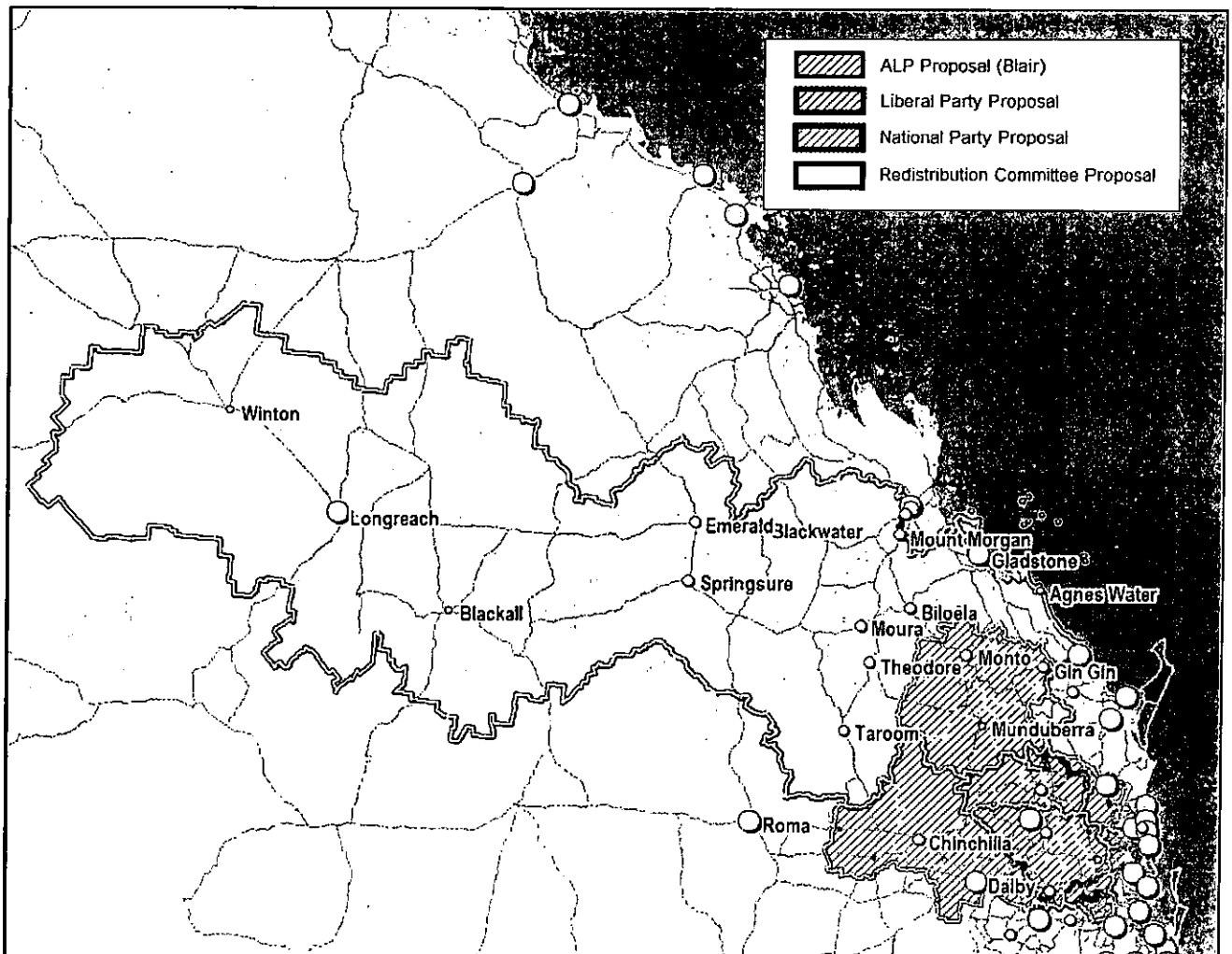
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None of these centres are contained within the boundaries of the Committee's proposed new division.

The Shires of Kingaroy, Nanango, Kilcoy and parts of Rosalie, Esk and Crows Nest are common to all three of the submissions. None of these are within the boundaries of the Committee's proposed new division. The major population centre for the Liberal Party proposal is Maryborough. For the Labor Party, the new seat is effectively what it has named Blair – with the major population centres of Gympie, Kingaroy and Dalby. The National Party proposed to create a new division encompassing the population centres of Nambour, Kingaroy, Kilcoy, Crows Nest, Nanango and Esk.

In relation to this fundamental practical issue of where to place the new division, the Committee is alone amongst the state-wide proposals in locating the new division in Central Queensland.



Map 4: Redistribution Committee proposal for location of new division

Even if the Committee had correctly applied the statutory requirements in relation to enrolment numbers, on any other measure, the Committee is fundamentally mistaken in its proposal for the location of the new division.

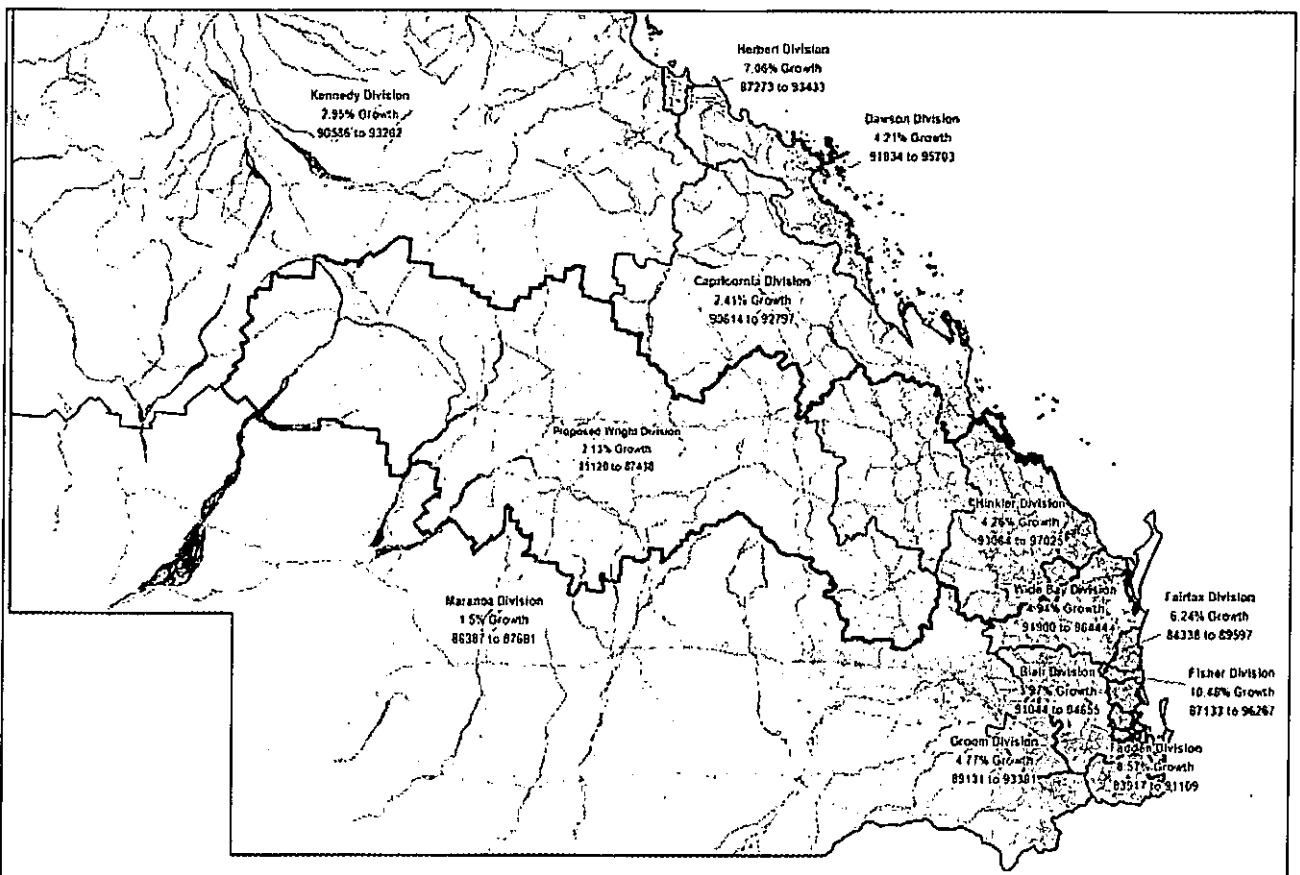
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The Committee reports that the location of the proposed Division of Wright took into account the effect on neighbouring divisions but also 'reflected contemporary population and enrolment trends' (paragraph 45). In this, the Committee is fundamentally mistaken.

The overall projected growth rate for Queensland between the declaration date and the projection date is 5.13%. For the proposed division of Wright, that figure is 2.72%. It is a well-acknowledged trend that populations are gravitating towards metropolitan centres and coastal areas. In setting the enrolment target closely to the mean value, the Committee has in fact not lived up to their statement that the proposed division 'provides the best opportunity to create a new division based on current and projected enrolment growth' (paragraph 46).

In fact, population growth in the proposed Division of Wright is relatively low. The proposed Division of Wright takes in substantial parts of the existing divisions of Maranoa (1.5% projected growth), Capricornia (2.41%) and Kennedy (2.95%).

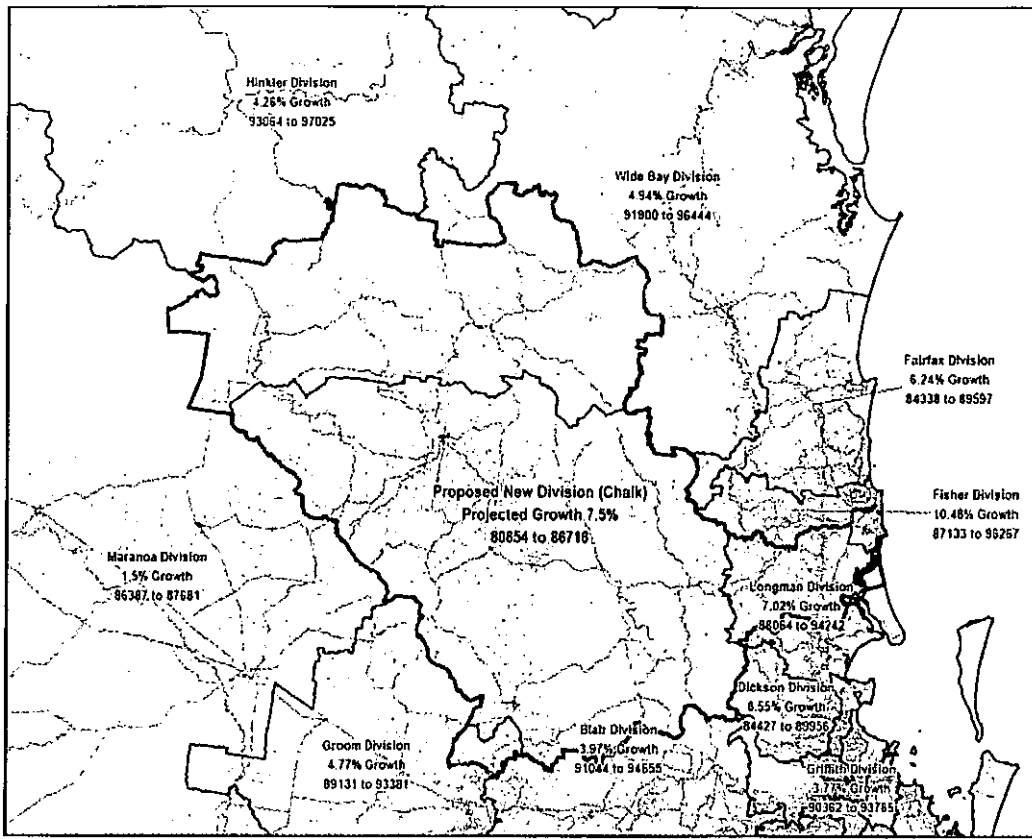


Map 5: Wright Division, incorporating existing low growth divisions

The Liberal Party thereby objects to the proposed location of the new division as failing to take account for future population growth, understood as a consideration in making a Redistribution.

The Liberal Party submission took into account the projected growth rates of existing divisions, considering that the most appropriate location for the new division is north and east of Brisbane, with a population centre on the Sunshine Coast.

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Map 6: Chalk Division, incorporating existing high growth divisions

Existing Division	Actual Enrolment 7/12/2005	Within +/-10% at quota date?	Projected Enrolment 30/11/2007	Within +/- 3.5% at projection date?	Projected Growth Rate	Required Change to meet +/- 3.5% at projection date
Blair	91044	TRUE	94655	FALSE	3.97%	1933
Bonner	86819	TRUE	89939	TRUE	3.59%	
Bowman	86435	TRUE	91374	TRUE	5.71%	
Brisbane	87660	TRUE	92073	TRUE	5.03%	
Capricornia	90614	TRUE	92797	FALSE	2.41%	75
Dawson	91834	TRUE	95703	FALSE	4.21%	2981
Dickson	84427	TRUE	89956	TRUE	6.55%	
Fadden	83917	TRUE	91109	TRUE	8.57%	
Fairfax	84338	TRUE	89597	TRUE	6.24%	
Fisher	87133	TRUE	96267	FALSE	10.48%	3,545
Forde	88410	TRUE	95205	FALSE	7.69%	2,483
Griffith	90362	TRUE	93765	FALSE	3.77%	1,043
Groom	89131	TRUE	93381	FALSE	4.77%	659
Herbert	87273	TRUE	93433	FALSE	7.06%	711
Hinkler	93064	TRUE	97025	FALSE	4.26%	4,303
Kennedy	90586	TRUE	93262	FALSE	2.95%	540
Leichhardt	89611	TRUE	94049	FALSE	4.95%	1,327
Lilley	90246	TRUE	92197	TRUE	2.16%	
Longman	88064	TRUE	94242	FALSE	7.02%	1,520
Maranoa	86387	TRUE	87681	TRUE	1.50%	
McPherson	83031	TRUE	87977	TRUE	5.96%	
Moncrieff	83369	TRUE	86831	TRUE	4.15%	
Moreton	88096	TRUE	92010	TRUE	4.44%	
Oxley	91116	TRUE	98426	FALSE	8.02%	5,704
Petrie	88684	TRUE	93708	FALSE	5.67%	986
Rankin	91047	TRUE	94726	FALSE	4.04%	2,004
Ryan	86774	TRUE	90202	TRUE	3.95%	
Wide Bay	91900	TRUE	96444	FALSE	4.94%	3,722
Queensland	2471372		2598034		5.13%	33536

Min (-10%)	76,698	Min (-3.5%)	86,451
Quota	85,220	Average	89,587
Max (+10%)	93,742	Max (+3.5%)	92,722

Table 1: Liberal Party proposal – summary of key features

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3. Disruption to communities of interest / existing boundaries

The statutory criteria termed community of interest, means of communication and travel, physical features and existing boundaries are clearly intended to be applied subject to the primary consideration of ensuring that proposed divisions meet enrolment requirements.

A number of considerable disruptions to communities of interest flow from the Committee's proposal, both flowing from the placement of the new division and unnecessary changes to boundaries in order to meet the Committee's primary consideration of 'variation from average projected divisional enrolment'.

Considerable disruptions include the following:

- Mount Morgan - divided from Rockhampton
- Maryborough / Hervey Bay - now split between Hinkler and Wide Bay

The Liberal Party proposal more effectively took into account the communities of interest criteria in, as far as practicable, seeking to keep the following regional or provincial centres and their immediate surrounds within divisional boundaries:

- Mackay within Kennedy
- Townsville within Herbert
- Rockhampton within Capricornia
- Bundaberg within Hinkler
- Maryborough within Hinkler
- Coomera within Fairfax
- Caloundra within Longman

In each of these instances, however, the Committee's Proposed Boundaries either dissect or border the built up areas of these centres. A consequence of the Committee's proposal is that Wide Bay Division no longer includes Wide Bay.

Having regard to the statutory requirements of taking into account existing divisional boundaries and communities of interest, the Liberal Party met quota requirements, in the process minimising the dislocation of electors between divisions (Table 2).

From Division	To Division	Actual Enrolment	Projected Enrolment
Blair	New Division	23318	24069
Capricornia	Wide Bay	12843	12919
Dawson	Capricornia	10740	11042
Fairfax	Fisher	27074	28261
Fisher	New Division	33144	37246
Forde	Blair	14067	14930
Forde	Rankin	1441	1625
Griffith	Bonner	1841	1901
Groom	New Division	5902	6539
Herbert	Dawson	6442	6617
Herbert	Kennedy	1048	1090
Hinkler	Wide Bay	10330	10440
Kennedy	Herbert	6051	6447
Leichhardt	Kennedy	1881	1944
Longman	New Division	11652	12342
Oxley	Rankin	5415	6034
Oxley	Ryan	5211	5702
Petrie	Longman	4538	5098
Rankin	Forde	12142	12457
Ryan	Blair	3625	3928
Wide Bay	Fairfax	24088	25197
Wide Bay	New Division	7576	7720
Queensland		230369	243548

Table 2: Elector displacement, Liberal Party proposal

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South of the Brisbane River, the Divisions of Bonner, Bowman, Fadden, McPherson, Moncrieff and Moreton are all within the acceptable quota ranges at both the quota determination and projection dates. Of these divisions within the acceptable ranges, the Committee determined, however, to change boundaries for Bowman, Fadden, McPherson, Moncrieff and Moreton.

The Liberal Party accepts that some adjustment to divisions within tolerance may be required in order to meet the acceptable enrolment ranges in other divisions. Accordingly, our submission proposed a minor boundary change to that between Griffith and Bonner, reallocating 1841 or 1901 electors from over-quota Griffith to Bonner, meeting the enrolment requirements of both divisions and entailing minimal change to existing boundaries. The Liberal Party proposal entailed no change to Bowman, Fadden, McPherson, Moncrieff or Moreton divisions, thereby more closely meeting the statutory requirement to have regard to existing divisional boundaries.

4. Elector Dislocation

The 'levels of elector displacement' as a consequence of Redistributions has been noted in public submissions to the Committee, including those by 155 Queenslanders in their comment on the public submissions (Allison Ezzy, Brendan Russell et al., *Comment No. 17 on Public Suggestions*).

Elector displacement (enrolment date)	Liberal Party proposal	National Party proposal*	Australian Labor Party proposal*	Ezzy et al. Comments	Redistribution Committee proposal
Electors remaining in existing Division	2241003	2151372	2188201	2306052	2118231
Electors transferred to another Division	230369	320000	283171	165320	353141
Electors transferred to another Division (%)	10.3%	14.9%	12.9%	7.2%	16.7%

*estimates

Table 3: Elector displacement, comparisons

It is the Liberal Party's view that the Committee's proposal negatively and unnecessarily impacts on a significant number of electors. In fact, the proposal dislocates approximately fifty percent more electors than is necessary under the Act.

5. Specific Divisional Impacts

Leichhardt - Kennedy

The Committee's proposal for Leichhardt accords with that put by the Liberal Party, effecting a change with the northern boundary of Kennedy.

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Herbert

The Liberal Party notes that the Committee has proposed to unnecessarily constrain the area of Herbert in order to effect it's alternate criteria.

The Liberal Party notes that the proposed boundary now takes a 'dog-leg' turn west at Dommatt Street. The railway line then ceases to be the boundary, and is replaced by the Flinders Highway connecting to the Ross River and on to the port. This change cuts out Idalia, which includes the Fairfield Waters development. The focus of community interest for Idalia is primarily in Herbert, due to the fact that this suburb primarily houses defence personnel. The majority of residents in this area are involved with Lavarack Barracks which is currently within Herbert Division.

The proposed change is therefore considered awkward, unworkable and not readily recognisable, with the boundary now being constituted by an arbitrary section of highway and river.

Hinkler

The Liberal Party objects that the coastal community of Hervey Bay is, under the Committee's proposal, divided from the regional centre of Maryborough, causing an unwarranted and unnecessary disruption to a strong community of interest.

Wide Bay

As noted elsewhere, in the Committee's proposal, the Division of Wide Bay has been dislocated from the namesake natural feature.

Fairfax

The removal of Noosa from Fairfax into Wide Bay, combined with previous redistributions, causes a substantial dislocation of electors. It is an unnecessary change that defies communities of interest.

It is clear that the criteria of community of interest and geographical association has been ignored in the redrafting of this particular division's boundaries.

Fisher

The Committee's proposal for Fisher results in the effective dismemberment of the Division of Fisher, creating an artificial boundary through Maroochydore and also clearly ignores any suggestion of community of interest within the central Sunshine Coast.

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Longman

High growth and quota requirements necessitated on the Sunshine Coast have unavoidable flow-on effects in surrounding Divisions. Longman has been unavoidably affected, with substantial boundary change.

The Liberal Party notes, however, that the Committee's proposal results in a divisional boundary splitting the outer extents of urban Caboolture and dissecting Morayfield SLA. As mentioned earlier, the Liberal Party proposal intended, as far as practicable, to maintain communities of interest in population centres.

The Committee also proposes the transfer of 11 505 electors from the SLA of Dakabin-Kallangur-Murrumba Downs to Longman. This significant reallocation of electors is both unnecessary (giving consideration to existing boundaries) and disruptive of communities of interest. In the case of the transfer of elector to Longman, the community in Dakabin-Kallangur-Murrumba Downs is now divided from the bulk of Longman by the Bruce Highway, a major arterial road.

Dickson

The shift of Dakabin-Kallangur-Murrumba Downs to Longman in the Committee's proposal requires also the movement of the Shire of Esk – a rural hinterland community – into the presently predominantly metropolitan Division of Dickson.

We also note, that by creating Dickson along the lines proposed, there is no land transport link across the electorate, therefore disenfranchising many thousands of electors from their Federal Representative, now based in Strathpine.

The Liberal Party notes significant changes proposed to the boundaries of Dickson, despite no change having been suggested in any of the statewide proposals submitted to the Committee.

Petrie-Lilley

The Liberal Party notes that the Committee's proposal to change the Petrie-Lilley divisional boundary is unnecessary as Lilley is within enrolment tolerances. In the Liberal Party's proposal, the required change to neighbouring Petrie was effected by allocating population to Longman.

The Committee's proposal, however, to allocate electors to Petrie from neighbouring Lilley with a total of 2,296 (actual) / 2332 (projected) electors being reallocated between Lilley and Petrie divisions achieves a cleaner boundary between the two divisions. With more electors within Aspley now being located in Petrie, the Committee's proposal assists in meeting the quota requirements of Petrie which is exacerbated by the necessary southward boundary shift of Longman.

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Brisbane-Lilley

Although the Committee argues the change on the basis of more closely aligning Brisbane's enrolment with the 'projected average divisional enrolment', the Liberal Party acknowledges that the transfer of 1681 (actual) / 1707 (projected) electors from Brisbane to Petrie is a measure which assists in meeting the quota requirements of Petrie.

Bowman

Although Bowman's boundaries did not need to change to meet quota requirements and the Liberal Party submission proposed no change, the Liberal Party notes and does not object to the Committee's proposal to excise the parts Carbrook-Cornubia and Loganholme from Bowman.

In terms of communities of interest, this change is sensible, with the urban population within these areas more closely identifying with Logan City than the Redlands Shire which comprises the bulk of the Division of Bowman.

Bonner / Griffith / Moreton

In order for Griffith to meet the requirements of the Act, just 1,043 electors at the projection date need to be transferred. Griffith is within the quota range at the declaration date. The proposed transfer of 4336 voters therefore causes an unnecessary impact on more electors than are required by the Act.

The Liberal Party notes that the Division of Bonner has remained unchanged in the Committee's proposal. The Committee accounts for its decision, noting, 'that Bonner is 352 electors over the projected average enrolment and is well within the numerical tolerance range' (paragraph 121).

The required transfer of electors can, however, be achieved by transferring electors into either the Division of Bonner or Moreton or indeed into both.

The Liberal Party thereby suggests the Committee's reconsideration of the transfer of the remainder of Mount Gravatt East into Bonner – thereby uniting this community within a single division. A small number of residential streets could also be transferred, separated by open spaces from the rest of Griffith.

As per the Party's state-wide proposal, a sufficient population (1,841 actual and 1,901 projected) would be transferred to Bonner Division.

The committee has, however, determined to effect a substantial change in boundaries between Griffith and Moreton. Whatever the statutory necessity of such a change, there is nevertheless confusion amongst voters in split suburbs along the current Griffith-Moreton boundary and this redistribution is a great opportunity for the committee to restore suburban boundaries as the easy to understand, commonsense boundary.

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An alternate proposal is as follows (30-11-07 projections):-

Griffith - Bonner

- Reunite the 1298 electors in Mt Gravatt East (Griffith) with the 5775 electors in Mt Gravatt East (Bonner).
- Reunite the 1440 electors in Holland Park West (Griffith) with the 2583 electors in Holland Park West (Bonner).

Griffith - Moreton

- Fairfield would stay within the Division of Griffith as would the 28 electors described as Yeronga but who actually live in Villa Street Annerley.
- Reunite the 1647 electors in Tarragindi (Griffith) with the 5077 electors in Tarragindi (Moreton).
- Reunite the 970 electors in Annerley (Moreton) with the 5508 electors in Annerley (Griffith).

The result of these moves allows Griffith and Bonner to easily meet the requirements of the Act. Griffith will have in total 90353 electors. Bonner would have 92677 electors, both well within the +/- 3.5% tolerance prescribed in the Act.

Oxley - Moreton

The movement of voters from Algester Calamvale and Parkinson into the division of Oxley is not in the best interests of those communities. On the west these suburbs are bounded by the Brisbane-Sydney Railway, over which there is no transport route until much further north or south. Further to the west of this man-made barrier is the larger natural barrier of Oxley Creek. Again there is no crossing till much further north or south. These form an enormous physical barrier which prevents the movement of people into Oxley. This barrier is recognised by the AEC as there were no shared booths in these areas between Oxley and Moreton at the 2004 election. There is no easy way to move between these areas. This would also suggest a lack of community commonality.

The Liberal Party notes the submission to the Committee by Mr Bob Irwin of Corinda expressing his concern at living close to an electoral boundary. The proposal to reconfigure the proposed boundary of Oxley east to the interstate railway line, including the suburbs of Chelmer, Sherwood, Graceville, Rocklea and Archerfield would act to centralise Mr Irwin more within the Oxley electorate and help to insulate these frequently moved electors from further changes.

The suburbs of Algester, Calamvale and Parkinson have also been affected by frequent boundary changes. Since 1983 they have been part of Oxley (1983), Forde (1984), Rankin (1997) and Moreton (2003). Given the Committee's concern for Mr Irwin's situation, why the disregard for the residents of these suburbs who have suffered exactly the same treatment as Mr Irwin? I would argue for leaving these suburbs as part of Moreton until further redistributions.

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Also, Oxley is a very fast growing electorate and is the electorate with the most number of enrolled voters at 98 426 at the projection date, an increase of over 7 000 voters in two years. The areas of Algester Calamvale and Parkinson are also fast growing suburbs. By adding these growth areas to the already fast growing suburbs currently in Oxley, the need for redistribution in this seat will increase. However, Sherwood, Chelmer and Graceville are long established with little room for growth as they are fully built. While there is some redevelopment occurring as older houses are demolished and units built, it is nowhere near the growth experienced in the southern development suburbs. By adding the Oxley Road suburbs to Oxley, growth and the need for frequent redistribution will be lessened rather than increased.

Ryan

The Committee proposes no changes to the Division of Ryan, the Committee noting that 'Ryan is 615 electors over the projected average enrolment' (paragraph 119).

The Liberal Party proposal to put Seventeen Mile Rocks from Oxley into Ryan would have relieved some of the population growth pressure in Oxley by uniting that suburb with the Ryan riverside communities on both sides of the Brisbane River.

Blair - Maranoa

The Liberal Party notes that, in the Committee's proposal, the Kingaroy, Nanango and Crows Nest shires are to be excised from Blair and allocated to Maranoa, an outback electorate presently with remoteness as a defining feature. The Liberal Party thereby objects to the allocation of these areas to Maranoa.

As a result of the Committee's proposal, an anticipated opportunity for many communities currently grouped within Blair to build stronger communities of interest and to improve the focus of their electoral representation has been subsumed.

This will create a serious disadvantage for the South Burnett community, geographically virtually removing electors' access to their elected representative.

Proposed new division of Wright

The proposed new division, placed in Central Queensland, creates a new seat in one of the lowest growth areas of the state. The likely consequence will be further massive dislocation as a consequence of the likely subsequent Redivision post 2007.

The hinterland areas of Rockhampton have under this proposal been associated with the city of Gladstone hundreds of kilometres away from their commercial centre. Any sense of community of interest between Longreach, Rockhampton's hinterland and Gladstone is farcical.

The Liberal Party also objects strenuously to the name 'Wright' for any division in the area of Central Queensland. Most residents in these communities only associate that name with the former member for Capricornia, a convicted paedophile. The proposed name of this electorate will cause further controversy and do nothing to honour the

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memory of Judith Wright. The Committee could not have selected a more inappropriate location in Australia to name a Federal Division of Wright. On those grounds alone, if adopted, a Division of Wright should be relocated elsewhere.

Gold Coast Divisions – Fadden, Moncrieff & McPherson

As noted previously, the Liberal Party proposed no change to the boundaries of Fadden, Moncrieff or McPherson, giving due consideration to existing boundaries and constrained by their location along the coast and the southern state border.

The Liberal Party thereby objects to the Committee's proposal to change the boundaries to Fadden, Moncrieff and McPherson.

6. Concluding Statements

1. The Liberal Party considers that the proposal put by the Committee does not meet the explicit requirements of the Act and the Liberal Party reserves the right to object in law to determine whether the Commonwealth Electoral Act has been applied in relation to the Committee's proposal.
2. The Liberal Party requests that the Committee reconsider the public submissions in accordance with the statutory requirements.
3. The Liberal Party reserves the right to object to the Committee's revised proposal.

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