



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 189

Mr Charles Richardson

4 pages

Dear Friends -

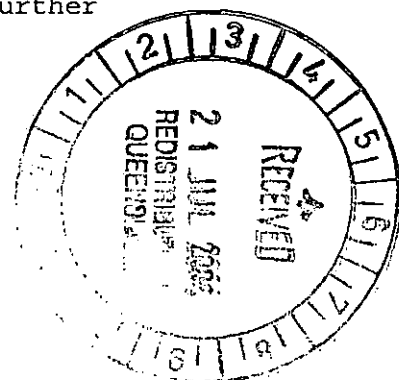
Please find attached a set of nine objections to the proposed federal electoral boundaries for Queensland. Let me know if there is any problem with the formatting, or if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Richardson

127 Kerr Street
Fitzroy, VIC 3065

Phone: 03 9495 6460



OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF QUEENSLAND FEDERAL
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

CHARLES RICHARDSON

I am grateful for the opportunity to submit the following objections to the proposed redistribution of Federal electoral boundaries in Queensland. I am an independent writer with a specialist interest in Australian politics and elections; I am not a member of any political party and have no political axe to grind in the redistribution process.

Although I am a resident of Victoria, I have followed Queensland politics with some interest and I hope that some of my ideas might be useful to the Committee in its deliberations.

My overall impression is that the Committee has done a good job in satisfying the different criteria for drawing new electoral boundaries. There are, of course, other broad approaches that could have been taken, but I do not believe there is any need for the Committee to revisit the basic arrangement of divisions that it has proposed, and I assume that it will not be doing so.

My objections are therefore confined to limited areas of change, affecting only small numbers of divisions at a time. They are set out below in alphabetical order of the divisions affected

The division Blair becomes much more compact and geographically sensible as a result of the committee '92s proposals. However, it strikes me as unnecessary for the proposed boundary between Blair and Oxley to move so far east, crossing Six Mile Creek and putting half of Redbank Plains into Blair. These electors would have a closer connection with the areas to the north and east than with central Ipswich, a considerable distance west. I appreciate that running the boundary all the way down Six Mile Creek leads to a slightly greater numerical imbalance than is proposed, but I submit that (since both divisions would still be within the required tolerance) this is outweighed by the convenience for residents of keeping Redbank Plains together

DICKSON / FISHER / LONGMAN

OBJECTION

№ 189

The most substantial revision of the proposed boundaries that I want to suggest to the Committee concerns the three divisions of Dickson Fisher and Longman.

The main problem is with the proposed Dickson previously it lay entirely within the Shire of Pine Rivers, but the proposals would have it lose a substantial area in the north-east of the shire (the suburbs of Dakabin and Kallangur) and gain instead the Shire of Esk.

The latter, however, is rural in character; its links with Pine Rivers are not particularly strong (there is a mountain range between them) and it seems out of place in a metropolitan division such as Dickson. Nor is it necessary for Dickson to change, since it is well within the permitted limits for both actual and projected enrolment.

I suggest therefore that Dickson should be returned to its existing configuration, and the Shire of Esk transferred instead to Fairfax. Fairfax is much more a rural division, and the Committee has already gone some way in this direction by giving it the Shire of Kilcoy, which clearly belongs in the same division as the Shire of Esk.

That then requires an equivalent number of electors to move from Fairfax back into Longman instead of the Dakabin-Kallangur area from Dickson. This can be readily done by reuniting in Longman the two SLAs of Morayfield and Caboolture Shire balance in BSD: in other words, running the boundary between Fairfax and Longman in the Shire of Caboolture along the Brisbane statistical division boundary.

As a result, fewer electors would move divisions than under the proposed boundaries, and community of interest would be better served. The total enrolments for the three divisions concerned would be as follows

	<u>Number of electors</u>		<u>Deviation from average</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Dickson	84,847	89,956	-0.9%	+0.4%
Fairfax	80,181	87,184	-5.9%	-2.8%
Longman	82,314	89,787	-3.4%	=0.2%

FADDEN / MONCRIEFF

I see no reason why the sole remaining section of Southport, between Stevens Street and Loders Creek, should not also be transferred to Moncrieff. The creek looks a much better boundary than the road at that point, and since only 240 electors are involved it would not disrupt the enrolment figures anywhere else

FAIRFAX / FISHER

The proposed boundaries place most of the Shire of Maroochy in Fairfax, but a small part of it needs to stay in Fisher in order to keep its enrolment above the required minimum. The Committee proposes that Mooloolaba be the part retained, but I am not convinced of the wisdom of this. It gives Fisher an odd shape, with a narrow strip stretching up the coast, and it cuts Mooloolaba off from Buderim and Maroochydore, with which it shares a strong community of interest.

OBJECTION

I do not have access to sufficiently detailed enrolment data to tell whether it is possible to make up the numbers elsewhere, but I suggest that, if possible, Mooloolaba should be moved into Fairfax and additional electors for Fisher obtained from the rural areas of Maroochy Shire west of the Bruce Highway plus the suburb of Sippy Downs, south of the Sunshine Motorway.

FAIRFAX / WIDE BAY

I suggest there is some scope for improvement in the proposed boundary between Fairfax and Wide Bay. Immediately south of the point where it first deviates from the municipal boundary, the proposed boundary runs along Eumundi Range Road almost into the centre of Eumundi township. It would be less disruptive if instead it were to follow the railway between Eumundi Range Road and the Eumundi-Noosa Road, keeping a small number of electors in Fairfax with the rest of Eumundi rather than transferring them to Wide Bay.

GRIFFITH / MORETON

The proposed boundaries transfer a block of territory from Griffith to Moreton, but leave unchanged the eastern part of the boundary between these two divisions, which splits the suburb of Tarragindi along a series of relatively minor roads. In my view it would be better if that boundary was moved north to the Pacific Motorway, putting the whole of Tarragindi into Moreton. To compensate, Griffith could retain the part of Annerly north of Venner and Waterton Roads, with the boundary running along the railway between Venner Road and Cornwall Street

GROOM / MARANOVA

The changes proposed in this area seem generally sensible, given the overall scheme that the Committee has preferred. However, I think an improvement could be made by uniting the whole of the Shire of Crows Nest within Groom, and in return transferring the Shire of Pittsworth to Maranoa. This results in one fewer municipality being divided, and equalises the elector numbers a little better between the two divisions.

It also removes what is otherwise a rather odd looking projection of Maranoa in towards Toowoomba.

I realise that this change would still leave the Shire of Rosalie split between the two divisions, but that seems much more justified on community of interest grounds: the northern part of the shire, around Yarraman, belongs with Nanango and Kingaroy, while the part south of the mountains is fairly clearly in the orbit of Toowoomba.

HINKLER / WIDE BAY / WRIGHT

The inclusion of half of the Shire of Woocoo in Hinkler is a major anomaly, since it has no communications links with the rest of the division: its population centres lie along the corridor between Maryborough and Biggenden, which the proposed boundaries put in Wide Bay and Wright respectively.

Wide Bay is under the projected average enrolment, so it could easily absorb the additional electors, thus reuniting the Shire of Woocoo in a single division.

This would leave Hinkler '92s enrolment too low, but it can gain the required numbers by taking the Shire of Biggenden from Wright, which is no worse in community of interest terms (Biggenden having good links with Childers).

Wright in turn could gain the three outback shires of Boulia (from Kennedy), Barcoo and Diamantina from Maranoa; these fit more naturally with it anyway, since it already has the larger outback towns of Longreach and Winton that with them make up the Central West statistical division.

Kennedy and Maranoa would both become slightly more compact as a result and, being above average enrolment, would not need to make any compensating gain.

McPHERSON / MONCRIEFF

The proposed new boundary between these two divisions, along Mountain View Road and then the Miami/Burleigh Waters locality boundary, does not follow a clear line on the ground and unnecessarily splits residential communities. I suggest it would be better to follow the lake between Christine Avenue and Bermuda Street, transferring only about 1,000 electors rather than the proposed 2,623.

Respectfully submitted

Charles Richardson
21 July 2006

127 Kerr Street
Fitzroy, Vic. 3065

Phone: (03) 9495 6460

e-mail charlesr@ozemail.com.au

OBJECTION

189