



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 27

Ms Mary Killeen

3 pages

Navarra
ISISFORD Q 4731

12 June 06

The Redistribution Committee for Queensland
GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE Q 4001



THE SEAT OF MARANOVA –V- THE NEW SEAT OF WRIGHT

This letter is to express my **great concern** at the proposed Federal Electoral Redistribution for Queensland.

The proposal recommends placing my home community of the Shire of Isisford, located in the Barcoo River system, and other neighbouring western Queensland shires, in the new Seat of Wright.

I **strongly object** to this proposal which will remove my community of interest, as part of the shires of western Queensland – The Outback – from the Maranoa Electorate.

This proposal will disenfranchise us from our community of interest. It is my understanding the under the Commonwealth Electoral Act, individual electorates are to contain “a community of interest” including economic, social and regional interests and “shared means of travel.” None of these will apply to this proposed new electorate.

The electorate of Maranoa is culturally, economically and socially cohesive. We have nothing in common with a large, coastal, industrial city such as Gladstone. **Maranoa is based on primary production, not heavy industrial and mining.** The selling centres of Roma and Longreach (just to name two) to which we are connected by the Landsborough and Warrego Highways are certainly **not** directed towards Gladstone in the east.

The needs of people located in the central and southwest are very different from those of our coastal cousins. **The electorate of Maranoa in its current form provides a wonderful base for a unified approach to finding practical solutions to problems and the continued economic sustainability of the region as a whole.**

OBJECTION

12-27

The small rural communities located in Maranoa are currently facing challenges in areas such as communication, road infrastructure, education, health and long-term economic sustainability. These are very different in nature to the issues faced by a large city such as Gladstone, with its huge port and many heavy industries.

Our links for health services, social activities, tourism, education and business (just to name a few) having nothing to do with Gladstone. There is not even a direct road, air or rail link to Gladstone, with which we have little or no common areas of interest.

Our area has been included in the Federal Government Sustainable Regional Financial Package, which extends to the South Australian and New South Wales border, south of Cunnamulla. This programme promotes a co-operative regional approach to identifying and addressing projects to assist with the sustainability of our community and our region. We are also included in the Queensland Central West Statistical Region, unlike areas such as Gladstone and Emerald, which are included in the Fitzroy Statistical Region.

The fragmentation and division of this area, which would occur with this proposed redistribution, is totally unacceptable.

The negative publicity generated in local media and the swift and negative reaction of the local authorities involved should further highlight the problems with this proposed redistribution. People elect their local council members to represent them, their well-being and the betterment of their community as a whole. These elected councillors bring with them a grass-roots knowledge of their communities and shires. Surely their concern and immediate rejection of this proposal should be sufficient to convince the redistribution committee that **“Wright is Wrong.”**

The people need to be fairly represented. If this proposal is adopted unchanged, once again we will be the forgotten minority. There will be little need for the elected member to pay much attention at all to areas west of Emerald as the population located to the east will dictate who wins the seat and as such, their concerns will attract the priority attention of the sitting MP.

It is imperative that the concerns of the outback community be understood and responded to in a favourable manner. There are enough issues which people face on a daily basis, without also having to

OBJECTION

Ng = 27

cope with an uncertain future regarding their fair and appropriate political representation.

All Australians should be entitled to a "fair go" and this proposed redistribution will remove that for the population of western Queensland. Just because we are few in number does not (or at least should not) lessen our importance as members of this great nation we are proud to call home.

When the committee is finalising the proposed redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries for Queensland, I would appreciate you taking these concerns into consideration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Killeen".

Mary Killeen

OBJECTION

11-27