



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 29

Mr Bob Richardson

23 pages

NOTE: 2 Maps were provided but are not reproduced here.

These may be viewed at the Office of AEC Brisbane.

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13th July 2006

The Redistribution Committee for Queensland
Australian Electoral Commission
Level 7
Collection House
488 Queen Street
BRISBANE, 4000



**Objection to Proposed Redistribution of Electoral Boundaries,
Queensland, 2006.**

Dear Committee Members

I congratulate the Committee for creating the new seat for Queensland, under Section 48 (1) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, in Central Queensland, instead of following the practice of previous redistributions and the suggestions of the major parties, by placing the new electorate in the South East corner of the State.

My objection is based on the reluctance of the Committee to relocate significant areas of North Western Queensland from the existing Division of Kennedy to another Division.

While I concur with the Committee's assessment that Mount Isa's main land transport link (rail) is, via Charters Towers, to the coast, from my understanding the air service provided by the major airlines is from Brisbane to Mount Isa, not from Townsville.

A smaller company services the Townsville/Mount Isa route.

From this it can be ascertained that the major demand for air services from Mount Isa is to Brisbane, not Townsville.

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Both the Barkley/Flinders Highways to Townsville and the Barkley/Landsborough/Warrego Highways to Brisbane are major road routes.

Since the increase in the size of the Federal Parliament, in 1984, and the subsequent redistribution, the Division of Kennedy has changed from being a Western Queensland electorate, to a division with a large costal/near costal (Atherton Tableland /Charters Towers) component, absorbing excess voters from Leichhardt and Herbert due to the continued growth of Cairns and Townsville/Thuringowa.

The 1984 redistribution resulted in the Atherton Tableland and the 'Gulf Country' being excised from Leichhardt into Kennedy and the Tully/Ingham region likewise from Herbert to Kennedy.

Subsequent redistributions have seen the coastal boundary of Kennedy move:-

. Northwards, taking in Innisfail/Gordonvale and now it is proposed to include Yarrabah.

. Southwards, towards Townsville taking in large parts of Thuringowa City.

I believe this trend should continue, thus Kennedy must loose some of its Western areas to facilitate this trend.

Mount Isa consists of approximately 14% of an electoral quota.

The coastal/near coastal areas of Kennedy constitute approximately 80% of the Division of Kennedy.

Under your proposed boundaries this ratio will remain much the same.

Therefore, placing Mount Isa in another division should not affect the quality of representation it receives from its Member of Parliament.

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For example, in the proposed Division of Wright:-

- . Gladstone/Calliope makes up approximately 31% of the proposed division.
- . Emerald makes up approximately 9.4%.
- . The remainder of the proposed division is smaller country towns.

If placed in the proposed Division of Wright, Mount Isa, being the second largest City, population wise, would be able to command much more attention of the Member of Parliament, than being a distant outpost of a division where 80% of the voters of the division are 800kms away on the coast.

The Committee's reluctance to relocate Mount Isa, and surrounding areas, from Kennedy, has resulted in severe quota and 'community of interest' consequences for the Divisions of Leichhardt, Herbert, Dawson, and Capricornia, as well as other parts of Kennedy.

LEICHHARDT

From the Committee own calculations Leichhardt:-

- . Will be Queensland's largest division, population wise, 3.24% over the projected average divisional enrolment, and just under the allowable 3.5%, in November 2007, at the time the next Federal Election is due.
- . Is one of Queensland's largest, in area.

It is also probably the most difficult division in Queensland for the Member of Parliament to service, as it includes the Torres Strait Islands, and a number of Aboriginal Communities on the 'Cape', where the only feasible method of transport is by 'flying in', as well as 'metropolitan' Cairns.

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KENNEDY

From the Committees calculation the Division of Kennedy will be 2.69% over the projected average Divisional enrolment by November 2007.

For a division as large (560,000 sqkms) and diverse as Kennedy, with 11 centres with over 4,000 electors, I consider it should be as close as possible to the average projected enrolment, if not under, by November 2007.

HERBERT

By placing approximately 5,000 voters from the City of Townsville into a Mackay based Division, Dawson, some 400 kms away, by road, does not meet the 'community of interest' criteria of the Act.

I consider on community of interest grounds, the City of Townsville and as much as possible of the City of Thuringowa, as quota requirements allow, should be in Herbert, with the excess in Kennedy, as has been the practice since the 1984 Redistribution.

There are some localities in the Local Government Area (LGA) of the City of Townsville which could be excluded from Herbert.

I will discuss these in 'Details of Proposed Changes'.

The proposed Division of Herbert is also at the higher end of the scale when it comes to the projected average enrolment in November 2007, being plus 1.34%.

DAWSON

Again by placing parts of the City of Mackay, and the Shire of Mirani, in a Rockhampton based Division, Capricornia, some 350 kms away, by road, does not meet the 'community of interest' criteria of the Act.

I consider the above mentioned areas should be returned to the proposed Division of Dawson. They are in the existing Division of Dawson.

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While the same could be said about the Sarina Shire, i.e. does not meet the 'community interest' criteria of the Act, it does have connections with the Central Queensland coalfields through rail and port infrastructure, and for quota requirements, I agree it should be transferred to the proposed electorate of Capricornia.

As noted by the Committee, all major political parties support the transfer of the Sarina Shire to the Division of Capricornia.

I also suggest, due to quota requirements, and 'community of interest' reasons, that the remainder of the Bowen Shire, Collinsville and surrounds, in the existing and proposed Division of Capricornia be included in the Division of Dawson.

CAPRICORNIA

Again it is proposed to remove parts of the existing division with community of interest ties to Rockhampton, namely, Mount Morgan and parts of the Fitzroy Shire, to a neighbouring division, the proposed new Division of Wright, based on Gladstone.

The distance between Gladstone and Rockhampton is 'not as big an issue', as between Townsville and Mackay, and Mackay and Rockhampton, but never the less, Mount Morgan and the Fitzroy Shire are associated with Rockhampton, and if quota requirements allow, as they do with my suggestions, these areas should remain in the Division of Capricornia.

For quota requirements I have also included the Duaringa Shire in Capricornia, however on 'community interest' reasons the southern part of the Shire, south of the Dawson Highway, could be placed in the proposed new Division of Wright.

This would allow the western areas of the proposed Division of Wright, Emerald and beyond, to be accessed by road from Gladstone without passing through a neighbouring Division.

The number of voters involved with the above suggestion would be minimal.

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A referred to in 'Dawson' I suggest that the part of the Bowen Shire in the proposed and existing Division of Capricornia be transferred to proposed Division of Dawson.

Summary

I urge the Committee to 'take the bull by the horns' and act now to remove the North Western area of Queensland, Mount Isa and surrounds, from Kennedy, and thus avoiding a major disruption to the Divisions of Herbert, Dawson, and Capricornia.

If the Committee does not act now, Leichhardt will continue to have enrolment increases in excess of the State average, due to the continued growth of Cairns, as acknowledge by the Committee.

Also acknowledged by the Committee, the only division any excess of voters from Leichhardt can go, is into Kennedy, thus in three (3) years time the Committee will have to confront this issue again.

They will have very little option but to do what I am suggesting now, and this will result in the transferring of parts of Townsville back to Herbert, and parts of Mackay back to Dawson, a further disruption of electors, which can be avoided if the Committee removes Mount Isa from Kennedy, at this redistribution.

I also suggest some minor changes to Wide Bay to accommodate the City of Mount Isa, and surrounds, being placed in the proposed Division of Wright.

I suggest no changes to Hinkler, Groom, and Maranoa.

I have no suggestions for the remaining Divisions which are located in the South East corner of the State.

Details of the suggested changes, calculations, and maps accompany this objection.

Yours sincerely



R. J. Richardson.

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Details of Suggested Changes

LEICHHARDT

I suggest to the Committee:-

. Those approximately 3,000 additional voters be transferred from the existing and proposed Division of Leichhardt to the proposed Division of Kennedy.

. The changes I suggest will make the Division of Leichhardt at 99.72% of the projected average enrolment in November 2007.

I concur with Committee's view that the 'community of interest' criteria is better served for those indigenous communities in the Cape York Peninsula remaining in Leichhardt.

I therefore reject the suggestion from The Nationals that these communities should be split between Leichhardt and Kennedy.

That leaves only two options for transferring these 3,000 votes, I suggest be transferred, from Leichhardt; Mareeba (S) (part) which is Kuranda and surrounds, or Cairns (C) (part) which includes Edmonton.

Kuranda is attractive because it is a clearly defined area, that part of the Mareeba Shire in the existing division of Leichhardt, with a clearly defined number of electors without the need to use CCD's.

It has the approximate number of electors I suggest be transferred from Leichhardt, i.e. 3,073.

The 1998 Redistribution Committee proposed transferring Kuranda from the Division of Leichhardt, to the Division of Kennedy.

On objection, the Augmented Committee reversed the decision, and placed Gordonvale in the Division of Kennedy, instead.

I do not know what bearing a decision of a previous Committee has on the decisions of the current Committee.

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I refer the Committee to the 'Suggestion' by the Member for Kennedy, Mr. Bob Katter, M.H.R., in relation to which area, Kuranda or Edmonton should be transferred to Kennedy.

I consider the reasons given by Mr. Katter to be valid.

I also agree with Mr. Katter's suggestion that Blackfellow Creek, from its source to its mouth, should be the boundary between Leichhardt and Kennedy, subject to quota requirements.

Without access to the CCD's, I am unaware, as to how many voters would be transferred by making Blackfellow Creek the boundary.

I have used Mareeba (S) (part) in my calculations solely as the figures are definite, as per your publication '2006 Proposed Redistribution of Queensland into Electoral Divisions' and should not be seen as a preference to which area should be transferred to the proposed Division of Kennedy.

Should the Committee decide to accept my suggestion that a further 3,000 (approx) votes should be transferred from Leichhardt to Kennedy, I will leave it to them to decide which area, Kuranda or Edmonton has the greater 'community of interest' affiliation with Leichhardt.

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HERBERT

I suggest that the Committee:-

. Reinststate the electors of Ooononba-Idalia-Cluden, Stuart-Roseneath and Townsville (C) – Pt B, in the existing Division of Herbert, but in the proposed Division of Dawson, back to Herbert.

. Transfer the ‘Northern Beaches’ area in the existing Division of Kennedy, but in the proposed Division of Herbert, back to Kennedy.

. Transfer the remaining part off Thuringowa (C) Pt A Bal (part) in the existing and proposed Division of Herbert to Kennedy.

I consider there is a case on ‘community interest’ criteria for some of the outlying townships of Townsville City, such as Woodstock and Calcium, to be transferred out of Herbert, and parts of Thuringowa City, in particular the suburb of Thuringowa Central, to remain in Herbert.

I refer to ‘Comments on Suggestions’ by Alison Ezzy, & Brendon Russel et al.

I believe that these townships, such as Woodstock and Calcium should then be placed in the Division of Kennedy, due to their close proximity to the Dalrymple Shire which is in the Division of Kennedy.

I believe there is also a case, on quota requirements, to retain some of Thuringowa (C) Pt A Bal (part) in Herbert, however, as I do not have the resources and the local knowledge to split the SLA, I have included all this SLA in Kennedy in my ‘Calculations’.

I shall leave it to the Committee to split this SLA should they accept my suggestion.

While my suggested Division of Herbert is expected to have a variation of minus 2.91% from the projected average divisional enrolment in November 2007, the suggested Division of Kennedy is expected to have a variation of plus 2.36%.

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With the changes I have suggested above to the Herbert/Kennedy boundary, in regard to Woodstock, Calcium, and Thuringowa Central, the variation could be reduced considerably and would have no 'flow on' effect with other electorates.

KENNEDY

I suggest the Committee:-

- . Add approximately 3,000 from the existing and proposed Division of Leichhardt as explained in 'Leichhardt'.
- . Reinstate the 'Northern Beaches' area of Townsville, in the existing Division of Kennedy, but in proposed Division of Herbert, back to Kennedy.
- . Add the remaining part of Thuringowa (C) - Pt A (Bal) from the existing and proposed Division of Herbert, to the Division of Kennedy, taking into account the comments I made about this area in 'Herbert'.
- . Transfer the Shires of Boulia, Cloncurry, and the City of Mount Isa, in the existing and proposed Division of Kennedy, to the proposed new Division of Wright.
- . The changes I suggest will make Kennedy at 102.36% of the projected average enrolment in November 2007. Please note my comments in 'Herbert' in reference to this projected enrolment.

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DAWSON

I suggest the Committee:-

.Transfer Onoomba-Idalia-Cluden, Stuart-Roseneath, Townsville (C) - Pt B, which is in the existing Herbert Division, but in the proposed Division of Dawson, back to Herbert.

. Reinstate Mackay (C) – Pt B (part) and the Mirani Shire, which is in the existing Division of Dawson, but in the proposed Division of Capricornia, back to Dawson.

. Transfer the remaining area of the Bowen Shire in the proposed and existing Division of Capricornia to the Division of Dawson.

This can be justified on both quota requirements and 'community of interest' grounds.

By including this area in the Division of Dawson, the projected enrolment for the Division, would be 89,715, or 100.14% of the projected average in November 2007.

The Committee, at Item 21 of its Report, refers to the importance the Committee placed on Local Government boundaries as being 'highly desirable' electoral boundaries, subject to quota considerations.

The Committee has used Local Government boundaries, where at all possible, as it's proposed Divisional boundaries, and I suggest that the Bowen Shire boundary be used in this case.

I am aware that the Bowen Shire Council has made submissions to previous Redistribution Committees, both Federal and State, requesting the Bowen Shire be included in one Division, on 'community of interest' grounds.

For quota requirements, this has not always been possible, however with my suggested 'Division of Dawson', it is possible, and I urge the Committee to give this matter due consideration.

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CAPRICORNIA

I suggest the Committee:-

. Remove Mackay (C) - Pt B (part) and the Mirani Shire, in the existing Division of Dawson, but in the proposed Division of Capricornia back to Dawson.

. Remove Bowen (S) (part) in the existing and proposed Division of Capricornia to the proposed Division of Dawson.

. Reinstate Fitzroy (S) – Pt B (part), Mount Morgan Shire and Duaringa Shire, in the existing Division of Capricornia, but in the proposed Division of Wright, back to Capricornia.

I believe, as explained previously, there is a case on 'community interest' grounds for southern part of the Duaringa Shire, south of the Dawson Highway, to be in the Division of Wright.

However, as the number of voters is small, should the committee accept my suggestion, it would have no 'flow on' effect to neighbouring electorates, if implemented.

These changes will make the Capricornia Division at 100.56% of the projected average enrolment in November 2007.

WRIGHT

I suggest the Committee:-

- . Remove, Fitzroy (S) – Pt B (part), Mount Morgan Shire and Duaringa Shire, in the existing Division of Capricornia, but in the proposed Division of Wright, back to Capricornia, taking into account what I have previously suggested in 'Capricornia' about the southern area of the Duaringa Shire, south of the Dawson Valley Highway.
- . Remove, the Gayndah Shire, in the existing Division of Hinkler, but in the proposed Division of Wright, to the proposed Division of Wide Bay.
- . Add the Boulia and Cloncurry Shires, and the city of Mount Isa, from the existing and proposed Division of Kennedy, to the proposed Division of Wright.
- . These changes will make the Wright Division at 100.41% of the projected average enrolment in November 2007.

WIDE BAY

I suggest to the Committee:-

- . Add the Gayndah Shire from the existing Division of Hinkler, but in the proposed Division of Wright to the proposed Division of Wide Bay.
- . These changes will make the Wide Bay division at 100.68% of the projected average enrolment in November 2007.

HINKLER

I suggest no changes to the proposed Division of Hinkler.

GROOM

I suggest no changes to the proposed Division of Groom,

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MARANOA

I suggest no changes to the proposed Division of Maranoa.

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CALCULATION TO SUGGESTED CHANGES

| How Constituted | Actual Enrolment 2-Dec-05 | Projected Enrolment 30-Nov-07 |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| LEICHHARDT | | |
| Proposed Division | 88,118 | 92,490 |
| Transfer from Leichhardt | | |
| Mareeba (S) (part) (to proposed Kennedy) | 3,073 | 3,153 |
| Total suggested Leichhardt | 85,045 | 89,337 |
| % of Quota | 99.79 | 99.72 |

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| How Constituted | Actual Enrolment 2-Dec-05 | Projected Enrolment 30-Nov-07 |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| HERBERT | | |
| Proposed Division | 85,018 | 90,785 |
| Transfer to Herbert | | |
| Ooonooba-Idalia-Cluden (from proposed Dawson) | 1,938 | 2,481 |
| Stuart-Roseneath (from proposed Dawson) | 452 | 477 |
| Townsville (C) - Pt B (from proposed Dawson) | 2,485 | 2,510 |
| Total transfer to Herbert | 4,875 | 5,468 |
| Transfer from Herbert | | |
| Thuringowa (C) - Pt A (Bal (part) (to proposed Kennedy) | 2,620 | 2,820 |
| Thuringowa (C) -Pt A Bal (part) (to proposed Kennedy) | 5,884 | 6,453 |
| Total transfer from Herbert | 8,504 | 9,273 |
| Total suggested Herbert | 81,389 | 86,980 |
| % of Quota | 95.50 | 97.09 |

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| How Constituted | Actual Enrolment | Projected Enrolment |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| KENNEDY | | |
| Proposed Division | 89,459 | 92,001 |
| Transfer to Kennedy | | |
| Mareeba (S) part (from proposed Leichhardt) | 3,073 | 3,153 |
| Thuringowa (C) - Pt A (part) (from proposed Herbert) | 2,620 | 2,820 |
| Thuringowa (C) - Pt A (part) (from proposed Herbert) | 5,884 | 6,453 |
| Total transfer to Kennedy | 11,577 | 12,426 |
| Transfer from Kennedy | | |
| Boulia (S) (to proposed Wright) | 303 | 294 |
| Cloncurry (S) (to proposed Wright) | 1,754 | 1,802 |
| Mount Isa (C) (to proposed Wright) | 10,313 | 10,623 |
| Total transfer from Kennedy | 12,370 | 12,719 |
| Total suggested Kennedy | 88,666 | 91,708 |
| % of Quota | 104.04 | 102.36 |

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| How Constituted | Actual Enrolment | Projected Enrolment |
|---|------------------|---------------------|
| DAWSON | | |
| Proposed Division | 83,220 | 87,293 |
| Transfer to Dawson | | |
| Mackay (C) - Pt B (part) (from proposed Capricornia) | 2,749 | 2,836 |
| Mirani (S) (from proposed Capricornia) | 3,369 | 3,478 |
| Bowen (S) (part) (from proposed Capricornia) | 1,563 | 1,576 |
| Total transfer to Dawson | 7,681 | 7,890 |
| Transfer from Dawson | | |
| Oonoonba-Idalia-Cluden (to proposed Herbert) | 1,938 | 2,481 |
| Stuart-Roseneath (to proposed Herbert) | 452 | 477 |
| Townsville (C) - Pt B (to proposed Herbert) | 2,485 | 2,510 |
| Total transfer from Dawson | 4,875 | 5,468 |
| Total suggested Dawson | 86,026 | 89,715 |
| % of quota | 100.95 | 100.14 |

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| How Constituted | Actual Enrolment 2-Dec-05 | Projected Enrolment 30-Nov-07 |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| CAPRICORNIA | | |
| Proposed Division | 87,225 | 89,680 |
| Transfer to Capricornia | | |
| Duaringa (S) (from proposed Wright) | 4,216 | 4,220 |
| Fitzroy (S) – Pt (B) (part) (from proposed Wright) | 1,954 | 2,012 |
| Mount Morgan (S) (from proposed Wright) | 2,081 | 2,064 |
| Total transfer to Capricornia | 8,251 | 8,296 |
| Transfer from Capricornia | | |
| Mackay (C) - Pt B (part) (to proposed Dawson) | 2,749 | 2,836 |
| Mirani (S) (to proposed Dawson) | 3,369 | 3,478 |
| Bowen (S) (part) | 1,563 | 1,576 |
| Total transfer from Capricornia | 7,681 | 7,890 |
| Total suggested Capricornia | 87,795 | 90,086 |
| % of quota | 103.02 | 100.56 |

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| How Constituted | Actual Enrolment 2-Dec-05 | Projected Enrolment 30-Nov-07 |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| WRIGHT | | |
| Proposed Division | 85,120 | 87,438 |
| Transfer to Wright | | |
| Boulia (S) (from proposed Kennedy) | 303 | 294 |
| Cloncurry (S) (from proposed Kennedy) | 1,754 | 1,802 |
| Mount Isa (C) (from proposed Kennedy) | 10,313 | 10,623 |
| Total transfer to Wright | 12,370 | 12,719 |
| Transfer from Wright | | |
| Duaranga (S) (to proposed Capricornia) | 4,216 | 4,220 |
| Fitzroy (S) – Pt B (part) (to proposed Capricornia) | 1,954 | 2,012 |
| Mount Morgan (S) (to proposed Capricornia) | 2,081 | 2,064 |
| Gayndah (S) (to proposed Wide Bay) | 1,899 | 1,903 |
| Total transfer from Wright | 10,150 | 10,199 |
| Total suggested Wright | 87,340 | 89,958 |
| % of quota | 102.49 | 100.41 |

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| How Constituted | Actual Enrolment 2-Dec-05 | Projected Enrolment 30-Nov-07 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| WIDE BAY | | |
| Proposed Division | 84,829 | 88,298 |
| Transfer to Wide Bay | | |
| Gayndah (S) (from proposed Wright) | 1,899 | 1,903 |
| Total suggested Wide Bay | 86,728 | 90,201 |
| % of Quota | 101.77 | 100.68 |

HINKLER

I suggest no changes to the proposed Division.

GROOM

I suggest no changes to the proposed Division.

MARANOA

I suggest no changes to the proposed Division.

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Map Notes

Map 'A'

Blue Shaded Area:

This is the area between the existing south western boundary of the Division of Leichhardt, and the northern boundary of the Mareeba Shire.

In my 'Calculations' I have transferred all the Mareeba Shire from the proposed and existing Division of Leichhardt to the proposed Division of Kennedy.

The northern boundary of the Mareeba Shire is to the north of the existing and proposed southern boundary of the Division of Leichhardt, namely the Mitchell River.

The Mitchell River is a far more recognizable, than the property boundaries which make up the northern boundary of the Mareeba Shire, and I suggest to the Committee that they retain the Mitchell River as the boundary between the Divisions of Leichhardt and Kennedy as far as it is practicable to do so.

Orange Shaded Area:

This is the area between the existing and proposed boundary between the Divisions of Herbert and Kennedy in the Townsville/Thuringowa area.

The existing boundary follows the coastline, whereas the proposed boundary extends into Halifax Bay and includes what appear to be, on the map, two small islands.

The Committee, in its Report, has not given any explanation for this change.

The only possible reason, I can see, is to follow the Townsville/Thuringowa City boundary.

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Yellow Shaded Area:

This area is the southern part of the Duaringa Shire, south of the Dawson Highway.

In my 'Calculations' I have included all the Duaringa Shire in my suggested Division of Capricornia, however in my 'Objection' and 'Details of Suggested Changes', I suggest that this area be included in the proposed Division of Wright

Green Shaded Areas:

These areas are shown in detail in Map B.

Map B

There are no notes pertaining to this map.