



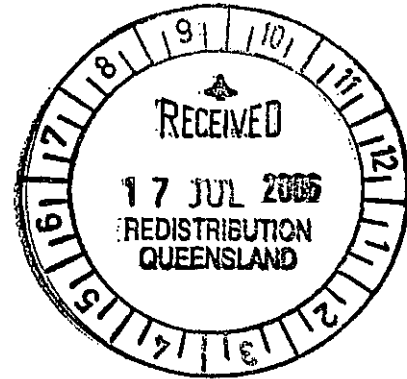
The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 44

Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame

2 pages



Monday 10th July 2006

The Redistribution Committee for Queensland
GPO Box 2590
Brisbane
QLD 4001

To Whom It May Concern

I write in relation to the recent announcement of a proposed re distribution of electorate area's including Longreach.

It is my understanding that the re distribution will result in Longreach being moved into an electorate that includes Gladstone.

The current electoral area whilst large brings together a number of 'outback communities' that experience similar challenges, a strong sense of community, business and social linkages.

To 'relocate' Longreach under the Gladstone region, where we have little or no affinity or linkages appears to be a step back in economic and industry development as well as further isolating us from our neighbouring communities.

As a key stakeholder in the tourism industry we work hard to create regional and local visitation and subsequent economic growth. Challenges such as rising fuel costs, untaken leave and geographical location are just some of the difficulties we face.

I can find no tourism linkages with a coastal destination such as Gladstone from a business, marketing or tourist perspective and the following examples illustrate this:

- 1) No direct public transport facilities (train or bus) between Gladstone and the Central West. We have a daily Greyhound service and Qantaslink service between Brisbane and Longreach and twice weekly MacAir service via Townsville.
- 2) Indirect road linkages. Most travellers take the internal route on their way north (drive market is over 90% of our current visitation). The Matilda Highway is well known and marketed tourist route for travellers seeking an 'outback experience'.

OBJECTION

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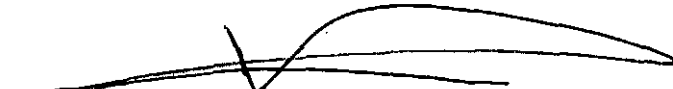
It is my impression that under elected Federal Member for Maranoa Mr Bruce Scott we have someone who is not afraid to do the miles to support the central west communities, who understands the challenges of our infrastructure and therefore I can see no viable reason for change to 'make up numbers' when there are other more closely aligned communities who would benefit more.

In addition I have discussed this matter with our Chairman Mr. Ken Cowley AO who would like to offer his strong support.

Furthermore you only have to listen to those that Mr Bruce Scott has been elected to represent to know there is a great deal of dismay and discontent at the proposal and I urge members of the Redistribution committee to listen and consider before making their final decision.

Yours sincerely,

Best regards,



Debbie Erswell
Chief Executive officer
Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame

OBJECTION

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