



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
**QUEENSLAND**

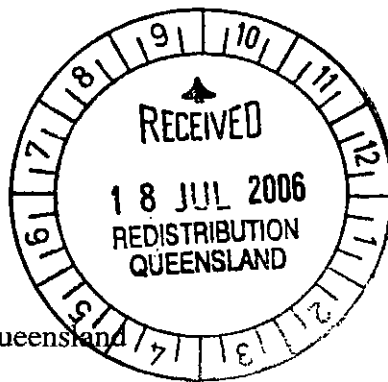


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**Objection Number 49**

**Mr Fred & Mrs Daphne Rich**

**2 pages**



Tilbury  
Blackall  
11 July 2006

Redistribution Committee for Queensland  
GPO Box 2590  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Commissioners

We are beef cattle producers residing in the Shire of Blackall. We wish to raise a strong objection to this, and other shires in the central west region of Queensland being included in an electorate based on Gladstone.

Our main objection is that the decision is apparently based on flawed information. If we look at paragraphs 46 through to 51, reference is made to various commonalities of interest between the coastal area of the proposed electorate and this area, these commonalities do not exist. For instance, we are not "dependant on the infrastructure and transport links radiating from the Port of Gladstone". These western areas rely on an air service, run by Qantas Link, which flies from Brisbane to Barcaldine and Blackall and returns to Brisbane, there are no air services connecting to Gladstone or towns adjacent to Gladstone. Six of the major towns in the western shires are serviced by a daily bus service from Brisbane, there is no bus service from Gladstone. The bus service utilises the Landsbrough Highway, which is the main land communication route to the central west area, connecting to the Warrego Highway through to Roma, Dalby, Toowoomba and the Port of Brisbane.

Businesses are mainly serviced by road, supplies coming from centres such as Dalby, Toowoomba and Brisbane. The major outlets for the beef industry are saleyards at Roma, Dalby and Toowoomba, and meat works in the Toowoomba area and the Brisbane valley. Some cattle go to the meatworks in Rockhampton. Feed for cattle in this region, many of them drought stricken, is drawn mainly from the Darling Downs and Roma areas. Areas to the east of here supplying stock feed are in country which is infected by Parthenium, a dangerous noxious weed, therefore little if any feed is sourced from the east.

Country to the east of the Great Dividing Range is infected by cattle tick. Cattle from the "clean" (western) area need to be inoculated before being transferred, and cattle coming from the east need to be dipped before being allowed into the "clean" area. Therefore there is little trade in cattle between areas west of the range and those east of it.

In short, there are no significant communication or transport links between central west Queensland and the Gladstone area. We rely on the Landsbrough and Warrego Highways to service and supply the area and to transport our livestock to market Bus and air services both connect to Brisbane.

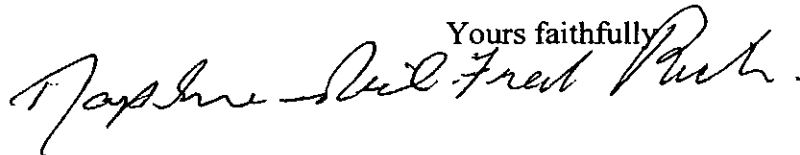
**OBJECTION**

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The rural area adjacent to Gladstone is mainly a farming area, whereas the central west is a pastoral area. Mining is a major industry east of the range, but is absent from this area. It is difficult to understand how the Commission came by the view that the western communities had anything in common with the Gladstone area. If decisions are made on flawed information, as is obviously the case here, then the result will also be flawed, that has happened in this case. This area is very dependant on infrastructure, business and transport links with other shires within the electorate of Maranoa, and to major centres, Roma, Dalby, Toowoomba and Brisbane, which are reached on highways running through the electorate of Maranoa.

We would respectfully suggest that the Commission visit the western shires in the proposed electorate, so as to gauge for itself the relevant facts at issue.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daphne and Fred Rich".

Fred and Daphne Rich

**OBJECTION**

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