



**The Federal Redistribution 2006  
QUEENSLAND**



---

**Objection Number 57**

**Mr Geoffrey F Hosking**

**4 pages**

10 Lorikeet St  
 Bundaberg Qld 4670  
 07-41517293

The Redistribution Committee for Queensland  
 The Australian Electoral Office for Queensland  
 Australian Electoral Commission  
 488 Queen St  
 GPO Box 2590  
 Brisbane Qld 4001



Dear Sirs/Madam

**Re: Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries for Queensland -  
 Objection - G F Hosking**

I live at Tantitha Lagoon, Bundaberg. This residential subdivision is approximately six kilometres from the Bundaberg Post Office, is in the Electoral Division of Hinkler, and is in the Burnett Shire, a so-called 'doughnut' shire surrounding Bundaberg City.

Burnett Shire includes rural districts and the developing coastal communities of greater Bundaberg (including Elliott Heads, Innes Park, Coral Cove, Bargara, Burnett Heads and Moore Park); districts which are inextricably centred on Bundaberg. Geographically, economically and socially, they are focussed on Bundaberg.

All of the Burnett Shire is part of the present Division of Hinkler. The Member for Hinkler has his major office in Bundaberg.

I note that it is proposed that portions of Hinkler be excised to form the new Division of Wright. I understand that it is proposed that part of the Burnett Shire, including my address, is to form a portion of the new Wright.

(I note also that Hervey Bay, a community which is more closely associated with Maryborough than Bundaberg, is proposed to be included in the new Hinkler Division. Similarly, the Woocoo Shire, which is centred upon Maryborough in the Wide Bay Division, is proposed to be included in the new Hinkler. Hervey Bay and Maryborough have similar and complementary interests and need to be able to maximise the advantages of shared governmental facilities. They will not benefit from an artificial barrier between them created by an Electoral Division boundary.)

I understand that the creation of the new Division of Wright has been triggered by population changes and the need to apply representational entitlements within the allowable margins.

**OBJECTION**

**№ - 57**

I wish to **object** to the proposed Redistribution, in so far as:

- it particularly affects parts of the Burnett Shire, including the area in which I live; and
- it generally affects other districts and shires which will be divorced from their natural regional centres.

My **grounds for objection** are in accordance with Section 66 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, and are as follows:

**I object on the ground that** whilst the need for balancing the average Divisional enrolments required by **Section 66 (3) (a)** has been recognised by the Redistribution Committee, that recognition appears to have been achieved by excisions which are the result of undue emphasis being placed upon numerical population figures, without adequate consideration of the factors which govern the character of these populations, and without adequate consideration of the factors which have governed the physical distributions of those populations over a period of time. The legislation is clear in that it considers the distribution of population within the Divisions to be of prime importance. However, the legislation is also clear that this primal objective should only be arrived at in the light of other factors.

**Section 66 (3) (b)** sets out that "the Redistribution Committee...subject to paragraph (a), shall give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division, to (these other factors)".

**I object on the ground that** whilst Section 66 (3) (b) (i) requires that the Committee shall give due consideration to the 'community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division including economic, social and regional interests', this concept has not been fairly addressed. The proposed Division of Wright includes people who, far from having a community of interest, have interests which are wildly divergent. The people of Longreach and Winton in the Central West have little if any community of interest with persons who are part of the Bundaberg region in the South East, and neither of these groups have a community of interest with the mining community around Blackwater, nor with the port and industrial area of Gladstone. There is in fact an overwhelming lack of economic, social or regional interests. In so far as the Central West and mining regions are concerned, their nearest regional centre is Rockhampton, and their coastal amenities are at the resort of Yeppoon, not to the South at Bundaberg. It is perhaps pertinent to mention that these coastal amenities at Yeppoon are in fact in yet another Division altogether (Capricornia).

**I object on the ground that** whilst Section 66 (3) (b) (ii) directs that the Committee 'shall give due consideration...to...means of communication and travel...', the southern portion of the proposed Division of Wright will be very poorly served. The Member's office is unlikely to be in a centre to which electors in the southern area will regularly travel, for business purposes or otherwise. Brisbane remains the major city of Queensland, and is the focus of most urban travel. Bundaberg is the major airport for this local region; there is no direct flight from Bundaberg to any location other than Brisbane. Gladstone is not even on the main highway; it is indeed a port, but the sugar producers of the Bundaberg and Childers region are totally centred on the local

**OBJECTION**

Ms - 57

mills and the sugar loading terminal at the Bundaberg Port (which is itself in the Burnett Shire). As mentioned above, Rockhampton is the natural regional centre for Winton, Longreach, Emerald, Blackwater and other such towns connected by the spur rail line and the major highway from East to West. On the other hand, even the telephone directory for the "Maryborough, Bundaberg, Kingaroy, Gayndah, Harvey Bay, Murgon Districts" recognises that there is a community of interest between those localities.

(S.66 (3) (b) (iii) repealed.)

**I object on the ground that** whilst Section 66 (3) (b) (iv) provides that the Committee 'shall give due consideration...to...the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division', this principle appears not to have been thoroughly applied to the proposed Division of Wright. I suggest that the 'physical features' of a basically rural area should encompass factors such as soil types and climatic conditions which govern the use of the landforms, and so give rise to the density of population in proportion to land use, from small crops to sugar cane to dairy to fruit to forestry to broad acre farming to grazing, and so in turn to supportive urban industry. An example of this population gradation is displayed in the Burnett and Kolan River Basins, where over time the watercourses and access to harvested water for irrigation have governed land use, population growth, and attendant industry. A further factor is the movement of population of retirement age to the coastal regions in the migratory phenomenon of 'sea-change'. Whilst these are more properly seen as social issues, they are matters which should not be overlooked in the general context of applying the provisions of subsection (3). Perhaps more to the point, history has shown that the large area covered by the giant Division of Maranoa is not socially or politically desirable. The proposed Division of Wright does not redress the basic Maranoa situation. However, the proposed Wright will itself be too large to be easily managed and serviced by its Member. Reducing the size of Hinkler would simply recreate another tyranny of distance in Wright.

I appreciate that Section 66 (3) is at pains to ensure that the provisions of subsection (b) are given less weight than the simple issue of population numbers addressed by subsection (a), and I am cognisant that the Act has been amended by Section (3A) to ensure that, "When applying subsection (3), the Redistribution Committee must treat the matter in subparagraph (3)(b)(v) as subordinate to the matters in subparagraphs (3) (b) (i),(ii), and (iv)".

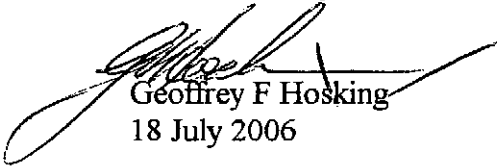
However, **I object on the ground that** the Electoral Commission's full-page newspaper advertisement announcing the proposed Redistribution, whilst stating that the Committee has quite properly stepped outside the legislation by making 'use of local government boundaries (and) locality boundaries' to aid its deliberations, the Committee has perhaps not followed Section (3) (b) (v) and given 'due consideration...to...the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State...' I raise this issue because, whilst the old Divisional boundaries are at the core of, and perhaps are a source of, the problem confronting the Committee, it is to be assumed that in the past the Committee arrived at the current Divisions through careful and diligent analysis of social and regional issues. To that extent, whilst not binding on the Committee, the existing Electoral boundaries should be seen as a valuable resource when examining settled and continuing regional relationships.

**OBJECTION**

**№ - 57**

**I request that** the Committee re-examine the excisions from Hinkler, and give substance to its stated intention to *'make use of local government boundaries and locality boundaries'* in determining the position of the new electoral boundaries which will accompany the Redistribution. I especially request that efforts be made to not split the Burnett Shire (in my own interests), and that consideration perhaps be given to using the geographical boundary to the north of Bundaberg which is attendant upon the band of hilly and less populated areas which extend from the coast westward through the region of Miriam Vale. I request also that the circumstances of Woocoo Shire to the south be reassessed, in the light of that region's affinity with Maryborough rather than with Bundaberg.

Yours faithfully



Geoffrey F Hosking  
18 July 2006

**OBJECTION**

**№ - 57**