



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 62

Mrs Mary P Hosking

2 pages



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 18/07/2006 11:04 AM

To <qld.redistribution@aec.gov.au>
 cc
 bcc
 Subject Proposed New Division of Wright

Classification Unclassified



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/Madams

**Re: Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries for Queensland -
 Objection - Mary Patricia Hosking**

I live at Tantitha Lagoon, Bundaberg. My home is approximately six kilometres from the Bundaberg Post Office, and less than 7 kilometres from the office of my present Federal Member's office in Bundaberg. My residential subdivision is in the Burnett Shire, a so-called 'doughnut' shire surrounding Bundaberg City, which is in the Electoral Division of Hinkler.

All of the Burnett Shire is part of the present Division of Hinkler, and includes rural districts and the coastal communities of greater Bundaberg, districts which are undeniably centred on Bundaberg. Geographically, economically and socially, they are focussed on Bundaberg.

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.

I believe that in a proposal to form the new Division of Wright, that portions of the Burnett Shire in the Division of Hinkler, including my address, be excised to form part of that new Division of Wright.

I wish to **object** to the proposed Redistribution, 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 separated 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 grounds that it appears that undue emphasis is being placed upon numerical population figures, without adequate consideration of the character of these populations.

Section 66 (3) (b) (i) requires that the Committee shall give due consideration to the

OBJECTION

№ - 62

'community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division including economic, social and regional interests', and it seems that 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 vastly different. The people of Longreach and Winton in the Central West, and the mining community around Blackwater have little, if any, community of interest with persons who are part of the Bundaberg region in the South East coastal area. There is, in fact, an overwhelming lack of economic, social or regional interests.

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. Bundaberg is the major airport for this local region, but there is no direct flight from Bundaberg to any northern location which may conceivably house the new Member's office, should it be moved from its present location, which is within 10 minutes' driving time from my home.

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,** and that perhaps consideration should be given to using the northern Burnett Shire boundary.

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 request 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
Mary Patricia Hosking (Mrs)

10 Lorikeet St
Bundaberg Qld 4670
18 July 2006

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BRISBANE Q

OBJECTION

№ - 62