



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 84

The Hon Bruce Scott MP

Member for Maranoa

16 pages



THE HON BRUCE SCOTT MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MARANOA
CHAIRMAN DEFENCE SUB COMMITTEE
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER

BS:db

The Redistribution Committee for Queensland
GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE Q 4001



Dear Members,

I am writing in relation to the 2006 Proposed Redistribution of Queensland into Electoral Divisions, regarding the seat of Maranoa, with reference to the proposed new seat of Wright and the seat of Groom.

I believe that the Committee's proposal has placed a higher priority on the equality of electors between electoral divisions as stated in Paragraph 34 – *'that the principal of equality of electors between electoral divisions is of high importance'*. This departs from Section 66 (3) (a) and 66 (3)(b) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, which allow the numbers of electors enrolled in each Division would not be less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment of that State. This has led to an outcome where rural communities have been separated from their long established community of interest.

In this submission I will outline how to rectify the separation of rural communities from their community of interest.

Shires of the Central West

I am aware of the strength of community anger being expressed by community leaders and local residents of **Winton, Aramac, Longreach, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Blackall and Tambo** - Central Western Queensland shires - in respect to the proposal to remove them from the seat of Maranoa and place them in the proposed new seat of Wright, which will be centred on Gladstone, including an area stretching from the boundaries of Rockhampton and the boundaries of Bundaberg/Burnett.

These concerns are well based, and the Commission must travel to Central Western Queensland and conduct public hearings to hear first hand the community concern.

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I submit that the Central Western Shires of **Winton, Aramac, Longreach, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Blackall and Tambo**, should be retained in the seat of Maranoa.

Legislative requirements

In support of this submission I make specific comments in respect to the **Community of Interests, Means of Communication and Travel, Physical Features and Existing Boundaries**, as set out in the Report for the Proposed Redistribution:-

“20. The criteria set out in Section 66(3) (b) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 state that community of interests, means of communication and travel, physical features and area, and boundaries of existing divisions are secondary to the two enrolment objectives of:

- *the number of electors in proposed divisions must be within a range of 3.5% below or above the average divisional enrolment at the projection time; and*
- *current enrolments must be within 10% range below or above the quota.*

21. However, within the limits imposed by the numerical criteria and other considerations, the Committee acknowledges that it is also highly desirable that electoral boundaries, local boundaries, main roads, railways, waterways and other linear features, guide the Committee.”

Central West Statistical Division

In the first instance I am aware that the shires **Winton, Aramac, Longreach, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Blackall and Tambo**, form part of the **Central West Statistical Division**, along with the shires of Boulia, Diamantina and Barcoo. (see map - attachment 1)

The Committee would be aware that Regional Profiles of Statistical areas of Queensland are produced by the Queensland Government Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR). These provide an overview of major economic, social and demographic information on Queensland’s regions provide a useful tool of reference for State Government Agencies, local government authorities, policymakers and researchers.

South West Statistical Division

The South West Queensland Statistical Division (see map – attachment 1b), which forms a large part of the Division of Maranoa, has a common boundary with the Central West Statistical Division, both of which are complementary in their communities of interest .

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Fitzroy Statistical Division

The Shires of **Jericho, Peak Downs, Emerald and Bauhinia** (currently part of Maranoa) which are proposed to form part the proposed new Division of Wright, join with Duaringa, Woorabinda, Mount Morgan, Banana, Fitzroy, Livingstone, Rockhampton, Calliope and Gladstone, as part of the **Fitzroy Statistical Division**. (see map – attachment 2)

The fact that these groups of Central West and Fitzroy shires are located in separate statistical areas officially recognises their differences and further highlights a clear separation of the central western shires community of interest from those to the east.

Communities of Interest

In reference to the statements made in clause 49 and 50 of the Report on the Proposed Distribution:-

49. *The Committee was also mindful that any newly created division must satisfy the relevant legislative criteria to the same level as each of the existing divisions. To this end, the Committee noted that its new division draws together a number of shires with complementary communities of interest, with the major rural industries being mining, grazing and agriculture, all of which are dependant on the infrastructure and transport links radiating from the Port of Gladstone through Central Queensland to the west.*
50. *These primary industry areas are united by their geographic proximity and their dependence on Gladstone as a major industrial city and exporting centre for primary produce and minerals. They share history and heritage, with tourism being of economic importance.*

I reject the Committee's reasoning, as it is seriously flawed when related to the Shires of **Winton, Aramac, Longreach, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Blackall and Tambo**.

- Business

The shires of the Central West have no community of interest with the City of Gladstone or the area stretching from the boundaries of Rockhampton to the boundaries of Bundaberg and Burnett. Their community of interest remains in the western areas of Queensland and to the south, connected along the Landsborough and Warrego Highways.

In support of this I am aware that the shires **Winton, Aramac, Longreach, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Blackall and Tambo** are major suppliers of

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cattle to the Roma-Bungil Saleyards, which is home to the largest store cattle sale in Australia.

I have been advised that that the Committee will be in receipt of a letter from the Roma-Bungil Saleyard Board.

- Transport

The major transport route linking these central western shires to their community of interest, is the Landsborough (Matilda) Highway, and the Warrego Highway to the south, and certainly not through to the east. These Auslink roads link these Central Western shires to Charleville, Roma and Dalby and are essential for business purposes.

The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) Counts and Commercial Volumes taken by the Queensland Department of Main Roads, reinforces this statement, with a significant increase in daily commercial traffic volumes travelling south along the continuation of the Landsborough Highway.

The Landsborough and Capricorn Highways meet at Barcaldine where the average daily traffic count on the Landsborough Highway west of Barcaldine is 507 and the continuation of the highway to the south of Barcaldine shows an average daily traffic count of 422. At a point on the Capricorn Highway immediately east of Barcaldine the average daily traffic count is 321 and at a further point east 285, which clearly demonstrates the community transport linkages for commerce, tourism and social contact is strongly linked to Charleville, Roma and Dalby. (see map – attachment 3)

- Transport : Bus

To demonstrate the transport links to the south through to the Central West, I note that there are no direct commercial bus services from this area to Gladstone. The major service operated by Greyhound Australia runs from Brisbane through Dalby , Chinchilla, Miles, Roma, Mitchell, Morven, Charleville, Augathella, Tambo, Blackall, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Longreach and Winton, via the Warrego and Landsborough (Matilda) Highways.

- Transport: Air

Queensland Transport is currently consulting with the Western and Central Western Queensland shires regarding regulated scheduled air services. Under consideration are linkages for Charleville, Quilpie, Windorah, Birdsville and Bedourie which would connect to Longreach, Winton, Blackall and Barcaldine - a further recognition of the community of interest connection.

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- Rural Shows

As Country Shows are an integral part of rural Australia, I note that information obtained from the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies sets out the chronological order of Regional Shows in Queensland. This indicates that the circuit for areas within Maranoa – Darling Downs, South-West, Central & North West generally travels from the south to the north, within these areas, and has no linkage to the east to Gladstone or the Fitzroy area.

- History/Heritage

Furthermore in respect to the historical or heritage links (referred to in Clause 50), I am unaware of any links between the Central West and Gladstone. Australian explorers Ludwig Leichhardt and Thomas Mitchell travelled from the south, through the Darling Downs, Roma and St George, to the central western areas of Queensland.

- Tourism

Whilst I agree that tourism is of particular economic importance to the Central West, it is certainly not linked to the Fitzroy/Burnett coastal areas or Gladstone.

The western outback shire areas of Queensland are very proud of their heritage, which is highlighted through the tourism industry. Legendary poet, A. B. 'Banjo' Paterson's wrote *Waltzing Matilda* in 1895, at Winton and is immortalised through the Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton.

The Stockman's Hall of Fame in Longreach; and Qantas Founders Museum in Longreach are other iconic features of the west, as well as the Tree of Knowledge and Worker's Heritage Centre in Barcaldine, and the Blackall Woolscour.

Aramac Shire is host to the annual Harry Redford Cattle Drive, which has historic links to Harry Redford's (Captain Starlight's) trial in the Roma Courthouse.

Most of the Outback tourism in the west champions the history, personalities and industries on which the Outback was built.

The vast differences, between the Gladstone and Burnett tourism region, to the Queensland Outback Tourism region (south and central-western areas) further highlights the lack of community of interest between these areas.

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Gladstone

The Committee has stated (Clause 50) that - *'These primary industry areas are united by their geographic proximity and their dependence on Gladstone as a major industrial city and exporting centre for primary produce and minerals.'* Whilst this statement may have relevance to the shires located in the Fitzroy Statistical area, which have mining industries, it is certainly does not accurately reflect or have relevance to the Shires in the Central West statistical area.

Sustainable Region

The Federal Government Sustainable Region Package, namely the Darling Matilda Way Sustainable Region, highlights the structure of western Queensland and the community of interest to the western areas of Queensland, rather than the east. (see map – attachment 4)

The Matilda Way Sustainable Region covers the Queensland shires of Aramac, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall, Boulia, Bulloo, Diamantina, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Jericho, Longreach, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Tambo and Winton, as well as shires adjoining the western areas of New South Wales.

Taroom

In respect to the Redistribution Committee's proposal to incorporate the Shire of **Taroom** within the boundary of the proposed new seat of Wright. Taroom Shire has been recognised by Redistribution Committees of the past, since Federation, as having a community of interest with Maranoa.

I am aware of the discontent of residents of the **Taroom** Shire at the proposed redistribution. The shire itself is located and recognised as part of the Western Downs, and is part of the Darling Downs Statistical Region (see map – attachment 5). Taroom has no linkages or reliance on the Port of Gladstone. Most of its business, education, transportation and other links are to the south through to Roma; as well as Dalby through to Toowoomba.

Crows Nest

I am also aware of a degree of concern expressed by the **Crows Nest** Shire, which is proposed to be transferred from Blair into Maranoa. I can appreciate these concerns, and realise that the community of interest for the Crows Nest Shire remains with Toowoomba (Groom). The dams for the water supply for Toowoomba are located in the Crows Nest Shire, and direct road access is through the Groom Electorate, the city of Toowoomba.

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Summary

I recognise that in retaining the Central Western Shires of **Winton, Aramac, Longreach, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Blackall** and **Tambo** within the Division of Maranoa that adjustments need to be made to counter-balance these enrolment numbers.

- South Burnett

I am conscious of very strong public statements by community leaders in the shires of the South Burnett, namely **Nanango, Kingaroy and Wondai**, against the proposal to include them in the seat of Maranoa. These shires form part of the South Burnett, and are east of the long recognised natural boundary between the Darling Downs and the Burnett - the Great Dividing Range. They have no direct linkage or community of interest with the seat of Maranoa.

These shires are more closely aligned with the Burnett and Wide Bay areas, and as such are located within the Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division (see map – attachment 6). I believe Kingaroy and Wondai would feel a stronger sense of community to the Burnett region, rather than the Darling Downs/Maranoa, and for this reason could form part of the proposed new seat of Wright.

- Groom

A further adjustment would need to be made to the numbers for Maranoa. I propose that former parts of **Rosalie and Jondaryan Shires** which have previously been part of Maranoa, up until 1998, **be transferred from Groom into Maranoa**. The further section of Rosalie joining with Rosalie B, already proposed to be moved into Maranoa.

These boundaries were **Rosalie Shire**, referred to as Rosalie C (1187), on the Kingsthorpe-Haden Road, Pechey-Maclagan Road, Oakey-Cooyar Road; and **Jondaryan Shire**, referred to as Jondaryan B (601), on the boundaries Jondaryan-Evanslea Road, Cranks Road, Motley-Mt Tyson Road.

- Groom: Crows Nest

There remains the anomaly with the shire of Crows Nest (2580), which should be adjusted with the Division of Groom with Pittsworth shire (3231), which has previously formed part of Maranoa. (see map – attachment 7).

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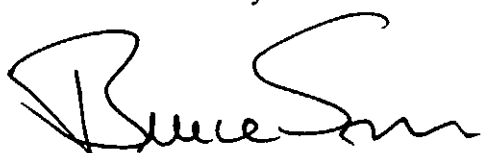
On this basis I would propose the following:-

MARANOA

89,957	Proposed AEC new boundary 2007 projection
11,360	less Kingaroy 8,225, Wondai 3,135 to transfer to WRIGHT
78,597	
6,829	add Central Western Shires – Winton 962, Longreach, 2353, Aramac 514, Ilfracombe 193, Isisford 179, Barcaldine 1067, Blackall 1111, Tambo 450 to remain Maranoa (from proposed WRIGHT)
85,426	
1,187	add Rosalie C (from GROOM)
601	add Jondaryan B (from GROOM)
87,214	
2,580	less Crows Nest 2580 to transfer to GROOM
84,634	
3,321	add Pittsworth 3321 from GROOM
87,955	

These amendments to the Committee's proposed boundaries would address major community concerns in the Division of Maranoa and would be in accordance with the guidelines of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, 1918, as well as reducing the current area of the Maranoa Division.

Yours sincerely



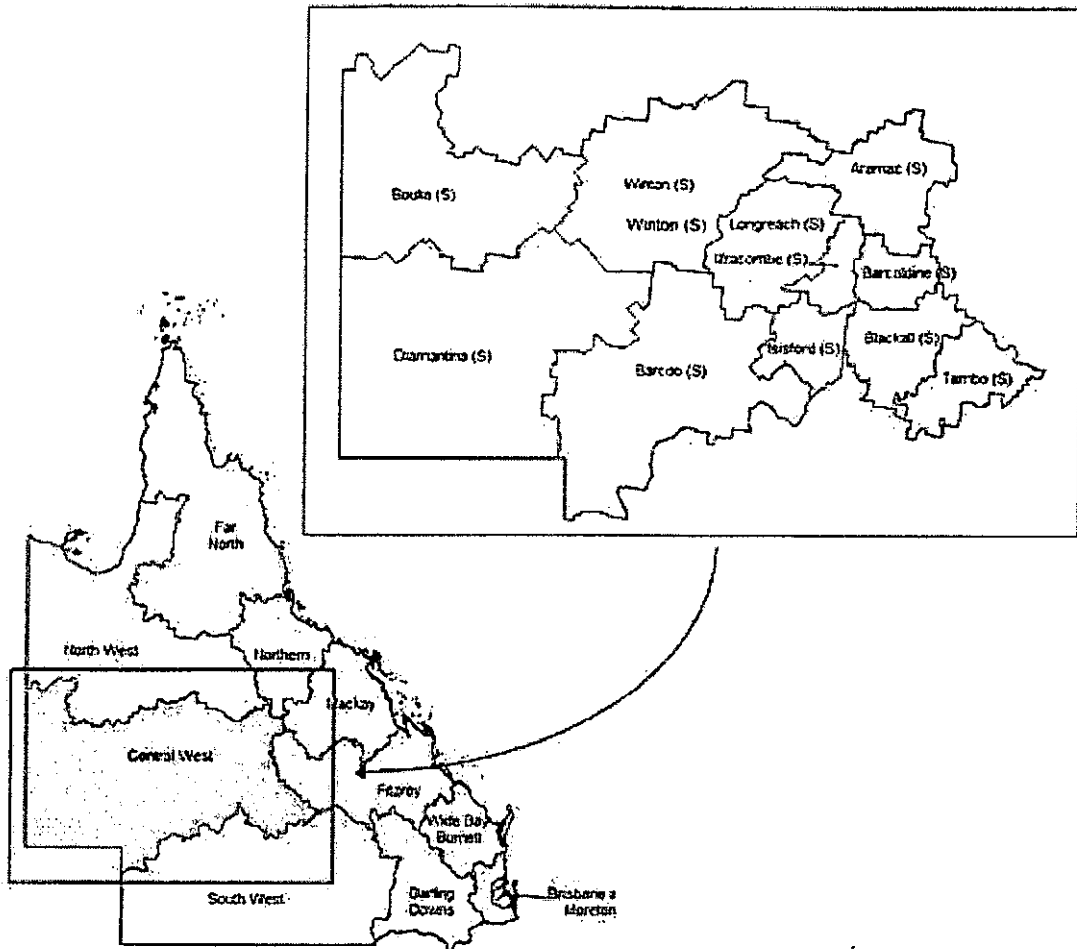
BRUCE SCOTT MP

18 July, 2006

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Figure 6.1: Central West Statistical Division

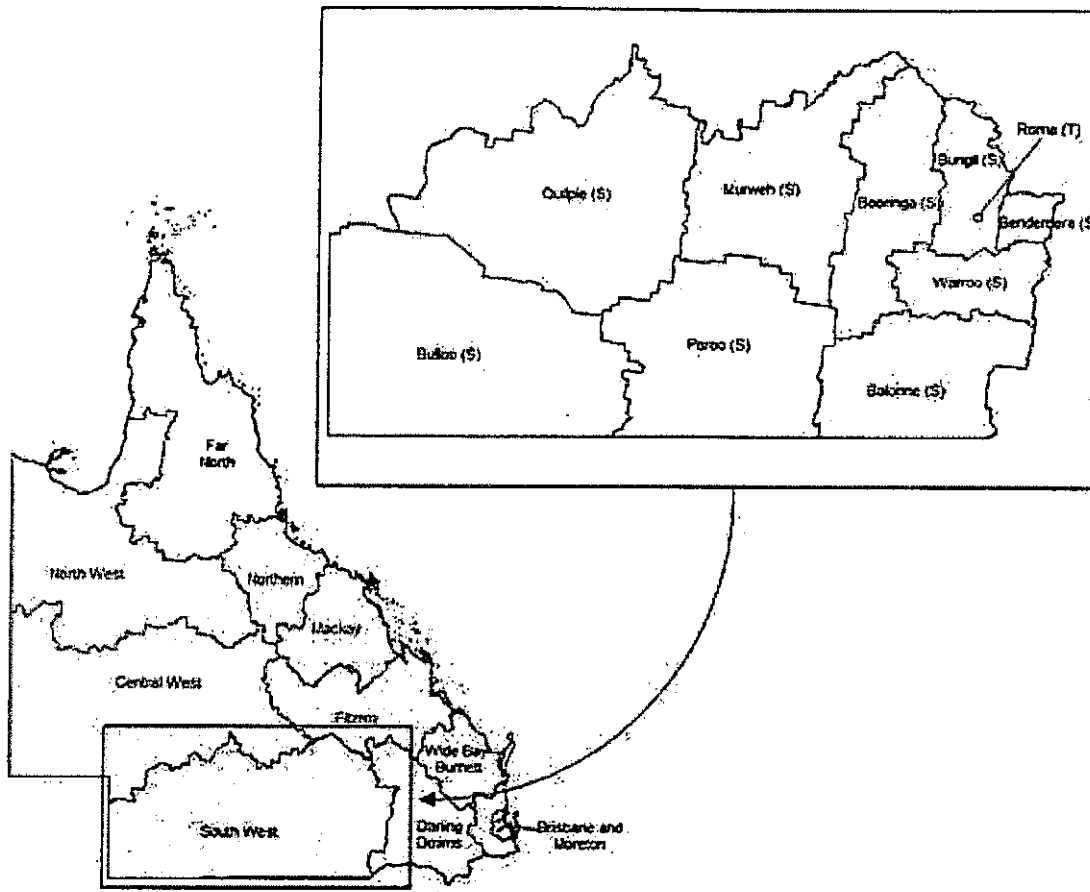


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ATTACHMENT 1

Figure 4.1 South West Statistical Division

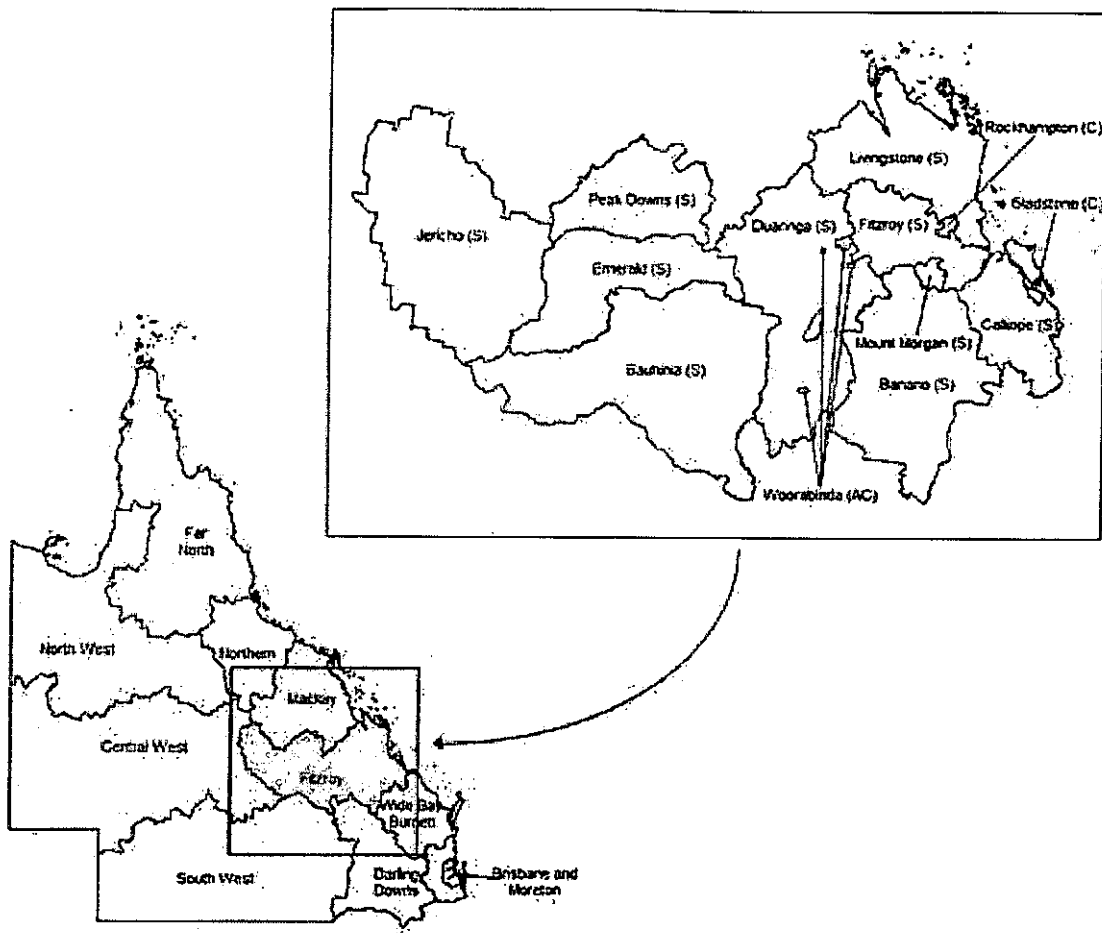


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ATTACHMENT 1b

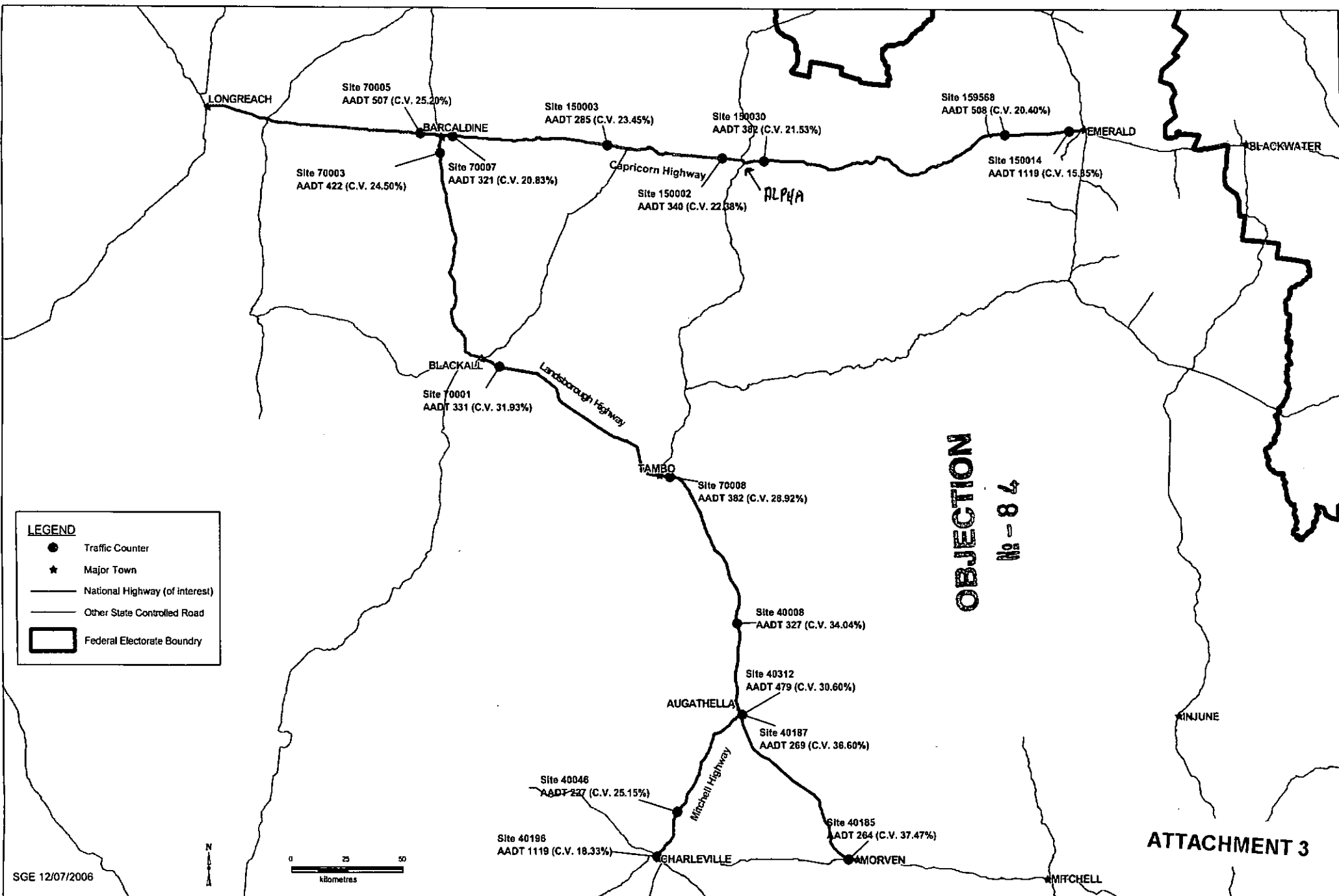
Figure 5.1 Fitzroy Statistical Division

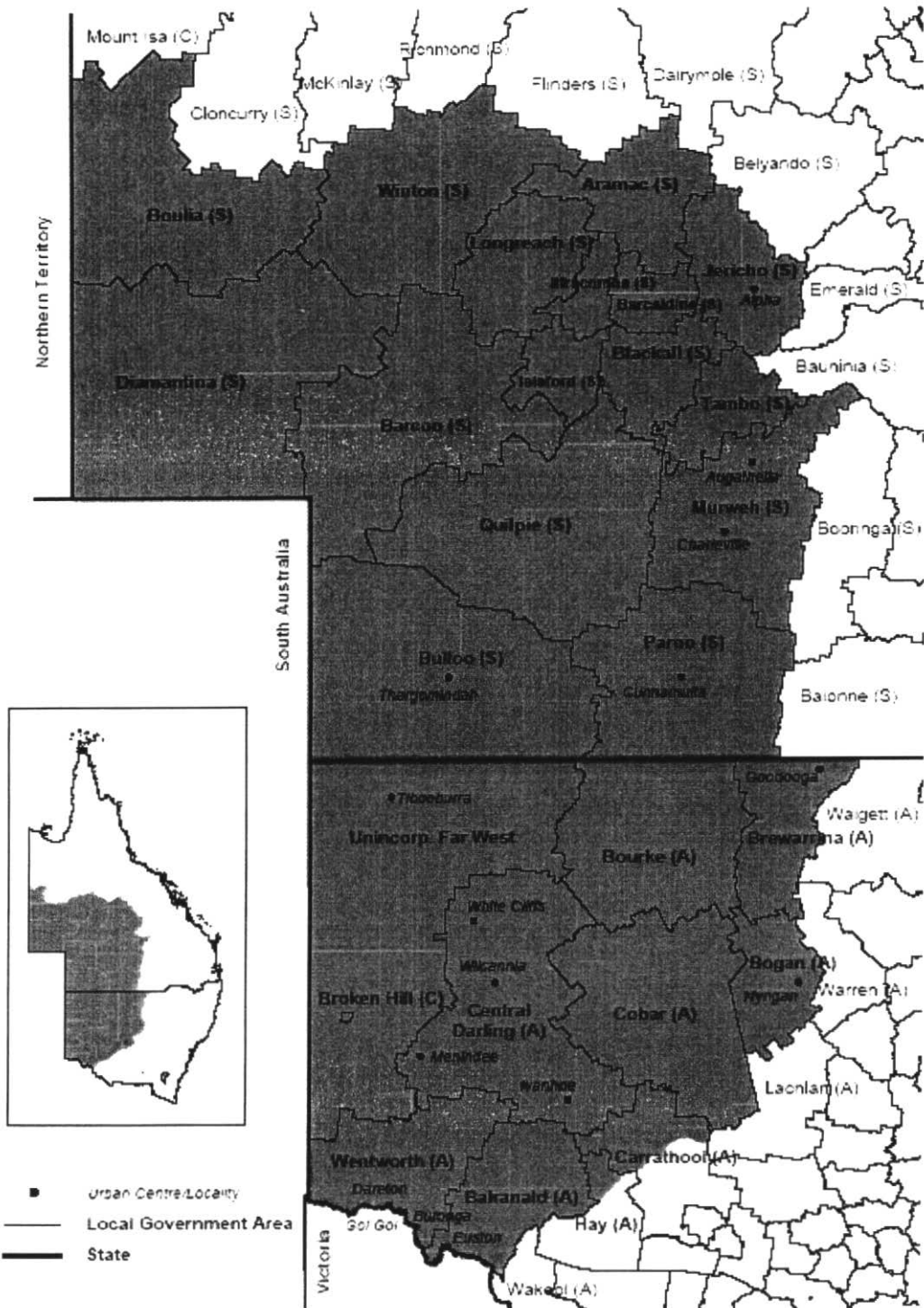


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ATTACHMENT 2





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ATTACHMENT 4

Figure 3.1 Darling Downs Statistical Division

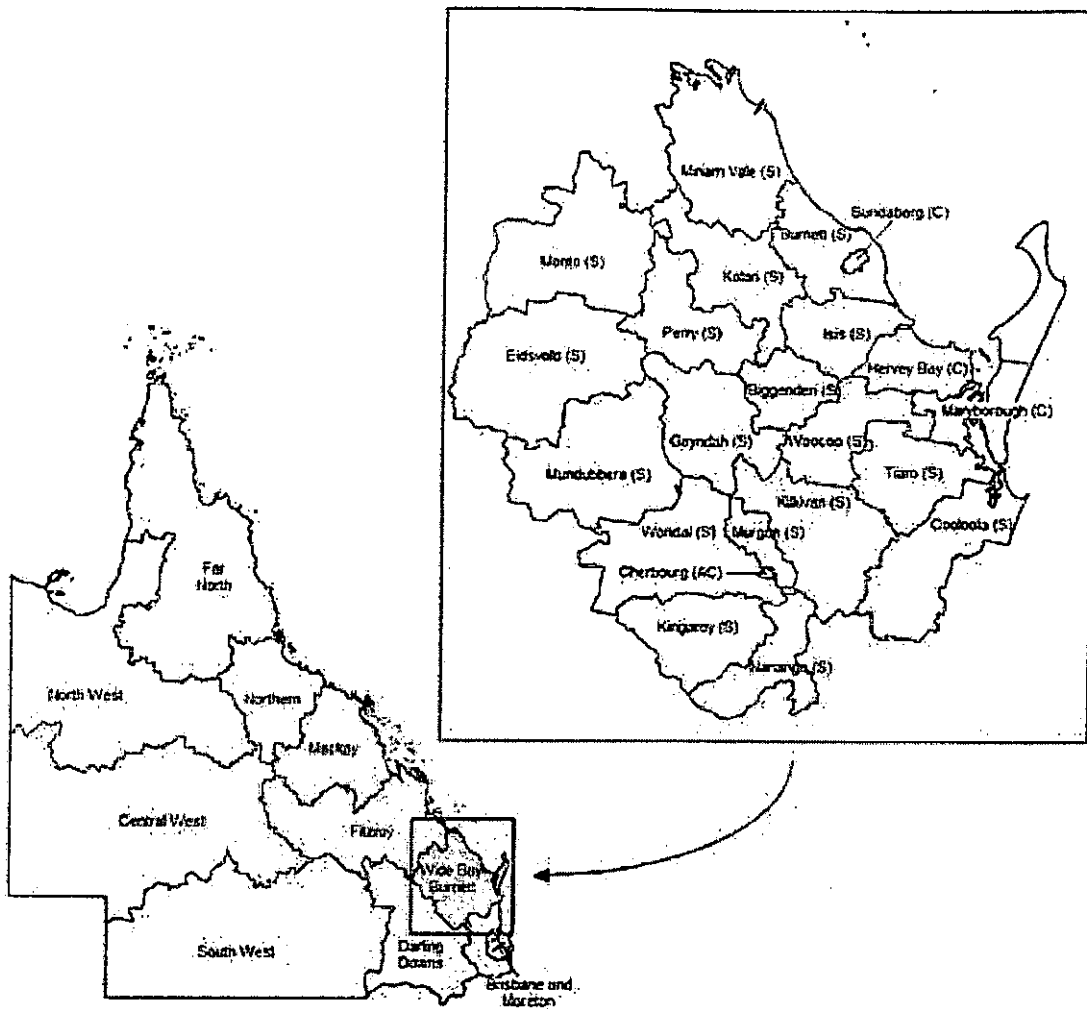


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ATTACHMENT 5.

Figure 2.1: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division



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ATTACHMENT 6



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
STATE OF QUEENSLAND

MAP OF THE COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL DIVISION

MARANOA

Q19B/1994
(Sheet 2 of 2)

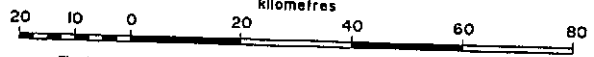
Boundaries of Commonwealth Electoral Division shown thus
Boundaries and Names of Local Government Areas shown thus

Division boundaries follow the centre line of the feature along which they are aligned unless otherwise indicated
Produced by the Department of Lands, Queensland, for the Australian Electoral Commission.

Printed by **GOPRINT**

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The base information of this map was derived from Digital Thematic Data, Department of Lands, Queensland, September 1994.



MARANOA

DIVISION OF GROOM

DIVISION OF LONGMAN

DIVISION OF FORDE

ATTACHMENT 7