



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 85

The Sunshine Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association

4 pages

(Formerly Maroochy Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.)



FAX COVER SHEET

TO: The Australian Electoral Commission.

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FROM: Michael Taylor Secretary.

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE: 4

WRITTEN OBJECTION TO PROPOSED BOUNDARIES – DIVISIONS OF FISHER & FAIRFAX.

OBJECTION

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(Formerly Maroochy Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.)

18th July 2006.

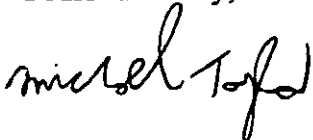
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 2590
Brisbane,
Qld 4854

Dear Sir,

**RE: OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES TO
THE DIVISIONS OF FISHER AND FAIRFAX.**

Please find accompanying, this Association's formal objections to the proposed boundaries for the divisions of Fisher and Fairfax.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Taylor
Hon. Secretary.

Attach.

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**PO BOX 1324, MOOLOOLABA, QLD 4857.
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**OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF
FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES FOR THE
DIVISIONS OF FAIRFAX AND FISHER.**

OVERVIEW:

“Section 66(1) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* requires the Redistribution Committee for Queensland to make a proposed redistribution of the State.

Sections 66(3) and 66(3A) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* prescribe that:

(3) *In making the proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee:*

- (a) shall, as far as practicable, endeavour to ensure that, if the State or Territory*
- (b) Subject to paragraph (a), shall give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division, to:*
 - (i) community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests,*
 - (iv) the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division; and*
 - (v) the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory.”*

The Sunshine Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association contends that the Redistribution Committee’s recommended boundary changes to the Federal Divisions of Fisher and Fairfax have not achieved the optimum outcomes as measured by the above criteria.

Our reasons are as follows:

Nambour has historically and politically been the focus point of the Maroochy District, but with the changing demographic and economic base from agrarian to service and tourism, Maroochy and Kawana are becoming more relevant and business has shifted its retailing and manufacturing base to these areas.

Nambour has a major asset, heavy gauge railway for freight and passenger transport.

The town will have to re-invent itself in order take advantage of shifting populus demands that require a more coastal centric lifestyle.

This would seem to point to Nambour supporting the coastal growth with service supply and training needs as the lifeblood of the town.

Concurrently, the coastal settlements of Noosa, Maroochydore, Kawana and Caloundra, are currently experiencing above average expansions in economic and population terms.

It is contended by this Association, that the economic focus of the Sunshine Coast will rapidly, move to the Maroochydore – Kawana area.

Concurrently, the mix of economic activity will broaden, away from reliance upon the agricultural and tourism sectors, to areas requiring more highly skilled and diverse workforces (eg: the delivery of health services – particularly in the aged care field).

These developments are being encouraged as a result of the rapid implementation of the Queensland Government’s Regional Development Plan for S.E Queensland, as witnessed by the following quote:

“The Regional Plan proposes a new approach based on managing rather than responding to growth and leading the desired results through timely provision of infrastructure and assisting employment creation”.

(Draft Plan).

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The population growth and land use patterns anticipated in the Draft Plan are catalysts for:

1. The redistribution of political boundaries.
2. The creation of a zone of economic activity bounded by Caloundra in the South, the Sunshine Motorway in the West and the Maroochy River in the North.

The current electoral boundaries reflect historical circumstances (both in economic and demographic terms).

These have resulted in structures that don't and can't deliver world's best practices in the delivery of services to the community.

With this in mind we believe wholeheartedly that there is a strong community of interests, both in economic terms and in terms of social ties, binding the population centres of Caloundra, Kawana, Mooloolaba and Maroochy.

This Association favours the creation of redrawn boundaries for the Federal Division of Fisher using the existing local government boundaries of the Caloundra City and Maroochy Shire (with the northern boundary following the course of the Maroochy River) Councils, based around the population, and economic centres of Maroochy in the North and Kawana, and Caloundra in the South.

FLAWS WITH PROPOSED BOUNDARIES:

Concurrently, we contend that the proposed boundary which in effect isolates Mooloolaba (in Fisher) from both Alexandria Headland and Maroochy (in Fairfax) breaks down "community" rather than fosters a common community of interests.

We strongly believe that residents would be disadvantaged in the event of two electorates cutting across this closely knit community, particular in light of the need to effectively lobby government (both Federal and State) for funding in regard to much needed infrastructure.

Finally, the proposed boundaries of the Redistribution Committee will rapidly become redundant as the growth areas centred around Kawana and Mountain Creek, Mooloolaba and Maroochy will quickly exceed the range of 3.5% (plus or minus) in the Division of Fisher required by the Act. Whereas the Association's proposal, it is anticipated, allows a greater period between the current and future boundary adjustments.

CONCLUSION:

The Sunshine Coast is one of the fastest growing regions in the Commonwealth, and is therefore undergoing a significant transition from a regional economy based on agriculture to one focused on services and light manufacturing.

The Sunshine Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association believes that using a combination of existing local government boundaries and a significant geographical feature (the Maroochy River), a better fit can be achieved within the criteria outlined in Section 66(3A) of the Act, whilst concurrently facilitating a roll of electors within the range of variations allowed in Section 66(3)(b) of the Act, for the Electoral Divisions of Fisher and Fairfax.

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