



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Public Suggestion Number 4

Kolan Shire Council

3 pages



Ref: MWW A/0017

1 March 2006

Redistribution Committee for Queensland
GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Sir/Madam

ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION

I refer to the recent public notices relating to the proposed redistribution of Queensland's electoral boundaries.

Council recently considered the possible implications of a redistribution affecting the Kolan Shire, particularly in light of the fact that this shire was only recently re-positioned into the Hinkler electorate.

Prior to the last election Kolan and Perry Shires were repositioned into the seat of Hinkler; which came about following various submissions and issues raised about a perceived community of interest with Bundaberg (Hinkler) rather than Maryborough (Wide-Bay).

Given that a redistribution is again being considered and noting that it may be likely that with population trends affecting the Wide-Bay, our community may again be re-positioned on the basis that the shire is located on the fringe of a larger metropolitan area.

Council would like to submit a suggestion expressing the view that Kolan Shire seeks to remain in the Hinkler electorate, given the community of interest that exists with Bundaberg. I have attached a plain paper copy of the original submission made to you seeking to be repositioned into the Hinkler electorate as part of the previous redistribution.

Should you require any further information concerning this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me on telephone 4133 2004.

Yours faithfully

Mark Watt
Chief Executive Officer

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SUGGESTION

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Redistribution Committee for Queensland

Re: Repositioning of Kolan Shire and Perry Shire into Hinkler Electorate

I respectfully submit that the areas of Kolan Shire and Perry Shire be taken from the Wide Bay Electorate and placed in the Hinkler Electorate.

I understand Perry Shire is lodging it's own submission so I will outline Kolan Shire's argument for the change.

To support Council's request I advise as follows:

- 1) **Community of Interest** – Gin Gin is the main centre for the residents of this Shire with Bundaberg providing the regional centre for a full range of specialist services e.g. financial, legal, specialist medical, travel (airport, rail and sea port), sporting facilities, and entertainment. Bundaberg is 50kms from Gin Gin and is considered part of the attraction for people living in this district.

Wide Bay Electorate has Maryborough as it's centre of community interest with that city 110kms away from Gin Gin and offering no greater facilities than Bundaberg. The residents of this district rarely rely upon services in Maryborough and few would make a regular trip to that city.

- 2) **Means of Communication and Travel**

For residents to meet face to face with the Member for Wide Bay, Hon Warren Truss MP, at one of his offices it requires either a trip to Maryborough (110 kms) or Kingaroy (200 kms).

If the area were re-instated into Hinkler the local Member has an office in Bundaberg (50kms) away. Access to Bundaberg is via the Bundaberg-Gin Gin Road, a declared State Main Road which carries no where near the amount of traffic as does the Bruce Highway which is used to travel to Maryborough.

- 3) **The physical features**

Kolan Shire forms the hinterland of the Bundaberg district. The south east corner of the shire is a long term sugar cane growing area supporting that very important industry for the region. The Burnett River, which flows through Bundaberg, forms the southern boundary of Kolan Shire and is a much recognized feature for this district.

The bulk of the Wide Bay electorate has no physical association with the Kolan Shire.

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Council appreciates the guidelines the committee operates under to balance voter numbers and sees an opportunity to address Kolan's needs by removing Mt Morgan from Hinkler and placing it into Capricornia thereby allowing for both the Kolan and Perry Shires to be placed back in Hinkler.

Placing the Kolan and Perry Shires back into the Hinkler Electorate would provide residents with a sense of being a part of something which they associate with in their daily lives whereas there is so little relationship between the major part of the Wide Bay electorate that residents feel as though they were simply tacked on to make up the numbers.

Please contact me if you have any questions regards the above,