



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Public Suggestion Number 7

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2 pages

SUGGESTION

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2 March 2006

The Redistribution Committee for Queensland
GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE QLD 4001.



I wish to make comment on the impending Electoral Redistribution of Divisions in Queensland.

I have been dissatisfied with the electoral process for at least ten years now and feel completely disenfranchised and disillusioned that the area where I live doesn't rate highly because of continual changing of Divisional boundaries. Since my return to Brisbane in January 1983, there have been 9 Federal elections and 5 Redistributions. Viz. 1984, 1992, 1994, 1997 and 2003. Unfortunately, where I live is right on the boundary of a number of Divisions.

In the five re-distributions since 1983 I have found myself in 5 different Divisions, although the Division of Ryan has featured twice in that time but there have been 2 Redistributions between these occurrences.

I will not use fancy statistical analysis of data taken from the AEC website, other electorate demographics or go into party political claptrap on pros and cons of a redistribution.

I have selected only two statements out of the article *Research Report 4 - Australian Federal Redistributions 1901-2003* found on the AEC website and one made by Mr Ian Campbell in his Press Release of 3 February 2006 on which to base my submission.

1.

Research Report 4 - Australian Federal Redistributions 1901-2003 states under the heading — Timing of Redistributions:

Redistributions of the electoral boundaries take place periodically to ensure that all Australians receive equal representation in Parliament.

My comment is that is all very fine in principal but what is it like in reality. I believe it has been proven fairly conclusively that politicians have the attitude that they will only do something in the community if there is votes in it for them and to get them re-elected. We hear much about the swinging voter, well I believe I live in the area of the swinging boundary, and there are not too many votes in that.

2.

Research Report 4 - Australian Federal Redistributions 1901-2003 states under the heading — Numerical Requirements:

Since the 1983 amendments the overriding consideration for Redistribution Committees has been one of complying with the strict numerical requirements.

This statement appears to indicate that it is no more than a numbers game and little consideration is given for the people who happen to live near an electoral boundary.

3.

Media Release of 3 February 2006 — Mr Campbell is quoted as adding:

In making its proposal about the redrawing of electoral boundaries, the Committee will consider communities of interest and means of communications and travel within the proposed divisions. The geographical and physical features of the divisions, combined with the boundaries of existing divisions in Queensland will also be considered

I currently reside in the Division of Oxley. Oxley has traditionally been centred on Ipswich and surrounding areas. I do not see how the community of Ipswich would be interested in the community of Corinda. Travelling to the electorate office at Goodna necessitates taking one's life in one's hands in travelling the Ipswich Motorway and when will anything be done in carrying out a practical upgrade to it? I believe one part of the boundary is a quiet suburban street not far from my residence. I do not see any geographical feature about that. The Brisbane River, Oxley Creek and the Ipswich Motorway are far more prominent geographical features than Hilda Street.

I believe the AEC should conduct a study into the value of community projects undertaken with Commonwealth funding within, say, 5 kilometres of a Divisional boundary against those areas that remain stable and have not changed Divisions maybe since the formation of the electorate.

To ensure that I and other voters in my position receive equitable representation and funding I believe that tinkering with the edges of Divisional boundaries should be outlawed and that they should become the stable centre of an electorate for at least three redistributions.

Unless something like this happens then I will continue to feel disenfranchised and poorly represented in Federal Parliament.

I would like to thank Mr Bruce Goodwin for providing me with the data on what Division I have resided in after each redistribution.

Thank you for your time in reading my submission and I trust you will give it due consideration.

Yours sincerely



Bob Irwin