



The Federal Redistribution 2006
QUEENSLAND



Public Suggestion Number 10

Australian Labor Party

Queensland Branch

39 pages

Note: The table and maps accompanying this suggestion have been prepared using Electoral Boundary Mapping System (EBMS) data provided by the Australian Labor Party as part of the suggestion.



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3 March 2006

Redistribution Committee for Queensland
Australian Electoral Commission
7th Floor Collection House
488 Queen Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Commissioners

On behalf of the Queensland Branch of the ALP, I attach our suggestions for the Commissioner's consideration as they prepare their proposal for divisional boundaries in Queensland.

I also refer the Commission to the maps prepared on the AEC computer system by Shane Easson who has been assisting the Australian Labor Party (Queensland Branch) to prepare our submission. These maps are to be included as part of our submission.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions regarding this submission.

Yours sincerely

Milton Dick
STATE SECRETARY

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AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY SUGGESTIONS FOR QUEENSLAND DIVISIONS

Background

The ALP agrees with the Commissioners decision to invoke the provision in the Commonwealth Electoral Act which allows for the halving of the normal projected time when in the view of the Commissioners it's likely that the State, in this case Queensland, is going to require another distribution within the normal seven year period covered by the Act. Queensland will have gained an extra Division in five of the past six Parliaments. The current distribution will only apply to the next election after which a new distribution will be required.

The ALP accepts that LGA boundaries provide, particularly in country areas, the best indication of a community of interest. SLA boundaries are of less significance, but are of some use as are clear lines such as waterways, rail lines and major roads. Wherever possible we have used such boundaries.

Within our internal processes as we put together our suggestions we received several arguments pointing out that the ALP would need to win nearly 53% of the two party preferred vote in Queensland just to win a majority of seats in this State unless radical changes to the boundaries of all Divisions are suggested by us. Whilst in a system of one vote one value it's desirable to produce an outcome whereby the Party with the most votes wins the most seats we have been forced to discard such arguments when framing our submission. There aren't provisions in the Act to allow us to do otherwise.

Instead, we have put together our suggestions in such a way as to only make changes within the numerical requirements consistent with the community of interest criteria. The ALP suggestions make in fact the minimal possible changes in the context of a distribution where Queensland gains an extra Division. In short, we have attempted to scrupulously follow the same approach, as we think would be adopted by the Commissioners.

Gold Coast and Hinterland: 4 Divisions
(Fadden, Forde, McPherson and Moncrieff)

Since the three Divisions on the coast itself are all within the tolerances allowed by the quotas, we suggest that no changes be made to the boundaries of these Divisions. The Division of Forde has to lose electors to meet the future quota requirements and we suggest that all that part west of Slacks Creek within the City of Logan be transferred from that Division to Rankin. Our proposed boundary would be clearly recognisable.

Sunshine Coast: 3 Divisions
(Longman, Fisher and Fairfax)

We suggest that Deception Bay South, which is a part of Caboolture LGA and currently within Petrie, be transferred to Longman. By then removing to its north that part of Caloundra City in Longman we are then able to have a Division with the same boundaries as that of Caboolture LGA.

Caloundra City is then able to be wholly contained within the Division of Fisher. As Caloundra City by itself does not have enough electors to form a Division, Fisher still needs part of Maroochy LGA to make up its numbers. However, under the arrangement suggested by the ALP, Maroochydhore itself is able to be placed in Fairfax.

Since Maroochy contains 99 726 projected electors it has to be split. The ALP suggestion here provides a cleaner, more recognisable boundary than now exists.

We are then forced to split Noosa LGA between Fairfax and Wide Bay. This is an example of where a judgement call has to be made. In so doing, we think it's reasonable when considering alternatives to also consider potential future changes. First to the alternatives: The only way to keep Noosa LGA together would be to transfer electors from Longman into Petrie which in turn would defeat any attempt to contain the whole of Caboolture and Caloundra LGA's in separate Divisions. The split of Maroochy would be jagged and thus less clear than under the ALP's proposal. Petrie itself would be forced to continue as a Division containing parts of four LGA's and then there would be flow on effects unnecessarily changing boundaries to its south.

Turning to the future, it's almost certain that the distribution that will follow during the next Parliament will result in a Division containing all of both Noosa and Cooloola LGA's. Sometimes we are forced to choose the least worst of the alternatives. This is such an instance.

Brisbane north: 5 Divisions
(Brisbane, Dickson, Lilley, Petrie and Ryan)

Of these Divisions, only Petrie is required to shed to meet the projected allowable tolerance from the quota. We achieve this, as noted above, by placing Deception Bay South in Longman. No other change needs to be made.

**Brisbane South: 7 Divisions (including the new Division)
(Bonner, Bowman, Griffith, Moreton, Oxley, Rankin and Theodore)**

The Commissioners will be aware that at the previous redistribution there were several objections to its proposal to place Carina and Carina Heights in a different Division (Griffith) to Carindale (Bonner). At the time and with the electors then available it wasn't possible to achieve an arrangement which placed these three SLA's into the same Division. The outcome was a classic instance of where a desirable outcome in the case of one Division had to become secondary to both the numerical requirements of the Act and the community of interest impacts to other Divisions.

Since the Electoral Act was amended in 1998, the criteria of existing electoral boundaries has become of lesser importance than that of the community of interest criteria. Whilst the most liberal interpretation is available to the Commissioners in how they choose to implement both criteria, in practice they have generally tried to adhere to existing boundaries (when this is possible) unless a very good case can be made to say here we can improve upon the community of interest arrangements adopted last time.

Given its numbers, the Commissioners have the option of making no change to the boundaries of Bonner. But we ask and we think that we are entitled to ask the Commissioners to consider whether our proposed arrangements for the Divisions of Bonner, Griffith and Moreton produce a better outcome on community of interest grounds than what could be done by sticking to the current boundaries as much as possible.

We start by keeping the boundary which is also a LGA boundary between Bonner and Bowman. Next we focus on the desirability of including both the SLA's of Carina and Carina Heights (presently in Griffith) into Bonner together with Carindale. Then we have to consider the effects on both Griffith and Moreton of these proposed changes.

A strong case exists for Carina and Carina Heights to be relocated to fit into the Bonner electorate. Importantly for this exercise, the area known as Carindale is in the Bonner electorate.

The principal identifying feature of Carindale is the extensive Westfield Shopping Centre known as Carindale which is located on the corner of Creek Road and Old Cleveland Road, Carindale.

It is important to understand that on account of the substantial population growth occurring in South-East Queensland; it has been judged necessary to develop satellite or mini cities at various strategic locations. These locations are situated on the outer fringes of what might be referred to as a band of middle suburbia.

By way of illustration, it could be said that there are already significant hubs in middle suburbia around Brisbane such as Carindale, Toombul, Indooroopilly and Garden City.

Moreover, the State and Brisbane City Council authorities are currently developing a draft City Shape Plan to create a series of mini cities, one of which would be centred on Carindale.

The obvious feed suburbs into the Carindale-based mini city would include Carina and Carina North.

Part of the Plan to create this suburban metropolis along the Old Cleveland Road corridor will no doubt lead to the emergence of a high-density development concept.

The draft blueprint for Brisbane's growth shows shopping centres and urban villages as major drivers of employment and housing growth.

Carindale is already a transport hub for the general locality. For instance, the Great Circle buses traverse Carindale and Carindale is a major bus interchange for public transport on the Old Cleveland Road through Carindale to the Capalaba area. The type of development which is plainly going to take place around Carindale will only pull more and more of the surrounding suburbs the majority of which would be in Bonner into a Carindale based orbit.

What would be the flow on effects if the above is accepted by the Commissioners? If that part of Holland Park West currently in Bonner is put into Griffith then all of the SLA's of Holland Park and Holland Park West will be within Griffith.

Currently, the Tarragindi SLA is split between Griffith and Moreton. We unite that SLA and place it in Griffith. Moreton then gains from Bonner the SLA's of Mount Gravatt and Upper Mount Gravatt in their entirety.

The net effect, we submit is superior in meeting the community of interest criteria of the Act than any other arrangement that may be considered.

With the Division of Bowman we suggest no change be made. The growth of that Division is not such as to warrant the removal, at this stage, of any parts including that section containing parts of Logan LGA.

Next we come to Rankin. We have elsewhere suggested that that part of Logan LGA west of Slacks Creek, currently in Forde, be transferred to Rankin. Even before Such a movement, Rankin is above the allowable tolerance of the future quota. The obvious place to start is to transfer from Rankin to Moreton all that part of Brisbane LGA presently within Rankin. Even with that change Rankin, although purely being a Logan City Division is still well over quota. One option might be to put some more numbers from Rankin into Moreton. However that would break up those parts of the City of Logan not in Rankin into yet another Division and would prevent the use of the Council boundaries of Brisbane and Logan as being a boundary between Moreton and Rankin. Consequently, we rejected that option.

Instead, we suggest that that part of Logan City, presently in Rankin, west of the Mount Lindsay Highway be moved to Oxley. Although that area looks to its east we

already have in Rankin a Division made up entirely of parts of Logan City. Part of Logan is already contained in Oxley. What should be done and what we attempt is a boundary clear and identifiable between Oxley and Rankin.

With regards to Moreton, it is obvious that Division, by gaining from both Rankin and Bonner as identified above, now needs to lose electors. Currently, Oxley Creek is a partial boundary between Moreton and Oxley. It's a very good, clean, well-recognised boundary. It is the sort of boundary you'd look for when an LGA boundary isn't available. We suggest that by transferring Chelmer, Sherwood and Graceville from Moreton to Oxley and then by transferring Acacia Ridge from Oxley to Moreton, the Commissioners are able to make maximum use of Oxley Creek as a boundary between those Divisions. The final change we make to Moreton is to move to Oxley the parcel of electors south of Logan motorway but west of Beaudesert Rd, (This is effectively a continuation of the Mt Lindsay Highway boundary).

Most of the growth of Greater Brisbane has now been transferred to Oxley which now must be shed to its west.

The new seat which we suggest be called Theodore (reasons for the adoption of the name are given later in our suggestions) would be an Ipswich based Division containing all of Ipswich presently in Blair, and from Oxley, Ipswich Central and part of Ipswich East. Also included are the LGA of Laidley and most of Esk LGA. Whilst Gatton has a claim to be included in the Ipswich based Division instead of Esk we plumped for Esk for the reason that though both Shires most relate to Ipswich than anywhere else there is far more of a relationship between Toowoomba and Gatton than Toowoomba and Esk.

Rural and Provincial Queensland: 10 Divisions (Blair, Capricornia, Dawson, Groom, Hinkler, Kennedy, Leichhardt, Maranoa and Wide Bay)

Of these divisions only Maranoa is within the projected quota. Ironically, due to the rolling impact of making adjustments to other Divisions to give effect to the numerical requirements of the Act, significant change must occur to the boundaries of Maranoa.

But we start with the adjustments we suggest to the Divisions of Leichhardt and Herbert. These Divisions contain significant Aboriginal communities which look towards respectively either Cairns or Townsville for many services. It would be possible though to place these communities within Kennedy. Such an outcome should be rejected and we refer the Commissioners to the suggestion (No.19) made in 2003 by the Member for Kennedy, Mr Bob Katter, in which he outlined reasons why that should not be done.

Instead, we suggest that Leichhardt shed to Kennedy electors from Trinity SLA which is already split between those two Divisions. In the case of Herbert, we follow the practice of the Commission in 2003 by taking electors from Thuringowa Shire into Kennedy.

Such adjustments push Kennedy, already over the future Quota significantly into the black. At its southern end, there are two major nodes of electors, these being at Charters Towers and Mt Isa. All things considered, to meet the numerical requirements and best fit with the community of interest criteria, we are forced to remove from Kennedy into Maranoa the area around Mt Isa.

With Dawson, we shed from it to Capricornia part Broomsound (thereby containing all of that LGA within Capricornia) and also Sarina LGA.

Capricornia then loses Banana LGA to Hinkler. In support of our suggestions for these changes we offer the following points regarding Sarina and Banana:

Sarina:

The seat of Capricornia includes the coal mining towns to the west of both Rockhampton and Mackay; many people from these mining towns buy beach houses in either Yeppoon or at Sarina beach or Campwin beach or Grasstree beach in the Sarina Shire. It contains the coal loading port of Hay Point, which is the export port for all the coalmines in the Bowen basin west of Mackay.

Also in the Sarina shire is the new Queensland Rail facility at Jilalan, which is used to service the trains working on this coal line. The recent development in the Sarina area has been the result of the Coal Industry. This industry is sourced from places within Capricornia.

There is a constant movement not only of coal but also people between the mines in the west and Hay Point.

Banana:

Again Coal from the mines near Biloela and Moura are shipped out through the Port of Gladstone and the rail line runs directly to Gladstone from these mines.

Banana is one of the Shires represented by Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Ltd which is the regional development organisation supported by the State Government. The people of Banana consider themselves oriented to Gladstone and are in fact connected directly by the Dawson Highway.

We then transfer out from Hinkler the six Shires that were only added at the 2003 distribution, being the entire LGA's of Eidsvold, Gayndah, Kolan, Monto, Mundubbera and Perry. These Shires, together with the Shires of Wondai, Murgon, Kilkivan and all except the coastal part of Cooloolool LGA (including Gympie itself) currently in Wide Bay would then form the northernmost parts of our new Blair, which by losing all of Ipswich to a new Division needs to gain more than 40,000 new electors.

Hinkler also loses Isis LGA to Wide Bay to keep within quota. That Shire is next door to Hervey Bay and there are as many good reasons to support Isis going to Wide Bay as there are to support its retention in Hinkler. In our view the outcome should be determined by whether the Commissioners agree that the best fit for the numerically twice as large Shire of Banana is with Hinkler.

Wide Bay then makes up its numbers by taking the northern parts of Noosa LGA including Cooroy (See our section on the Sunshine Coast).

Elsewhere we suggest a new Division of Theodore which would draw from Blair all of Ipswich, Laidley and most of Esk. That means Blair needs to make major changes. Some of the required electors to Blair have been outlined above in our suggestions concerning Wide Bay and Hinkler. We also thought it desirable to unite both the LGA's of Rosalie and Crows Nest presently split between Groom and Blair. We place both these Shires into Blair and also add from Maranoa, (itself over quota due to the transfer of electors from Kennedy), the LGA's of Chinchilla, Dalby and Wambo.

Groom remains a Toowoomba based seat.

THEODORE AS SUGGESTED NAME FOR NEW DIVISION

Edward Granville Theodore was founder of the Amalgamated Workers' Association 1907 (later amalgamated with Australian Workers Union of which he became Qld President).

MLA Qld 1909-25; Deputy Parliamentary Leader of Qld ALP 1912; Deputy Premier and Treasurer 1915-19; Premier 1919-25.

Defeated for Herbert 1925; MHR for Dalley 1927-31; Treasurer and Deputy Prime Minister 1929-30; 1931-32.

Director, Allied Works Council 1941-45.

SUMMARY OF DIVISIONS UNDER ALP SUGGESTIONS

The ALP has coded into the AEC's Map Info database our suggestions. We would like to thank Ms Anne Bright, Mr Bruce Goodwin and other officers of the AEC for their assistance in both making available the Map Info system and helping Mr Shane Easson and Mr Linus Power, on behalf of the Queensland Branch of the ALP, to input our suggestions.

A summary of the ALP's proposals is as follows:

	CCD's	2/12/05	Var%	30.11.07	Var%	PopulationK	Area Sq
Blair	300	84194	-1.2	86792	-3.12	80667	62431
Bonner	205	86733	1.78	90003	0.46	84356	357
Bowman	196	86435	1.43	91374	1.99	82043	573
Brisbane	272	87660	2.86	92073	2.77	84551	77
CAPRICORNIA	312	89259	4.74	91563	2.21	87667	111662
DAWSON	267	84562	-0.77	88238	-1.51	81224	20234
DICKSON	182	84427	-0.93	89956	0.41	80647	732

Fadden	218	83917	-1.53	91109	1.7	76434	524
FAIRFAX	258	82618	-3.05	87845	-1.94	78742	1226
FISHER	207	83071	-2.52	91919	2.6	75048	1156
Forde	202	80615	-5.4	87077	-2.8	73422	5183
Griffith	285	88120	3.4	91243	1.85	86705	56
Groom	245	86792	1.84	90483	1	84136	5326
HERBERT	229	82296	-3.43	88163	-1.59	79627	1981
Hinkler	264	88684	4.06	92648	3.42	85373	28344
KENNEDY	316	85492	0.32	88456	-1.26	84702	303166
LEICHHARDT	323	86389	1.37	90486	1	83040	150670
LILLEY	270	90246	5.9	92197	2.91	89998	142
LONGMAN	193	82241	-3.5	88331	-1.4	75427	1225
Maranoa	438	86684	1.72	88017	-1.75	88357	1021226
MCPHERSON	228	83031	-2.57	87977	-1.8	78003	355
MONCRIEFF	277	83369	-2.17	86831	-3.08	80952	129
Moreton	221	86434	1.42	90321	0.82	84338	114
OXLEY	200	82239	-3.5	88862	-0.81	75458	256
PETRIE	199	85514	0.34	90076	0.55	82008	137
Rankin	215	85898	0.8	89043	-0.61	83436	140
Ryan	213	86774	1.82	90202	0.69	84726	415
Theodore	237	84826	-0.46	89176	-0.46	82846	3659
Wide Bay	235	82852	-2.78	87573	-2.25	75837	12719
Average for all Divisions	249	85220	0	89587.38	0	81716.21	59801
Sum of all Divisions	7207	2471372	0	2598034	0	2369770	1734217