



**The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND**



**Comment Number 34
on Public Suggestions**

Peter Yorkston

3 pages

From: TICJG [ti_cjg@bigpond.com]
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2009 2:39 PM
To: QLD Redistribution
Subject: Redistribution of Leichhardt Electorate
Attachments: Redistribution Leichhardt.docx; ATT00001.htm

Ms Bright

Attached for your consideration is my submission re: the above.

Anne Bright
State Manager
Australian Electoral Commission

By email qld.redistribution@aec.gov.au

Ms Bright

Re: Electorates Redistribution - Queensland

I would like to register my opposition to the idea of the Liberal and National Parties (LNP) to move Torres Strait voters from the electorate of Leichhardt into the electorate of Kennedy.

As such, I consider this proposal to be impractical in design and one that could demonstrably weaken the very close ties between the Torres Strait and Cairns.

The Torres Strait have strong cultural, social and economic ties with the Cairns region. Many Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal families from this region reside in and receive their secondary education in Cairns. Much of the trade and travel in the region is undertaken through Cairns – fisheries, agriculture, housing, sports, air and sea transportations to name some. Some Government services are also provided from Cairns.

Therefore, residents of the Torres Strait requires a federal presence in Cairns so the elected member is able advocate their interests with local businesses, with education providers and other civil services as well as maintaining the strong social and cultural links with each other.

People in very remote areas like the Torres Strait need strong representation, easy access to and a close working relationship with the Federal member. The electoral offices for Kennedy are located in Innisfail and Mt Isa. There is no regular public transportation between Cairns and Innisfail and Cairns and Mt Isa, like between Cairns and Thursday Island where there is a twice- daily air service. This would cut voters off from their Federal Member and make access to that person extremely difficult or incredibly inconvenient.

I would like to see the Torres Strait remain part of the electorate of Leichhardt for the reasons mentioned above.

In making your decisions about the redistribution, I trust that you will consider my submission favorably.

Cheers

Peter Yorkston

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8 May 2009

Regards,

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