



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 71

Dr Mark Mulcair

3 pages

From: Mark Mulcair [markmulcair@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2009 10:33 AM
To: QLD Redistribution
Subject: Objections to Queensland Redistribution 2009
Attachments: Queensland objection.doc

Dear Committee Members,

Please find attached my Objections to the Queensland Redistribution. I hope these objections will be of assistance to you in improving the proposed new boundaries for Queensland.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Dr Mark Mulcair

OBJECTIONS TO THE REDISTRIBUTION OF QUEENSLAND 2009

General Comments:

The Redistribution Committee should be congratulated for doing a good job. The majority of their decisions are very sensible and result in clear and logical boundaries. I note that several unpopular decisions from the last redistribution have been reversed, and am particularly pleased that a number of the Committee's proposals are similar to my original suggestions.

I am concerned about the proposal to transfer Lockyer Valley RC to Wright, and believe it has far stronger links to Ipswich and the Division of Blair. Likewise, the changes to Brisbane, Lilley and Petrie are unexpected and quite radical. However, given the number of electors involved, undoing these changes would have a significant effect on other divisions, and I assume the Committee will not be making large changes at this stage. Therefore, all my objections are fairly minor, highlighting instances where a stronger boundary or better community of interest can be achieved with small changes.

Specific Objections:

Objection 1: Wright/Blair/Maranoa

The narrow land-bridge between the two halves of Wright does present a problem. While I understand the Committee's argument regarding physical features and LGA boundaries in the area, I do think an improvement can be made.

I suggest that all of Ipswich-South West be transferred from Blair to Wright, providing a better land connection between the two parts of Wright. This gain also brings Wright closer to quota. Blair can then be compensated by gaining Maranoa's share of Crows Nest, which I submit fits better with Ipswich and Brisbane Valley than with a southern outback division. This change would leave both Blair and Maranoa well within tolerance.

Objection 2: Flynn/Maranoa

While I strongly support transferring the central western shires from Flynn to Maranoa, the proposals leave a small part of Dalby RC in Flynn. This should be united with the remainder of Dalby in Maranoa.

Objection 3: Dawson/Herbert/Capricornia

I suggest that, if Annandale is transferred from Herbert to Dawson, that Lavarack Barracks be transferred as well. While the Barracks may have strong identity with Townsville, retaining it in Herbert would result in a confusing boundary in this area. The Barracks' connection with Annandale is quite strong, and since Annandale cannot be accommodated in Herbert, the only way to keep them together is to place both in Dawson.

Gaining Lavarack Barracks would put Dawson outside tolerance, but it could easily lose a few hundred voters in the rural parts of Mackay to Capricornia (for example, by retaining the 336 voters proposed to be transferred to Dawson in Capricornia).

Objection 4: Dawson/Kennedy

It is not clear why 36 electors in Burdekin Shire are proposed to be transferred from Dawson to Kennedy. In keeping with the general strategy of keeping rural shires together, these electors should remain in Dawson.

Objection 5: Dickson/Longman

The proposed boundaries leave a few thousand electors in Dakabin and Kallangur in Longman. Ideally, they should be united with the remainder of their suburb in Dickson. This loss would put Longman outside tolerance, but perhaps it could gain a further rural part of Moreton Bay RC, west of Lake Samsonvale, to bring it within quota.

Objection 6: Brisbane/Ryan

I strongly support the proposal to move Ryan completely north of the Brisbane River. However, I still think that Milton, Paddington and Red Hill are a better fit in Ryan than the Ferny Grove/Keperra area. The majority of road and rail links from Ferny Grove lead back toward Brisbane, not south into Ryan, and the area is somewhat isolated from the rest of Ryan by the Enoggera Military Camp. In contrast, areas immediately west of the Brisbane CBD are linked to the rest of Ryan by major roads and railways.

If numbers permit, I suggest Ferny Creek and Keperra remain in Brisbane, and instead Ryan should gain an area west of Hale Street (largely as suggested in my original submission).

Objection 7: Moreton/Rankin/Oxley

I suggest the small part of Logan City proposed to be transferred to Moreton (Underwood area) be retained in Rankin. The Brisbane/Logan council boundary is a strong and obvious eastern boundary for Moreton, and retaining Underwood in Rankin would still leave both divisions within tolerance. Admittedly, the low-growth Moreton would be at the bottom of tolerance; if this was thought to be a problem, it could gain the remainder of the suburb of Oxley from Oxley.

Objection 8: Blair/Oxley:

The proposed boundary along Collingwood Drive would leave part of Collingwood Park isolated from the remainder of Blair. This area should be retained with the remainder of Collingwood Park in Oxley, by returning to the existing boundary in the area. In exchange, Blair could gain a further part of Springfield and Springfield Lakes, perhaps by making greater use of Augusta Parkway and Centenary Highway as a boundary.