



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 98

Marie, Paul, Damien and Robert Verrall

2 pages

4th August, 2009



The Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 2590
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Australian Electoral Commissioner,

I am writing to you in relation to the proposed redistribution in the seat of Herbert.

I wish to lodge an objection to these proposed changes which would see significant parts of Townsville become a part of the division of Dawson.

These are the reasons for my objection.

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

1. Annandale has a significant proportion of elderly voters who would experience difficulty in travelling 400 Km's to see their federal member "face to face". Some matters cannot be dealt with simply by phone/fax/email communication and require personal contact with a federal member. This would be nearly impossible with some elderly voters because of a range of serious medical conditions, which would prohibit them travelling 400 Km's to Mackay where the federal member for Dawson's office is located. This would effectively disenfranchise them.
2. Dawson is essentially a rural based seat. Annandale/Wulguru are city-based electorates with virtually nothing in common with ~~each~~ ^{the} other. Annandale/Wulguru identify themselves with the Townsville community not the Mackay community. Issues of interest and concern are vastly different in these two communities. The media in Townsville does not report on issues relating to the Mackay area and vice-versa. How then can electors in Townsville become informed voters on issues, which could ultimately affect them? These voters would become marginalised, as they feel more and more disconnected ~~to~~ ^{from} their communities.
3. If proposed changes to the redistribution go ahead as planned, this is the situation we will find ourselves in. We live on Yolanda Dr Annandale, (currently in the division of Herbert, federal member Peter Lindsay lives 500 metres away in Annandale). We work and in the future will reside on a property north of Townsville, which is currently in the division of Kennedy, but under the new boundary changes, part of the property will be in Herbert whilst the remainder stays in Kennedy. The federal member for Kennedy is Bob Katter who lives 800 Km's away in Mt Isa. If Annandale becomes part of the division of Dawson as proposed, with federal member James Bidgood living 400 Km's away in Mackay we could be adversely affected by boundary changes both to the north and South of the Herbert electorate. This situation for us seems quite absurd. How can federal members who live so far away from their constituents give effective representation to electors? The critical issue is one of accessibility to your local federal member.

MARIE VERRALL

22 YOLANDA DR. ANNANDALE.

PAUL VERRALL

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DAMIEN VERRALL

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ROBERT VERRALL

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