The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND

Objection Number 435

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2 pages

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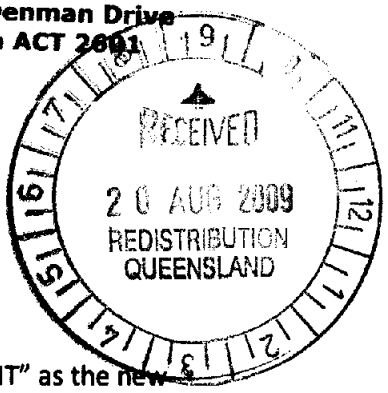

Australian Electoral Officer for Queensland
GPO Box 2590
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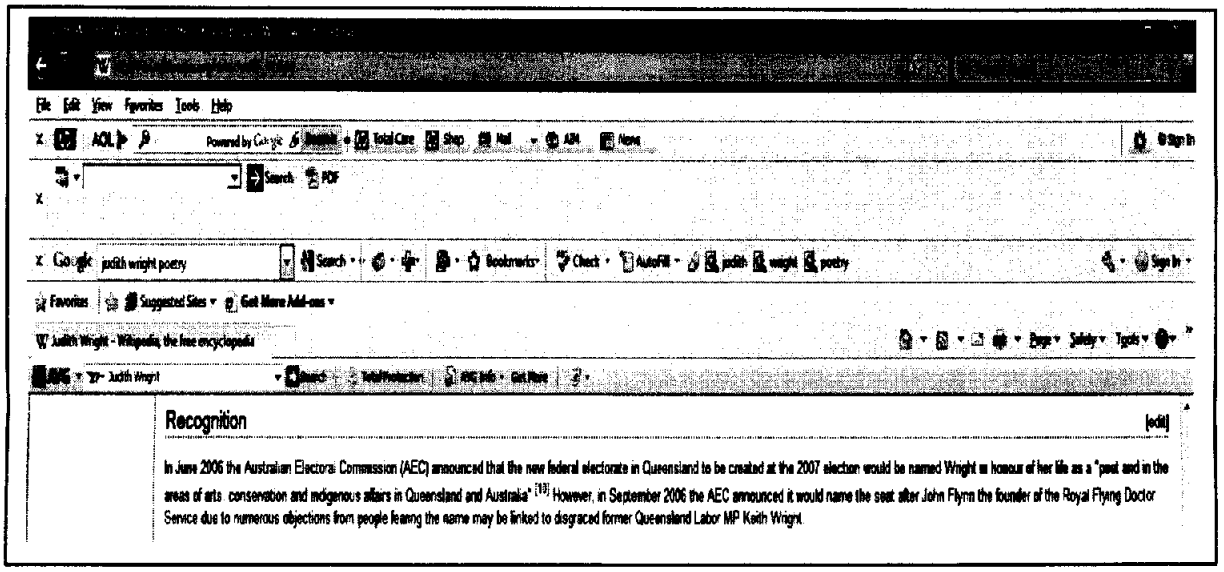
Good Morning

Objection to the Proposed New Queensland Division's Name

In 2006, the Australian Electoral Commission originally recommended "WRIGHT" as the new Electoral Division name but did not proceed with it as the public uproar regarding the name "WRIGHT".

When I saw the recent announcement in The Sunday Mail on 26 July 2009, with the new electoral division's name as "WRIGHT", I immediately thought of Keith Wright – former Australian Labor Party politician and convicted rapist. Not only did I associate the name Wright with the disgraced Labor politician, but so did my family and friends.

Within the Proposed Report QLD 2009, the argument for the naming of the New Queensland Division as Wright at Reference Points 77 to 87 does not alleviate the confusion of the name, WRIGHT. Many Queenslanders will always associate the name with the disgraced politician. The acknowledgement of the confusion of the name Wright is recorded on the below website.



It seems that prior to the closure of nominations for the new Queensland Division's Name on 8 May that the name "WRIGHT" was the only one being considered since it was overlooked in 2006.

Alternative Name suggested for the Proposed New Queensland Division's Name - WATERS

As the New Electoral Division is in Queensland, then I believe that Len Waters represented Queensland as the only Aboriginal Fighter pilot in the RAAF, more honourably then Judith Wright. Mr Waters was born in New South Wales, but his family moved and settled in Queensland. He joined the Air Force in St George, Queensland on 24 August 1942 and settled in St George at the end of the war. Mr Waters was proud to be the only Aboriginal fighter pilot in the RAAF even though the Australian Government abandoned him at the end of the Second World War. He resumed his life as

a manual labourer and was a staunch unionist and Australian Labor Party supporter until his death on 24 August 1993.

There were nine recommendations for ~~my father~~, Len Waters, out of the 47 submissions received for the new Queensland Division's Name nominations on 8 May 2009. The recommendations included two Members of Parliament submitting recommendations, Jamboree Councillor, the members of Squadron who flew with Mr Waters during World War II and his family and friends. The comments on the submissions included that Mr Waters "stands as a role model to all Australians regardless of ethnic background", "recognising him in the naming of this electorate would be contributing to Reconciliation between all Australians", "Mr Waters' life has already been commemorated in several ways such as his depiction on an Australian Post stamp and a monument being erected to him in St George. Given Mr Waters served his country and rose to the rank of Warrant Office in the RAAF at a time in Australia's history when he wasn't eligible to vote, I believe the naming of the new Queensland electorate after him is a fitting tribute to honour his legacy and sacrifice."

Recommendation for the new Queensland Electoral Division's Name - WATERS:
That WATERS is the new Queensland Electoral Division's name instead of WRIGHT which will always be synonymise with Keith WRIGHT the former Australian Labor Party politician and convicted rapist. Mr Waters honourably served Australia during a time of crisis and was proud of his heritage.

With regards

KEITH G. D. LEFTWICH