



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 528

Wayne Swan MP

8 pages

From: Swan, Wayne (MP) [Wayne.Swan.MP@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 21 August 2009 1:03 PM
To: QLD Redistribution
Subject: Objections to the redistribution proposal 2009.
Attachments: AEC Submission - redistribution 210809.pdf

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached my submission objecting to the redistribution proposal 2009.

A reply to this message would be much appreciated to confirm receipt of this submission.

Regards,

Wayne Swan MP

<<AEC Submission - redistribution 210809.pdf>>



OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL
OF THE REDISTRIBUTION
COMMITTEE

FOR THE DIVISION OF LILLEY
IN QUEENSLAND

21 AUGUST 2009

WAYNE SWAN MP

Member for Lilley
Federal Treasurer
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Introduction:

The Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) 2009 proposed redistribution of Queensland electorates plans to introduce a new seat in south-east Queensland. The creation of the seat of Wright is in response to the number of electors and high projected growth in that region.

It is reasonable to assume that the creation of this seat will cause substantial boundary changes and voter dislocation in these areas and, to some extent, the rest of the State. However, the Committee's proposal makes dramatic and somewhat unjustified changes to the bayside seat of Lilley which will cause undesirable impacts on electors.

One of the key criteria for the Committee is to maintain a balance between population numbers, communities of interest, communication and transport networks and current boundaries. Below I will argue that the electors of the northern bayside suburbs of Brighton, Shorncliffe, Deagon and Sandgate are integrated with the inner northern suburbs of Brisbane and have no links with the Redcliffe Peninsula two kilometres away. The removal of these suburbs from the electorate does not meet these key criteria and therefore such a dramatic geographical change to this seat, and subsequent elector isolation and dislocation, are unwarranted.

Population numbers:

To comply with the quota requirements, current population figures and projected population growth must be taken into account. The Act states that a major requirement for proposed redistributions is "endeavouring to ensure that the number of electors in proposed divisions are within a range of 3.5% below or above average divisional enrolment at the projected time; and ensuring that current enrolments are within 10% below or above the quota." Currently Lilley (as of 19 February 2009) has a population of 91,445. This population is within the Committee's guidelines of 10% above or below the state quota of 97,232. Using the AEC's projected growth for 2012, the population of the current electorate of Lilley would stand at 94,144. This figure also falls within the guidelines of 3.5% above or below the state quota.

The division of Lilley has always remained within the growth rates of the State. These population figures are unprecedented for the Lilley electorate. In no other past redistribution has the population of Lilley and subsequently the boundaries been so drastically changed. This is due to the fact that Lilley has consistently remained within the required growth rate. Even with the AEC's projected growth rates Lilley will still stay within the required margins. The AEC's proposed change to Lilley will reallocate 39,148 voters out of Lilley, an electorate that on current and projected figures stays within the Committee's population guidelines. Thus the impacts of such a dramatic geographical change are not warranted under the existing projected growth figures.

Community of interest criteria:

The community of interest criteria has been included in the Act for some time now and the purpose is to ensure that an electorate has a common community with common issues. I believe that the current proposal does not take into account the strong links evident on the northside.

The people who live in Deagon, Sandgate, Shorncliffe and Brighton consider themselves part of the inner-north of Brisbane. Electors in these areas, and much of Brisbane, see the physical Houghton Highway (a three kilometre bridge) to Redcliffe and the considerable expanse of water known as Bramble Bay as a major geographical boundary, if not a wall,

between themselves and the Redcliffe Peninsula. Redcliffe is a major city in its own right which exists under the Moreton Bay Regional Council. The suburbs of Deagon, Shorncliffe, Sandgate and Brighton exist under the Brisbane City Council and these proposed changes would cause increased confusion for community organisations and businesses in these suburbs. With educational institutions and a large business and industrial community, Redcliffe electors are more inclined to interact with businesses and organisations on their own peninsula and the Pine Rivers and Caboolture regions than they are with a few suburbs across the bridge. Redcliffe has a completely different community with different business and social interests which acts independently of the inner-north of Brisbane. The electors of the northern bayside suburbs of Sandgate, Deagon, Shorncliffe and Brighton would essentially feel isolated from the Redcliffe community.

Under the proposed changes the electors of Sandgate, Deagon, Shorncliffe and Brighton would be tied to a federal electorate that covers three State Members of Parliament and two large local Councils. For constituents in these suburbs, the effects would be confusing and detrimental to the process of streamlined governance.

The Brisbane North Chamber of Commerce is located in the heart of Lilley at Chermside, and draws a substantial amount of its members and businesses from the northern suburbs of Sandgate, Brighton, Shorncliffe and Deagon. As a conduit to government and the community, this organisation acts as a major support group for northern businesses. In contrast, those businesses in Redcliffe have their own Chamber of Commerce that combines with the Pine Rivers and Caboolture districts rather than the inner northern suburbs of Brisbane. This again reinforces the fact that the electors of Brighton, Deagon, Shorncliffe and Sandgate are associated with, and interact with, the southern half of the Lilley electorate, and not across an expanse of water, with another business district.

A majority of residents from these northern suburbs commute to the city or southern half of Lilley for work, school and entertainment. Annual northside festivals such as the *Einbunpin*, *Zillmere Multicultural* and *Music By the Sea Festivals* are integral to the inner north of Brisbane and link these northern suburbs of Sandgate with Boondall, Taigum and Zillmere. These vibrant festivals, especially the *Einbunpin* and *Music By the Sea Festivals*, are prime examples of the way the existing suburbs of Lilley currently interact. To split these socially interactive communities at Cabbage Tree Creek would directly conflict with the Act's requirement "to unite communities with common interest".

The Boondall Wetlands are Brisbane's largest and most important protected wetlands and are located on the edge of Moreton Bay between Nudgee, Boondall and Shorncliffe in the Lilley electorate. These wetlands are not only a physical connection between the suburbs of Boondall and Shorncliffe, but are also a recreational hub for the electors of the northern suburbs who see the wetlands as a part of their electorate. There are numerous community organisations in the northern suburbs, such as the *Keep Sandgate Beautiful Association* and the *Dowse Lagoon Bush Care Group* (both based in Sandgate), which are heavily involved in the Boondall Wetlands and the Kedron Brook waterways around Kedron and Nundah. These groups associate themselves with the southern half of Lilley and not the Redcliffe Peninsula.

For more than 90 years the electorate of Lilley has been a bayside electorate dotted with the vibrant costal villages of Sandgate, Brighton and Shorncliffe. The natural border has been Bramble and Moreton Bays to the north and east and the Brisbane River and Kedron Brook to the south and west. These are logical boundaries and they create the local borders for what residents associate with Brisbane inner-north. These communities have similar issues that bind them and create the strong community that exists today. The proposed changes to

these boundaries are not logical in the sense that Cabbage Tree Creek would essentially cut these two shared communities in half and cause considerable social and economic dislocation to electors.

The few examples above demonstrate how these northern suburbs share common interests with the inner-north of Brisbane and not the Redcliffe Peninsula located in the Moreton Bay Regional Council.

Travel and communication:

The AEC's proposed new boundaries ignore major existing transport networks currently in Lilley and also disregard the significance of local communications.

The current boundaries of Lilley are based around Sandgate Road. The road begins in the south of the electorate and finishes in Deagon. Sandgate Road is the spine of the electorate and the major thoroughfare for a huge proportion of the local population. Redcliffe residents and the residents of the north-western suburbs of Bracken Ridge are more inclined to commute on the Gateway Arterial, whereas residents of Sandgate and Deagon predominately use Sandgate Road. Once again this is an example of how the major transport systems link Sandgate, Deagon, Shorncliffe and Brighton to the Southern suburbs of Lilley and clearly separate them from the northern and eastern surrounding areas.

The Shorncliffe train line spans the majority of the current Lilley electorate. Electors of Shorncliffe, Deagon and Sandgate use this train line to commute to the Brisbane CBD. However there is no train line across the Houghton Highway. Besides buses, there is no integrated transport network connecting the cities of Brisbane and Redcliffe, reinforcing the fact that they are regarded as completely separate entities. The lack of public transport between these two communities limits community engagement and increases the divide between people residing north and south of Bramble Bay.

The *Bayside and Northern Suburbs Star* is a prime example of how integrated the communication networks are within these northern suburbs. The paper keeps residents of these north-east suburbs informed and engaged and has done so for more than 20 years. Its circulation does not, however, include any parts of the Redcliffe Peninsula, thus reinforcing the fact that Brighton, Sandgate, Shorncliffe and Deagon are attached to the southern part of Lilley and removing these suburbs from the division would disjoint a strong existing community.

Physical features:

For many years the AEC has endeavoured to use major waterways, roads and natural landscapes as easily identifiable divisional boundaries for electors. The AEC's proposed new physical boundaries for Lilley do not do this. As stated previously, Lilley has historically been a bayside division with Moreton Bay, the Brisbane River and Kedron Brook Creek as natural and logical borders of water. The use of Cabbage Tree Creek to divide the electorate at the northern end is not logical. This creek is not a community boundary and effectively cuts Boondall and Deagon in two. As stated above, these two communities share business communities, community support groups, the wetlands and festivals which are located on the southern side of this creek. Equally this creek is not a substantial body of water to create a federal electorate boundary. Larger waterways such as the Nundah Creek, Downfall Creek and the Schultz Canal are not used as electoral boundaries by the AEC, therefore it is inconsistent to use Cabbage Tree Creek as such a major new federal boundary.

The existing boundaries of Bramble Bay to the north and Moreton Bay to the east are logical in the sense that they are large expanses of water and are clearly sighted on maps and create a clean border between the two electorates of Petrie and Lilley. Changing this border to cut between established community networks at Cabbage Tree Creek creates confusion for electors and associates them with a physical peninsula they have no relation to, therefore adding to this dislocation. The proposed boundaries change the physical nature and long established history of the seat of Lilley.

Existing divisions:

The current and proposed boundaries do not consistently follow council boundaries. While the boundary separating the Brisbane City Council and the Moreton Bay Regional Council is used for the western boundary of the proposed Lilley electorate, the same principle is not used in the AEC's proposed redistribution for the northern boundaries. The northern suburbs of Deagon, Brighton and Sandgate do not relate to the Moreton Bay Regional Council that Redcliffe resides under. These northern suburbs of Brisbane are associated with the Brisbane City Council and this distinction would cause confusion and isolation for community groups in this area when dealing with Local, State and Federal Governments.

Dislocation of voters and explanation:

There is very little reasoning and description as to why the proposed electorate of Lilley has been changed so dramatically. Such a change would be understandable if the new seat was created on the northside of Brisbane. However this is not the case and the considerable community dislocation that will occur as a result of these changes does not justify the proposed boundary changes.

The makeup of the proposed electorate of Lilley is demonstrated in the table below.

	Current Enrolment		Projected 9/7/2012	
New Electorate of Lilley enrolments	94,269		96,990	
from existing area	52,297	55.48%	53,928	55.60%
from Brisbane	4,978	5.28%	4,969	5.12%
from Petrie	36,994	39.24%	38,093	39.28%
Total from Brisbane and Petrie	41,972	44.52%	43,062	44.40%

The AEC's proposed redistribution changes 44.52% of the electorate. This is a major dislocation of voters when the state average is 14.43%. There is no explanation for such a dramatic change. Without the proposed redistribution, the predicted population of Lilley on 9 July 2012 is 94,144 voters. This is within the margins set down by the Committee, whereby an electorate must contain between 93,829 and 100,635 enrolments. Historically divisional boundaries attempt to create the least amount of disruption to voters as possible. However, for Lilley these proposed changes are drastic in the sense they propose the loss of 44.52% of the original geographical area and in the process disjoint a lengthy and strong local community.

The suburbs of Carseldine and Fitzgibbon, currently within the electorate of Petrie, also experience a separation from their connected community, Bracken Ridge, under the AEC's proposed redistribution. This community is newly established, with emerging developments meeting the needs of the growing demographic of young families in this area. These suburbs are linked by Lacey Road, Telegraph Road and Norris Road, which provide centralised shopping, school and transport services for this community. Under the proposed changes, this community will be split apart from Bracken Ridge. In contrast, the well established

community of Deagon, Shorncliffe, Sandgate and Brighton holds historical significance that dates back 125 years and retains a much slower growth rate. These two contrasting communities are separated by major roads (Gateway Motorway, Gympie Road and Deagon Deviation) which clearly divide these two distinct communities.

Resubmission:

I understand that the boundaries in such a growing State must invariably change. That being said, I believe that there is no need for the radical change to the Lilley electorate proposed by the Committee. A viable change to the Committee's proposal would be for the electorate of Lilley to retain as much of the suburbs of Deagon, Sandgate, Shorncliffe and Brighton as possible. Below is a start for the retention of these traditional Lilley areas.

The best way to start the retention is solely between the electorates of Lilley and Petrie. Lilley would retain Deagon, Sandgate and Shorncliffe and the suburbs of Carseldine and Fitzgibbon would remain in the seat of Petrie. This would dislocate only a small number of voters in comparison to the Committee's proposal.

Below is the CCDs that would remain in Lilley:

Suburb	CCD	Old div 2006	SLA	actual	projected	Split	Elector
Deagon	3181814	Lilley	31072	41	49	T	42
Sandgate	3181901	Lilley	31514	353	348	F	372
Sandgate	3181905	Lilley	31514	336	324	F	404
Deagon	3181906	Lilley	31514	369	370	F	431
Sandgate	3181907	Lilley	31514	449	436	F	475
Sandgate	3181908	Lilley	31514	345	336	F	416
Shorncliffe	3181909	Lilley	31514	501	492	F	535
Shorncliffe	3181910	Lilley	31514	391	390	F	433
Shorncliffe	3181911	Lilley	31514	95	92	F	113
Shorncliffe	3181912	Lilley	31514	267	250	F	307
Shorncliffe	3181913	Lilley	31514	314	309	F	344
Deagon	3182001	Lilley	31173	435	441	F	476
Deagon	3182002	Lilley	31173	531	550	F	591
Sandgate	3182003	Lilley	31173	416	411	F	463
Deagon	3182004	Lilley	31173	506	517	F	542
Deagon	3182005	Lilley	31173	383	379	F	421
Total			Full Total	5,732	5,694		

To offset the above CCDs remaining in Lilley, the following CCDs would need to remain in Petrie:

Suburb	CCD	Old div 2006	SLA	actual	projected	Split	Elector
Carseldine	3181401	Petrie	31121	774	898	F	825
Carseldine	3181405	Petrie	31121	593	595	F	598
Carseldine	3181406	Petrie	31121	435	430	F	457
Carseldine	3181407	Petrie	31121	416	415	F	429
Carseldine	3181409	Petrie	31121	463	619	F	506
Fitzgibbon	3182301	Petrie	31556	696	724	F	703

Fitzgibbon	3182302	Petrie	31556	410	442	F	418
Fitzgibbon	3182303	Petrie	31556	354	352	F	358
Fitzgibbon	3182304	Petrie	31556	296	295	F	307
Fitzgibbon	3182305	Petrie	31556	202	323	F	222
Bald Hills		Petrie		338	338	F	
			total	4,977	5,431		

This proposed exchange of electors maintains strongly related communities, while nominating natural and logical borders without splitting existing CCDs. I've nominated the northern border as Ninth Avenue and Bracken Ridge Road, which allows Deagon, Shorncliffe and the majority of Sandgate to remain as a working community while following natural identifiable borders. The Deagon Deviation is the current boundary between the electorates of Lilley and Petrie and logically should remain as the boundary as the nature strip has clearly separated the two communities for a long time. This nature strip continues through to Gympie Road, which as a main thoroughfare works extremely well as a boundary. These proposed boundaries ensure that much of the well established connected community remain together and in the electorate of Lilley.

Conclusion:

As I have clearly outlined above, there has never been, and currently are, no established links between the northern bayside suburbs of Sandgate and the Redcliffe Peninsula located in the Moreton Bay Regional Council.

Electors, businesses and community organisations in these suburbs currently interact with, and relate to, the southern half of the electorate and not the city of Redcliffe. I have shown that these communities have nothing in common with the communities of Redcliffe, yet have a long and shared history with the inner-north community of Brisbane.

I have argued that the proposed physical changes to the electorate are very dramatic and cause a considerable amount of elector dislocation. To cut the existing electorate at Cabbage Tree Creek raises serious issues of compliance with the Act. This would essentially cut these two shared communities in half and cause considerable social and economic dislocation to electors.

The federal division of Lilley has had and still has a constant growth rate. The growth of the seat has kept in line with the State, and therefore both the current enrolment and the projected enrolment of the current seat are within the parameters introduced by the Committee. As such, they do not warrant a major redistribution. The current enrolment of Lilley as of February this year is 91,445 electors, which is within the range of 87,509 and 106,955 set down by the Committee. Projected total enrolments for 2012 using current boundaries is 94,144 electors, which is within the range of 93,829 and 100,635 set down by the Committee. It is therefore clear that the existing boundaries of Lilley are within the quota criteria set out by the Committee.

For all the reasons outlined in this resubmission the redistribution proposed by the Committee does not satisfy the Committee's own guidelines. It dramatically changes the boundaries of the division of Lilley and displaces 39,148 voters out of the electorate and introduces 41,972 new voters to a currently well defined electorate. This change has a significant impact on those in the north of the electorate who will become federally isolated.