



The Federal Redistribution 2009  
**QUEENSLAND**



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**Public Suggestion Number      8**

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**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 April 2009 9:10 PM  
**To:** QLD Redistribution  
**Subject:** Submission for Queensland Redistribution 2009  
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Dear Committee Members,

Please find attached my submission for the 2009 Queensland Redistribution.

If you have any questions or comments regarding my submission please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

(Dr) Mark Mulcair.

## **PROPOSAL FOR THE REDISTRIBUTION OF QUEENSLAND 2009**

### **General Comments:**

From the enrolment figures it is clear that a new division should be placed somewhere in the Ipswich-Logan-Gold Coast corridor. The adjacent divisions of Fadden, Oxley, Forde and Blair are predicted to have over two-thirds of a quota excess between them at the projection time. Fadden alone will have an excess of around 30,000 electors. While some of the coastal seats north of Brisbane also have strong growth, this growth is uneven and the number of excess electors is not sufficient to easily accommodate a new division.

My general strategy has been to feed the excess from the north of the state through the Brisbane Valley (which is returned to Blair), and the northern suburbs of Brisbane (allowing Ryan to lose everything south of Brisbane River). The northward movement of Blair and Ryan, combined with the existing excess, allows a new division to be accommodated south of Brisbane.

I propose a new division stretching along the Pacific Motorway from eastern Logan into the northern Gold Coast, taking in territory from Rankin, Bowman, Forde and Fadden. This new division would include Rochedale South, Springwood, Woodridge, Kingston, Shalier Park, Loganholme, Loganlea, Beenleigh, Ormeau and Jacobs Well. The motorway and Beenleigh rail line would act as the spine of the new division, linking areas that look to Logan and/or Beenleigh as their major centre.

I have given the new division the name 'Gair', after former ALP Premier and DLP Senator for Queensland Vince Gair. In these roles, Gair served Queensland at both domestic and national level, making him particularly suitable for a Queensland-based federal division. Given the circumstances of the last redistribution, the Committee might also wish to consider using the name 'Wright', although I am not sure how strong Judith Wright's connections are to Southeast Queensland.

In regional Queensland, I have been guided by the new Regional Council boundaries, and have attempted to unite them in one division wherever possible. Where this is not possible due to quota purposes, I have generally used former LGA boundaries or major physical features such as rivers as boundaries. In urban areas, I have generally used suburb boundaries and major roads wherever possible. Since I am not a resident of Queensland, I have also been guided to some extent by the submissions, objections and determinations of previous redistributions.

## **Proposals:**

**Leichhardt** is over quota and needs to shed around 10,000 electors. In keeping with the practise of previous redistributions, I suggest a further part of Cairns (Trinity) LGA- including Edmonton and Bentley Park- be transferred to Kennedy. This allows **Kennedy** to shed its share of Townsville Regional Council (the former Thuringowa LGA) to Herbert. **Herbert** can then adopt the Ross River in its entirety as its eastern boundary, shedding Douglas, Murray and Wulguru to Dawson. This provides a much neater split of the Townsville area, with Townsville RC now split between two divisions instead of three.

**Dawson** makes the above gain and is then forced to shed electors to Capricornia. It seems inevitable that Mackay will be split, so I suggest the Pioneer River as an obvious boundary, since Capricornia already contains parts of Mackay south of the river. This transfers approximately 17,000 electors to Capricornia, which leaves Dawson at the low end of tolerance. Given the relatively slow growth in Dawson compared to Capricornia, I suggest the former Mirani LGA plus the balance of Whitsunday RC be transferred from Capricornia to Dawson.

**Capricornia** is then required to shed electors. The starting point should be the former Fitzroy and Mount Morgan LGAs, which are transferred to Flynn. While these areas have strong links to Rockhampton, all or part of these shires have previously been included in Gladstone-based divisions and fit quite well within Flynn. I also suggest part of Isaac RC (former Belyando LGA) be transferred to Maranoa. This area has links to Emerald, Peak Downs, and surrounding regions that I propose be transferred from Flynn to Maranoa.

**Flynn**, as mentioned above, gains from Capricornia and sheds the region from Emerald westward to Maranoa. Flynn then gains from Hinkler, Wide Bay and Maranoa the remainder of North Burnett and South Burnett RCs. I note that at the last redistribution there was substantial objection to the placement of the central western shires in Flynn, and also objection to the placement of the South Burnett region in Maranoa. Clearly, areas such as Emerald, Longreach and Winton have a far greater case for inclusion in a southern outback division than do Kingaroy and Nanango.

The new Bundaberg RC remains split between Flynn and Hinkler due to quota requirements, but the Burnett River is a clear boundary in the region.

**Hinkler** is currently over quota even after the loss to Flynn. I suggest a further part of Fraser Coast Council, including Woocoo-Tiaro and part of Hervey Bay Part B (excepting the northern part around Burrum Town and Torbanlea), be transferred to Wide Bay. I acknowledge the considerable objections to the splitting of Hervey Bay from Maryborough at the last redistribution, but the numbers do not allow them to be re-united in Wide Bay at this time. **Wide Bay**, having made this gain, can shed its share of Maroochy to Fairfax.

With this gain, **Fairfax** can transfer Sippy Downs to Fisher, adopting the Sunshine Motorway as a strong southern boundary. I also suggest a part of the hinterland around Palmwoods be transferred to Fisher. **Fisher** can then transfer its share of Caboolture and Morayfield to Longman, re-uniting the Caboolture area in that division. In the west, Fisher's share of Somerset RC (Kilcoy) is returned to the division of Blair.

**Longman** returns the balance of Kallangur and Dakabin to Dickson, and North Lakes to Petrie. For quota purposes, that part of Deception Bay previously in Petrie (south of Deception Bay Road) is also returned to that division. **Dickson** makes the above gain but returns its share of Somerset RC (Esk) to Blair. There is little connection between Esk and the rest of Dickson, and Esk clearly has far greater community of interest with Ipswich-based Blair. This change leaves Dickson slightly outside tolerance, which can be adjusted by transferring a small area generally north of Dayboro to Longman.

**Petrie** moves its boundary with Brisbane north to Rode Road, shedding its share of Stafford and Everton, plus part of McDowall. I also suggest transferring the balance of Taigum-Fitzgibbon to Lilley, and moving the boundary in Aspley from Kirby Road back to Gympie Road. This provides a clearer and more obvious split of Aspley. **Lilley**, with this gain, can straighten the boundary with Brisbane to run along Albion Road, Lutwyche Road and Stafford Road. These are all more significant roads than the minor streets used as the current boundary. Approximately 4,000 electors in Lutwyche and Gordon Park are transferred to Brisbane.

**Brisbane** moves its boundary with Ryan east to Hale Street and Kelvin Grove Road, transferring Paddington, Bardon, Red Hill and part of Kelvin Grove to Ryan. These areas fit quite well with the existing character of Ryan. **Ryan**, with the gain from Brisbane, can then lose everything south of the Brisbane River (the Centenary Suburbs) to Oxley.

**McPherson** is over quota and can shed its share of Merrimac to Moncrieff. **Moncrieff**, with this gain, can achieve tolerance by moving the boundary in the Southport area south from Stevens Street to Smith Street. **Fadden** is projected to be significantly outside tolerance and with the gain from Moncrieff needs to lose around 30,000 electors. I suggest moving Kingsholme, Upper Coomera and Guanbana-Springbrook into the division of Forde. In the north, Alberton, Jacobs Well and Ormeau are moved to the proposed division of Gair.

**Forde** becomes a predominantly rural division, shedding electors in the north-east to the proposed division of Gair. This includes Beenleigh, Eagleby, Mount Warren Park, Loganholme and Loganlea. In the Waterford area, I suggest using Kingston Road and the Logan River as the boundary with Gair. Forde then gains the balance of Scenic Rim RC (Boonah) from Blair. At the last redistribution there was some objection to the splitting of Boonah from Beaudesert. Since both LGAs are now part of one Council, it is sensible to re-unite them in Forde.

My proposed division of **Gair** extends along the Pacific Motorway through the eastern part of Logan into Beenleigh and Ormeau. In addition to the previously mentioned gains from Forde and Fadden, Gair takes in everything north-east of the Logan RC boundary, Logan Motorway and Kingston Road from Rankin, and the balance of Logan RC from Bowman. This area includes Rochedale South, Springwood, Daisy Hill, Shailer Park, Slacks Creek, Carbrook, Kingston and Woodridge.

The small transfer to Gair leaves **Bowman** contained totally within Redlands City. Since it is well within tolerance, no further changes need to be made.

**Rankin**, with the loss to Gair, moves north and west into Moreton and Oxley. I suggest using Compton Road, Learoyd Road, Oxley Creek, Ipswich Motorway and Centenary Highway as the new boundaries. Stretton, Calamvale and Drewvale are transferred from Moreton, while Algeester, Inala, Durack and Forest Lake are gained from Oxley. **Moreton**, with this loss, moves its boundary west to Oxley Creek to gain Acacia Ridge from Oxley. In the north, Moreton expands along the river to gain Corinda and Oxley. Since no adjustment of the boundary with Griffith is required, **Griffith** can remain unchanged. **Bonner**, as well, is within quota and can remain unchanged.

**Oxley** makes the previously mentioned transfers with Moreton, Rankin and Ryan, and then requires more electors. This can be achieved by moving the boundary with Blair back to the previous boundary, returning the eastern parts of Ipswich to Oxley. With this loss and the transfer of Boonah to Forde, **Blair** makes the previously mentioned gains of Somerset RC from Dickson and Fisher, and also gains those parts of Crows Nest and Rosalie currently within Maranoa. The Brisbane Valley and surrounding rural areas have strong links with Ipswich and have previously been in Blair. **Groom** is within quota, but can accommodate the gain of Clifton LGA to bring Maranoa into tolerance. Unfortunately, it is not possible at present to unite Crows Nest and Rosalie in Groom (or Blair) due to quota requirements.

The changes described above bring **Maranoa** within tolerance: in summary, Maranoa sheds the South Burnett RC to Flynn, sheds Crows Nest and Rosalie to Blair, and picks up the central western shires from Flynn plus the former Belyando LGA from Capricornia.

I note at the previous redistribution, the Committee emphasised reducing the physical area of Maranoa. However, the central western shires objected strongly to being taken out of Maranoa at the last redistribution, and argued that their community of interest was best served by being placed with similar regions in Maranoa. If these shires themselves do not feel their interests are diminished by being placed in a geographically larger division, the Committee should respect their wishes by returning them to Maranoa.

It is also worth noting that Maranoa is under quota, and if it does not regain the central west, it needs to make gains from elsewhere. The only alternative would be to move further eastwards into the Burnett or Brisbane Valley region, neither of which has any connection to a southern outback seat.