



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



Public Suggestion Number 9

Sonja Doyle

4 pages

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Sent: Thursday, 23 April 2009 4:15 PM
To: QLD Redistribution
Subject: Submission to AEC Redistribution Committee
Attachments: Submission to AEC Redistribution Committee.docx

Attached is my submission to the AEC Redistribution Committee.
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Submission to
The AEC Redistribution Committee

From

Sonja Doyle

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At the last electoral redistribution, the Blackall and Tambo Shires were removed from the Maranoa Division and put into the new division of Flynn.

The Flynn Division stretching from Gladstone and Wondai on the east coast out to Winton, Blackall and Tambo, is unwieldy, unmanageable and impossible for a parliamentarian to service, but for the people who live in this electorate, it is a disaster.

Communities of Interest

Community of interest between the outlying communities of Blackall, Tambo and Winton, and the major centre of the Flynn Division, Gladstone, could be said to be non-existent.

For western communities to have Gladstone as their major Electorate centre is ludicrous.

It seems that no consideration was given to communications, travel or the physical barrier between the coast and western Queensland, when Flynn was created.

Communications:

Public Transport: Air Services to Blackall are to and from Brisbane.

Bus Services also, are to and from Brisbane.

There is no rail service to Blackall. The Queensland government closed the branch line to Blackall years ago and have now pulled up the rail track.

It is very difficult to travel to or from Gladstone or Rockhampton by public transport .

When flown out by the RFDS in a medical emergency, patients prefer to go to Toowoomba or Brisbane, so that on discharge they can return home immediately, either by bus or by plane.

If unfortunately, a patient is flown to Rockhampton, when discharged from hospital, it is difficult and expensive, to get home to Blackall or Tambo by public transport. It requires travel from

Rockhampton to Brisbane, then from Brisbane to Blackall or Tambo, mostly with an overnight stay. (There is an example of this happening to a member of my family.)

Medical:

Referrals are to Toowoomba or Brisbane, rarely elsewhere.

Education:

The majority of western Queensland children receive their further education in Toowoomba or Brisbane.

Mail Service:

The Blackall postcode is 4472. The Tambo postcode is 4478. Mail goes to Toowoomba for sorting, not to Rockhampton or Gladstone.

Industry:

Beef Cattle: In this area, cattle are sold at the Blackall saleyards, or are transported by road, to the selling centres of Roma, Dalby or Toowoomba.

Movement of stock to Gladstone or Rockhampton is practically non-existent. The west is a tick free area. The coast is in the tick zone.

Sheep & Wool: Wool is transported by road to Brisbane for sale.

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Physical Barriers:

Historically, the physical barrier was the range between the west and the coast.

For many years the road across the Drummond and Gogango Ranges, could only be described as a "goat track", which was just trafficable in dry weather, becoming totally impassable in wet weather.

In conclusion, I ask that the AEC when considering carefully, the interests of the people in the communities, of the Queensland electorates, gives due consideration to returning the western communities, to the division of Maranoa for the following reasons.

- lines of communication,
- industry and business centres,

- available public transport,
- use of medical services,
- use of further educational services,
- geographical barriers.

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