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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

O/N 116743

AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

HON PETER HEEREY QC, Presiding

MR ED KILLESTEYN

MR BRIAN PINK

MR GLENN POOLE

MS ANNE BRIGHT

AEC PUBLIC ENQUIRY – THE FEDERAL DISTRIBUTION 2009

BRISBANE

9.28 AM, WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

HON WAYNE SWAN MP

MR PAUL NEVILLE MP

HON ARCH BEVIS MP

MRS GLADYS WATERS

MS JULIA LANG

MR ROBERT BUCHAN

MR JAMES MURDOCH

MR LINUS POWER

THE CHAIRPERSON: Good morning, everybody. Welcome to this meeting of the Augmented Australian Electoral Commission. My name is Peter Heerey, I'm the chairman of the Commission. On my right is Mr Ed Killesteyn, the Electoral Commissioner. On his right, Ms Anne Bright, the Australian Electoral Officer for Queensland. On my left, Mr Brian Pink, the Australian Statistician, and, on his left, Mr Glenn Poole, the Auditor-General for Queensland. The background to today's hearing is that the Redistribution Committee on 24 July this year published a proposal for the redistribution of seats in Queensland into 30 federal electoral divisions. As a result of population increase in Queensland, the state became entitled to one extra seat. The redistribution is, therefore, necessary and, after the publication of the Redistribution Committee's report, and objections and comments thereto, we have to consider the matter.

The average projected enrolment of divisions in Queensland is 97,232 and, under the Electoral Act, we are restricted to electorates which vary no more than 3.5 per cent, plus or minus, from that figure. The result is that divisions should have no more than 100,635 electors and no less than 93,829 electors. Now, within those constraints, we have to have regard to a number of matters specified by the Act. They are: the community of interests within the division, including economic, social and regional interests; means of communication and travel within the electoral division; the physical features and area of the electoral division; and the boundaries of the existing divisions in the state. The Act requires that last-mentioned matter to be treated as subordinate to the others.

Now, this inquiry will be recorded and full transcripts of the proceedings will be included as part of our final report. We ask members who make their oral submissions today to identify themselves. After this inquiry we will consider the matter and we hope to make a public announcement about our decision on 6 October. So, without further ado, I'll call on the first speaker, The Honourable Wayne Swan MP. Thank you, Treasurer.

HON WAYNE SWAN MP: Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. Thankfully, this is a very good opportunity for me. I'm mindful that time is short. I know that all members of the committee are also busy and I know there are very many submissions because, as I've observed over the years, putting in place a Queensland redistribution is, indeed, complex. This is the fastest growing state in the Commonwealth and this is a regular job for the Commission which, I think, over time has done a very good job in accommodating all of the pressures. So, I wanted to make a first point that I don't think that there are any simple solutions here and I understand how complex a task it is when you have to make room for a new seat.

That's what you have done through the creation of the additional seat and I've observed this process as a member every term since 1993. Lilley, which is the seat I represent, has been, during most of that time, growing around the state average, and has never, in the past, been subject to such a large change in its boundaries. The change here is very, very dramatic to the federal seat of Lilley. Dramatic, even though it, on its present boundaries, has remained within growth projections. I

understand why that is the case but I'm simply puzzled, if you like, by the size of the dislocation of electors that is proposed, which is something like 45 per cent of the electorate. What I hope to do this morning is just outline some practical proposals to minimise this dislocation, achieve a much more desirable community of interest, and I do think that is important, and I'll spend some time talking about that, but doing that within the overall architecture of what the Commission has laid out, given the fact that you are creating an additional seat.

So I just want to go through the changes. I can understand the objectives of the changes on the southern end of the electorate, the movement of the Hamilton, Ascot, Clayfield area into the federal seat of Brisbane. Those areas tend to look to the city, and, increasingly the inner city of Brisbane is moving outwards. If you look at the development of that area, particularly along Hamilton, high-rise buildings that are going up, they look to the city. So, I understand the rationale of putting those into a seat which tends to hug the river, if you like, on the north side.

I can understand that. It doesn't make it any more palatable in terms of representing that area for a long period of time but I understand those movements in terms of the overall architecture of what you are proposing. So I'm sorry to see them go, if that is the case. I can also understand the rationale of the western boundary where you have used the Moreton Bay Council as the boundary there. That's a long way west for Lilley, but I do, at least, understand the objective there. Where I have a problem, and certainly my community has a very substantial problem, is the northern boundary which, I don't believe, is practical. I believe it doesn't truly appreciate the geography of the area or the local community of interest.

If you just looked at a map, I can understand why the line has been drawn as it is but if you actually drive through the area, understand how the area interacts, it simply is not practical and I just want to make a number of points about that. Now, for something like 90 years, the suburbs of Brighton, Sandgate and Deagon have been in Lilley - they have been there from the very beginning. They are bordered to the north by Bramble Bay. There's three kilometres of water between those suburbs and the Redcliffe community, which they have just been joined to in these proposals - three kilometres of water. That's the length of the bridge. These are communities that still don't look north, they look south. They use the transport links of Sandgate Road, the railway which goes through to Shorncliffe, the school communities, the business communities, the families that have lived in these areas for generations all look to the south. They don't look to the north.

The suburb of Boondall, and those suburbs, they are the suburbs that relate to Deagon, to Sandgate and to Brighton. They consider themselves part of what we have historically called "the northern suburbs." So all the transport links look south and even when they look south and they come south, they only look west when they use the cross-border roads, like Hamilton Road and so on, to go to Chermside. They don't think or interact by going north. I know that might be hard to understand for someone who hasn't lived in the area and you don't get the sense of that from a map but if you just look at this: that's the kilometres of water there. What you've got

here is almost a physical boundary to the west called the Deagon Deviation. It's a four to six lane highway with big walls on either side which separates Bracken Ridge and these communities, particularly here, from the west. Then you've got the water there.

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THE CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me, do you have a plan which illustrates the changes you suggest on page 6 of your submission?

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HON WAYNE SWAN MP: Yes, I do. Well, I have the numbers. I'll just go to that, if I could, in a second.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, it would be handy for us to see how they impact on the other regions.

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HON WAYNE SWAN MP: Yes, sure, absolutely. I haven't come to propose anything that doesn't add up and doesn't meet the overall architecture objectives of what has been proposed by the committee. But if you just look at a map, the line looks quite logical but I was just about to explain the final element of that, apart from the Deagon Deviation, that you have used Cabbage Tree Creek as the northern boundary, to exclude those areas from the electorate of Lilley. Cabbage Tree Creek, at that point, is not a natural boundary at all. It actually brings the community together, it doesn't separate it. Although, if you were to look at a map and look at the size of that, you would think that it does. But, of course, what you've got there is a wetland.

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Where Cabbage Tree Creek intersects with Sandgate Road, it's a very small bridge. It's not really a boundary between Deagon and Boondall at all. It's a continuous community. It looks it on the map because the size of Cabbage Tree Creek from the map is in the middle of the wetlands where it spreads out. So it is in no way comparable to the three kilometre boundary at the north, which is Bramble Bay. So that's my point about community of interest. So Cabbage Tree Creek isn't logical, it's not a natural border.

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So I'm mindful of the difficulties the committee has had and what I've had a look at doing is putting forward a practical alternative that adds up. What I'm suggesting is that if we were to put Carseldine and Fitzgibbon, which are currently in Petrie, back into Petrie, those areas do look naturally west rather than east. They are newer communities, not older communities. If we were to put those back into Petrie, that would equate, basically, to being able to leave Deagon, Shorncliffe and most of Sandgate into Lilley. Now, that would leave Brighton, particularly, still in the new seat of Petrie.

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From my point of view, that is not ideal but if Brighton were to stay, as is proposed, there has always been at least a degree of interaction between Bracken Ridge there and Brighton via Bracken Ridge Road here and 9th Avenue. So what you would actually have is this community below that reconnected into Lilley and it would leave Brighton in the new – well, Brighton back in Petrie where you have proposed

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it. But at least we would commence the task of reconnecting what is, I think, a very substantial community of interest that has been broken by the draft boundary. As I understand it, the maths does add up for that proposal. It still leaves intact, substantially, the architecture that the Commission was looking to achieve and I believe it's far more practical, much more in accord with the Act, particularly in terms of community of interest. So that's basically the proposal that I wanted to put to the Commission today.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. Any questions?

MR POOLE: Mr Swan, in your submission, you did make a significant feature of the number of electors who were changing electorates in this proposal.

15 HON WAYNE SWAN MP: That's right.

MR POOLE: Though this morning you seem to have conceded the changes at the southern and western boundaries you could understand.

20 HON WAYNE SWAN MP: Yes.

MR POOLE: Not necessarily saying you're happy with them but you could understand. That would seem to me to be the bulk of the change of electors in those two areas. Your submission, then, really is around a relatively small number of electors and I think in your submission you say the best way to start is to do this. Do you have any comments about where you would finish?

30 HON WAYNE SWAN MP: Well, firstly, I recognise that over time, because of population growth, that the electorate of Lilley will always begin to move north. It's a question of how it does that. I understand why you've come to the east-west configuration of Lilley which has necessitated the great bulk of the changes. I'm not happy with it but I understand it is so central to what you've done that trying to unpick that, is, I believe, very, very difficult at this stage. So what I've tried to do is put forward a proposal that recognises that Lilley has definite communities and has tried to reintegrate those communities. The area that has changed the most and become much more inner city is the Hamilton, Ascot area.

40 It is the area that has changed most dramatically in the time that I've been a member. Anyone familiar with Brisbane will understand the extent to which it is now being dominated by multi-unit dwellings, that high-rise and so on means that that area is actually becoming much more inner-city. This area that is north of it, the great bulk of what is Lilley, which is east of Gympie Road, is very much an intact community, unchanged by any of those things and the Sandgate, Deagon area is part of that, not part of the Redcliffe community.

45 MR POOLE: I guess my curiosity is if you accept for a moment the strength of your argument, why your proposal stops with Deagon still in the division of Petrie, it just seems me that - - -

HON WAYNE SWAN MP: What, with Brighton? Because it would require a much larger change on the northern boundary and maybe that can be done and maybe it can't. I don't have the expertise but what I can see is a very neat start to that through the suburbs I've just identified by the reintegration of Deagon and Sandgate and Shorncliffe into Lilley. It may be that the Commission has a view that it can be done.

MR POOLE: Just wouldn't the argument be somewhat strengthened if that was to occur and do you have any idea or proposal as to what other change you would make to accommodate Deagon remaining in Lilley?

HON WAYNE SWAN MP: Well, the logical areas that have moved between both seats over time have been areas of Aspley and areas surrounding them to the west. And I understand that you have to make these numbers work overall. In a situation where you've got – for every action there is a reaction. I've proposed a minimal solution. I don't think it's the ideal one from the perspective of Lilley but I think it is one that is practical, that works in terms of the growth numbers, and minimises the change to the draft proposals just between two electorates. I guess that is what has governed what I'm saying. I'm being practical. The more you move it over and the more you move, the more you actually affect boundaries of other electorates that are adjacent further to the west and I don't know whether the Commissioner is of a mind to do that or not. So what I thought I would do, given the competing demands, was put forward something that was relatively neutral in terms of its flow-on effects to other electorates.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Treasurer, would you mind leaving with us that plan you have, marking on it the proposal you make?

HON WAYNE SWAN MP: Certainly. Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

HON WAYNE SWAN MP: I can do that. Thank you, very much. I have to go and catch a plane and I appreciate the time this morning.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. The next speaker scheduled is the Honourable Arch Bevis. I should add, however, that there are arrangements made for Mr Paul Neville MP to phone from New York at five to 10. So Mr Bevis, would you mind - - -

HON ARCH BEVIS MP: I'm happy for you to take Paul before me, rather than break when his call comes through if that will - - -

THE CHAIRPERSON: No, well, would you mind, Mr Bevis, if you started and we interrupted when we get the phone call. Is that all right?

HON ARCH BEVIS MP: I'd rather do it in one session but we're talking about an interruption in five minutes, aren't we?

THE CHAIRPERSON: All right.

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MR KILLESTEYN: Yes, we can ask Mr Neville to hold.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, yes, I think we can.

10 HON ARCH BEVIS MP: Okay. I mean, Paul is in New York, I'm hoping to fit in with him so if the call comes through and I'm, you know, I'm happy enough to break.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, we can ask him to ring back. So we'll give you the stage, Mr Bevis.

HON ARCH BEVIS MP: Thank you very much. For the record, Arch Bevis, the Federal Member for Brisbane, and thank you for the opportunity to, once again, appear before an Augmented Commission. I've had some close involvement in a number of redistributions over the course of the last two decades and a bit and, as Wayne said, the growth in Queensland means that we go through this process a little bit more regularly than anyone else in the country and I think this Augmented Commission process is an important one. I thank you for the opportunity to present some comments to you. I want to, at the outset, make a comment about process, which I have done on previous occasions, and that is a concern I hold, that the Act requires the Redistribution Committee to provide reasons for their proposed redistribution.

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30 I've raised this in earlier Augmented Commissions and in earlier submissions. My view, perhaps, is somewhat wrong – or not necessarily agreed with, but my view has been, over the last two decades, it's seldom to find a Redistribution Commission Report that actually has reasons. It often has methodology explained and it often has conclusions, it seldom has reasons. Indeed, on an earlier occasion, the then chair of the Augmented Commission undertook to ensure that reasons would be provided. Sadly, that chair's term expired before the process was concluded and the subsequent report didn't include reasons either. But I raise that here, and I have indeed raised it before the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, which I have previously chaired, because I think it is an important consideration and an important part of the process.

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The drawing of these boundaries through an independent Commission is one of the fundamental bases of our Parliamentary democratic system. That relies upon informed reports that enable people to comprehend not just the outcome but the process, methodology and reasons behind it. Without those reasons, as I'm sure you would appreciate, the capacity to comment meaningfully on the report is limited. So I again raise that and hope that some of those considerations will be taken on board by those involved in the redistribution process.

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Indeed, I note that section 67 not only refers to the report containing reasons but identifies that there may be dissenting reports and that those providing dissenting reports may also provide reasons. It is an important part of the process and it seems to me to have been underdone. That said, can I turn to some of the matters
5 associated with the current review, the current redistribution, and, perhaps highlighting the point I just made, note that the overriding consideration in this report seems to me to have been encompassed in the summary on page 1 in paragraph 7 where, in one sentence, it notes:

10 *As a result of Ryan being moved wholly to the north of the Brisbane River, the redrawing of the divisions south of the river allowed for the creation of the division of Wright in an area south and west of Brisbane.*

That tells me that the overriding consideration, if you like, the starting point of this
15 redistribution, was a decision by the committee to make the Brisbane River a boundary. Now, I've been involved in this process before the current software system was available which makes the task ever so much easier than it did when you sat down on the floor with hundreds of maps laid out in front of you. So I do understand the complexities of the process. I also understand the efficiencies of the
20 current technology that's available for people to use. You may well start a redistribution, frankly, anywhere. In the past it has been the case that redistributions have started in absolute boundaries, so, for example, the New South Wales border or Cape York, with the boundaries of the state.

25 You may be inclined to look at starting a redistribution at the point where the greatest population growth has occurred. But to start with a determination that the Brisbane River would be the boundary, and that, having done that, as the report notes, this then allowed for the creation of a new seat south, seems to me to be, well, a different
30 approach and one that is not supported by any reasons. If, indeed, that is going to be the dominant characteristic of the redistribution, I would have thought it incumbent on the Redistribution Commission to at least explain why it is that they chose the river as the starting point. I do make the observation in my written submission, that is at variance with the history of electorates.

35 Indeed, if you look over the last 50 years, only rarely has the Brisbane River been the boundary. So to make it the dominant feature of this particular redistribution has resulted in a raft of changes that might not otherwise have been needed. Some of those, I think, are the changes that were referred to by Wayne Swan in his presentation, which I will also add to. The average voter dislocation under the
40 proposal stated in the report is 14.43 per cent. As Mr Swan pointed out, it's dramatically higher in Lilley. As I point out in my submission, it's double that in Brisbane. Brisbane, on current boundaries, actually complies with the requirements of the Act in terms of its enrolment numbers. That is, it could be left as is and still meet the requirements of the Act into the future.

45 I fully understand the knock-on effect that occurs when an electorate is created anywhere in the state, wherever that might be. There's a big difference between a

knock-on effect, though, and the sort of change that sees double the state average occurring in an electorate such as Brisbane, and, indeed, greater than that in an electorate such as Lilley. Of the five divisions in the State of Queensland with the greatest number of voter dislocations, three of them are, in fact, on the north side of the river. That's a strange and unexpected statistic when you consider that the new seat is created south and west of Brisbane. The only seats in the five on the south side that are in that group of the top five, are, in fact, the two seats that are separated because of the creation of the new seat.

Of course, that's inevitable no matter where the new seat is created but it certainly does raise, I think, some questions about how this particular redistribution was put together to result in a situation where three of the five seats with the greatest impact are actually not near the new seat but, in fact, on the north side of the river and, indeed, on current enrolments, required little or no adjustment. Let me turn to a couple of the specifics now in respect to Brisbane. The proposal of the Redistribution Committee includes the transfer of some 2344 voters from Ryan to Brisbane, in the Toowong area. I have to say I'm absolutely at a loss to comprehend which part of the Act that transfer of voters meets.

It's not necessary, by itself, or indeed in the context of my overall submission, but even of itself, it's not necessary to meet the quota requirements either in Ryan or in Brisbane. I cannot identify, and I know the area quite well, you know, it's immediately to the west of the south-west corner of my current electorate – but I cannot identify any community of interest reasons. Of course, the Redistribution Committee report makes no reference to any reasons why it made the decision other than some expectation, I imagine, that it's some link to the inner city area. It does not create any boundaries of significance. The new boundary would be a series of small back-street roads and it simply is puzzling to understand why that is in the proposal.

I note that, on that point, the Liberal Party also raised an objection, and I think it's the only thing in the Liberal Party's submission with which I agree. But I note that the Liberal Party's submission does also point out that that transfer of 2300-odd voters should not be made. The major changes which I propose, they go to the areas of Keperra and the areas adjacent to it, north of Samford Road. These areas have been part of Brisbane for generations. Historically, the suburbs were developed at very different times to the other suburbs on the south side of Samford Road and further to the west, of which they would, under the proposal be joined. It is an issue, at least in part, which earlier Augmented Commissions have addressed, and I make reference in my written submission to one occasion where that occurred. [telephone rings] Look, I'm happy to stop if that's Paul.

THE CHAIRPERSON: All right. I think we'll ring him back. Tell him we'll phone him back in 10.

MR KILLESTEYN: How long would you like, Mr Bevis?

HON ARCH BEVIS MP: Look, I'm happy to stop. I mean, he's in New York and it's much easier to get him now if he's there.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, excuse me, just find out if you've got a number we ring you back when we're ready. How long would you be, Mr Bevis?

HON ARCH BEVIS MP: I don't know. Sorry.

10 MR KILLESTEYN: Fifteen minutes or so?

HON ARCH BEVIS MP: Yes.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Tell him we'll probably ring him back in about 15 minutes. Don't you feel constrained, Mr Bevis. If you finish in 15 minutes, so much the better.

20 HON ARCH BEVIS MP: Yes. No, I understand. As I said, given he's calling from where he is, I would have been quite happy just to accommodate that. I do note in my written submission the views of an earlier Augmented Commission on part of this issue, and that related to Kings Park. At that time there was a proposal linking Kings Park with the area north of Samford Road. The Augmented Commission said at the time, objections to this area were based on the community of interest between Kings Park and The Gap. The Commission upheld those objections of proposers to add Kings Park to the proposed Ryan.

25 The core of that, and I was involved in that Augmented Commission hearing, and, indeed, I think it might have been my objection at the time, but the core of that was the distinction, really, that exists between Kings Park and the suburbs on the south side of Samford Road and the areas that lie on the northern side of Samford Road, in that area that is, you know, Keperra, Grovely, Oxford Park, going through that way. There is little community of interest in the way in which those suburbs, the people of those suburbs, interact although you can always, in an inner city area, identify some degree of community of interest. But, as I point out there, if you have a look at the broader, and, indeed, the major area of Ryan, which stretches out through Toowong, 30 Kenmore, Pullenvale, those places, there is absolutely zero community of interest with those areas.

40 And I would go so far as to say, I think, if you went to Kenmore or Moggill or Pullenvale and asked them what they know of Oxford Park, you're more likely to get an answer referring to a clothing store than you are to a suburb. The community of interest between that area, north of the river, north of Samford Road, is actually quite close. The social interaction, the transport hubs are all on the same – they share the same transport hubs, they share the same social and sporting and community interests. And I say that, knowing the area very intimately for many years before I 45 was a Member of Parliament, and it just strikes me as a gross error on the part of the redistribution commission to link that group to the broader Ryan constituency, which

it does, and moreover, it's a, I think, a gross error to remove that area from Brisbane where it has resided for generations.

5 In order – obviously, that involves a significant number of voters. My submission identifies the CCDs that would be involved and some 7000 electors. In order to address the quota requirements, I have then proposed an adjustment in the Ashgrove area. The boundary – I should say, by the way, just finally in respect of that Keperra area – the proposed boundary is Bellevue Avenue. Bellevue Avenue is a narrow, dead-end road. The committee's own report identifies the desirability of using major, identifiable roads, canals, rivers and things like that as boundaries. As I have said in my report, sorry, in my objection, they apply that, but only selectively when it comes to the Brisbane boundary. My proposal would apply that completely to the Brisbane boundary.

15 So if they are, indeed, the principles to be used, well, I put it to the Augmented Commission, they should be applied comprehensively and consistently, not selectively, which has been the case in its application to Brisbane. Similarly - and by the way, my proposal in respect of Keperra does just that. Samford Road is, without doubt, the major arterial road in that part of Brisbane. The boundary on the other side is the boundary of Brisbane city boundary. It's a well-known boundary. It's also a creek, and, in fact, it's a creek that's used at the moment as the boundary, has been in the past and is proposed to be in the future. So the boundary I propose there meets the test that the committee itself said should be applied.

25 Similarly, the boundary I propose in using Wardell Street and Stewart Road, Jubilee Terrace and the creek, does the same thing. It uses known, identifiable, clear boundaries. That Wardell, Stewart Road area – that is a continuous street; it's a four-lane dividing road; one of the major roads running north-south in the western part of Brisbane, indeed, the major road in the western part of Brisbane that runs north-south. Using it would meet the requirement that the committee itself set, and would see some 3731 electors move to Ryan. My submission then points to the quota requirements under the proposal having been met by the objections that I've raised. And finally, I want to comment on the issue of dislocating electors. The adoption of my objection will result in 5386 additional electors being retained in their existing divisions, that is, 5386 fewer dislocated voters and electors.

40 Now, I am well aware that the current Act, whilst it has this as a criteria, has it as the subordinate criteria to all others. The difficulty with most of the other criteria, but for the quota criteria, is that they are particularly subjective, and particularly subjective when you look at urban areas. When you are talking entire towns in a rural setting being shifted, that's one thing. It frankly is possible to mount an argument on community of interest that you could plausibly put full lines in a whole raft of different locations in an urban environment. The one thing that is empirical is the dislocation of voters. And it seems to me that given that my objections, if adopted, would result in a substantial number of fewer people being dislocated, it would need to be demonstrated that the current committee's proposal better meets those other subjective tests.

Now, I would argue that they don't, and I had in my submission, and I'm happy to go to that if there are questions, but in the absence of any evidence that the current committee's proposal better meets the subjective tests, it's clear that my objection meets the objective test. The changes that have occurred on the north side to which
5 Mr Swan referred, are very far-reaching. The only occasion I can recall such a proposal in the last 25 years, was prior, I think it was, to the 1993 election, when there were very wide-reaching changes proposed, and, in fact, on that occasion, the Augmented Commission made substantial changes, so substantial that they determined to invite a further round of comment.

10 I acknowledge the Act is worded differently today than what it was at that time. So I'm not suggesting that we're in an identical situation, but I do think it's important to recognise, as part of the Augmented Commission process, that the proposals involve very large changes, the reasoning for which is certainly not stated and to me not
15 clear, and to the electors and citizens on the north side of the river, it will be puzzling. The extent to which we can reduce that confusion, I think, the better. And I believe the objection I have presented goes some way to doing that. I'm happy to stop there.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr Bevis. Do you by any chance have a map showing the proposals you would urge?

HON ARCH BEVIS MP: I don't have a map, although I could easily forward one or provide one. What I have done, is identify every CCD including which CCD
25 should be split. I haven't gone to the question of how many CCDs are split, but as you all have seen from the submission, the number of CCDs I propose to be submitted is well within the range of other seats.

30 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

HON ARCH BEVIS MP: I actually thought it was better to give you the exact CCDs than a map. I must say, the one comment I'd make - the other comment I would make about the Liberal Party's submission, obviously, was that as I was
35 looking at it, I just found it too general to actually pinpoint exactly what it was they were on about. But if you wish me to provide a map, I can certainly do that.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, that would be helpful. Thank you.

40 HON ARCH BEVIS MP: Okay, I'll do that. But I think for subsequent analysis, the CCD breakdown that I have provided will be useful.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Any questions?

45 MR POOLE: Mr Bevis, the western boundary of the proposed division of Brisbane, along Wardell Street - if that was to be moved, and if your submission is that the off-setting bit is the Keperra area, Keperra appears to me to be in that intersection of the divisions of Brisbane, Ryan, Lilley and Dickson. I'm just curious, I guess, as to why

the Keperra area would be retained within the division of Brisbane? Why it might not be more logical for it, perhaps, to go into Lilley or stay in Ryan, which is, as proposed?

5 HON ARCH BEVIS MP: Well, I think it would actually be difficult to put it in Lilley, on the numbers and that would require a fair bit of re-jigging. It has been at that intersection that you described since Dickson was created, pretty much, until the last redistribution when Dickson was moved further away, and Brisbane actually picked up a large slice of Dickson. So it has regularly been at the intersection of:
10 Brisbane, Dickson; Brisbane, Ryan; Brisbane, Dickson, Ryan, depending over the years where those boundaries have been. That has consistently been the case. And whilst that has consistently been the case, it has consistently been in Brisbane. This is the first time that I'm aware of that it's proposed to remove it from Brisbane.

15 And in the past when there has actually been a proposal to remove it from Brisbane, the Augmented Commission has accepted objections not to do that. Sorry, I retract that. On previous occasions when it has been proposed to link it to Kings Park as part of the same area, the Augmented Commission has recognised that it has got a distinct identity, and that the community of interest is not with Kings Park and the
20 area to the south and west, which is Ryan. So you're right. It is an intersection. Always has been. And, in fact, Ryan used to wrap around, when it came through Kings Park, used to, before Dickson was formed, used to go through Ferny Grove and then around Keperra, to take in Arana Hills.

25 So even when Ryan virtually circled it for about a 200 degree arc, the commission and the Augmented Commission have recognised that because of its – I mean, just the genuine community of interest, I mean, the suburb was created decades before the surrounding suburbs. The community of interest is different. The lines of communication that travel are different, the railway line that runs through there, the
30 sporting clubs. And people in Kings Park will, for sporting activities, go to Ferny Grove or The Gap, in terms of which sporting club they go to. The people at Keperra will go to Arana Hills Football Club, which is, whilst it's called Arana Hills, is actually in Grovely, or the neighbouring Westside Football club.

35 MR POOLE: Though you are proposing to, effectively, split it down the middle along Samford Road. I just am curious about the – if that is the distinction because the current proposal effectively puts that whole area into Ryan.

HON ARCH BEVIS MP: Yes.
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MR POOLE: You're proposing to split that area into two, with part of it staying in Brisbane and part of it going to Ryan.

45 HON ARCH BEVIS MP: No, in terms of Keperra, which is on that western wedge if you go from, sort of, Dawson Parade west; that area west has always been in Brisbane. The area south to Settlement Road has been, thereabouts - or to the Army barracks, has been in Brisbane. The area west of that, Kings Park and the like, have

not always been in Brisbane. They used to be in Ryan. I can't remember whether they were in Dickson, actually, but they certainly used to be in Ryan. They have, in recent years, been in Brisbane. Where the split occurs from the historical that I'm referring to, as opposed to the variations that have chopped and changed, where that change occurs is as you move eastward, closer into the city, as you get into Mitchelton. I have to tell you, that's not my preferred position. That is not my preferred position. I actually do think that area of Mitchelton, Enoggera, the Army barracks, have a close affiliation with the rest of Brisbane. [telephone rings]

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Just tell him to hold on a minute, we're almost finished.

HON ARCH BEVIS MP: I think they have a close affiliation with the rest of Brisbane, but the fact is the Electoral Commission has made very dramatic changes. If I thought it was possible to overturn those very dramatic changes, I would write a different submission but having been involved in the 1993 case where we did overturn a very major submission, my judgment has been that it's unlikely to happen today – well, I mean in this year – given there is a different wording of the Act today than what there was then.

20 So my point is, doing what is proposed to be done compounds that problem. What I am proposing, in my objection, ameliorates it somewhat. Does it ameliorate it to the extent that I think it should be? No, frankly. No. I think the adjustments that have been made on the north side of the river are extreme, unprecedented and unexplained.

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MS BRIGHT: Mr Chairman, if I could just make a comment?

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

30 MS BRIGHT: Thank you, Mr Bevis, for that. The efforts of the Redistribution Committee to put more information in there for all readers of the proposal, I think, has changed over time and in opening your statement today, I acknowledge that you were quoting from the executive summary. But sitting behind that executive summary in the general strategy contained in the proposal, is also more about the broader thinking of the Redistribution Committee's proposal at that time to give the readers some idea of the issues that were faced in the growth patterns across the state. So I just make that observation.

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HON ARCH BEVIS MP: Certainly I did quote from the executive summary. I can assure you I have read the document carefully and it may be that my judgment of what constitutes reasons is, itself, unreasonable. But I would be interested in being referred to which part of the report explains the importance of first and foremost establishing the Brisbane River as the boundary and moving the division of Ryan to the north of the river. I'm not sure where the reasons for that are. I'm not sure where the reasons are to explain why three of the five seats with the greatest number of dislocated voters are on the north side of the river, not the south side of the river

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where the new seat is created. I don't see the reasons for that in the body of the document either.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Mr Bevis. Mr Neville.

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MR KILLESTEYN: Are you there, Mr Neville?

MR NEVILLE MP: Yes.
[via telephone]

10 MR KILLESTEYN: All right. You have the floor.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr Neville. My name is Peter Heerey. I am the chair of the Augmented Electoral Commission and we have sitting with us today Mr Ed Killesteyn, the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Brian Pink, the Australian Statistician, Ms Anne Bright, the Australian Electoral Officer for Queensland, and Mr Glenn Poole, the Auditor-General for Queensland. So we have your written submissions so it's over to you.

MR NEVILLE MP: Well, thank you, Mr Heere. That's very kind. Have I got the pronunciation right?

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THE CHAIRPERSON: I bet your pardon?

MR NEVILLE MP: Have I got your name right? Mr Heere, is it?

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THE CHAIRPERSON: Heerey, H-e-e-r-e-y.

MR NEVILLE MP: Heerey. Thank you. You're Chairman, Mr Heerey?

30 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, that's right.

MR NEVILLE MP: Well, I'll address you as Mr Chairman, if I could.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

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MR NEVILLE MP: Mr Chairman, first I would like to thank the Augmented Commission for going to the trouble of giving me this opportunity to do this from New York. I'm here for three months as the Australian public advisor to the UN, so it would have been very difficult for me to appear at home. So this is very much appreciated. I trust that you can hear me clearly?

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THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, we can.

MS BRIGHT: Yes.

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MR KILLESTEYN: Yes.

MR NEVILLE MP: Well, the basis of my submission is that I would like you to reconsider the Hinkler electorate and the effects that that reconfiguration of the Hinkler electorate might have on the seats of Wide Bay, Flynn and Capricornia. If you have before you the map, number 1, which is thickened black lines on a white map. Do you all have that one? What is proposed is that the old Biggenden Shire, or the Biggenden SLA, as it's now known, the Woocoo Shire, which is now part of the Woocoo – Tiaro SLA, and a whole area there to the right of the map called the Hervey Bay hinterland. It doesn't really have a name but I would propose that they would be returned to the Hinkler electorate.

10 Now my reasons for that are many fold. That cluster of Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Biggenden and Woocoo have not been together, electorally, since the redistribution and enlargement of the Parliament in 1983-84. So it was quite a momentous change in 2006 when the Commission decided to totally reorient the Hinkler electorate. It seems to me counter-productive that, less than two years on, we are proposing to bring those areas that were brought together, bring them out of that configuration. Those of you who were on the committee at the time will remember there was considerable angst between Maryborough and Hervey Bay about the division of the two cities; one going into Hinkler and one going into Hervey Bay. It was certainly a matter of some considerable angst in the community, the press and so on.

The other reason is that the geography nearly cuts the Hinkler electorate in two, and, in particular the old Hervey Bay City. It almost cuts it in two as well. If you draw a line from Howard just over the boundary, the words - the "y" at "Hervey Bay", there's a little town called Dundathu, which I haven't actually marked there, but if you draw the line from Howard to there or from Torbanlea – Torbanlea is next to Howard – put the tip of that pen about a quarter of an inch to the east of Howard. If you drew a line from there to there and then up to the northern boundary of that bulbous area, as I've called it, you would find that you've got this rural pocket of about 900 people that don't have any sort of resonance in the Wide Bay area. I propose that that should go back to Hinkler.

Now, in the case of Biggenden, Biggenden has a long association with Childers. For example, there is no senior high school there so the kids from Biggenden State High School doing grades 11 and 12 have to go to Childers. That takes with it family interests, social activities, sporting activities, and so on. That is the case, too at Flynn's sports level, as well. In addition to that Biggenden and Woocoo and Childers supply the Biggenden Meat Works, so there is very strong economic and rural associations as well. Now, from a travel perspective, on the western side of that Biggenden area, just outside that, there's a little town called Ban Ban Springs, which some of you might know. It's on the Burnett Highway. The Isis Highway starts there, goes to Biggenden, on to Childers, up to Bundaberg and across to the coast at the town of Bargara.

That Isis Highway is the main south-western artery right through the southern part of Hinkler. And I suggest to you that it makes sense that that remain the artery. In addition to that, Biggenden and Woocoo and Childers form a triangularity of a

number of rural interests and it makes some sense to put them together. So for that reason I would propose that the Biggenden SLA, the Woocoo-Tiaro SLA that's currently in Hinkler, and that Hervey Bay-Hinkler end, as I described it, should remain in Hinkler. Well, you might ask, well what do you propose as an alternative and I then refer you to the second map, the brightly coloured one, map 2. That is a map of the suburbs of North Bundaberg, the eight CCD that make up North Bundaberg.

Now, the whole of the North Bundaberg rural area, I stress rural area, is currently within Flynn and it's not a quantum leap to include the suburb that services that area in Flynn. Now, I know there was a provisional argument, you shouldn't divide cities. Look, I make the point here, this: that may have been the case 30 years ago but North Bundaberg is now very much a self-contained area with a lot of good facilities. I draw your attention first to this central eastern side, you'll see a blue rectangle just under the words "Bundaberg Gin Gin Road." That's the new regional shopping centre with its civic market, butcher shop, pharmacies, specialty stores and the like. In addition to that, down in Queen Street, below it, you can see other shops where there is another supermarket and small and other shops.

Along Perry Street, there are three parks. If you look to the red areas, the top one is North Bundaberg State High School, the one below is North Bundaberg Primary School and the one to the left of it, the smaller red trapezium, that's the private school. Now, if you look to the purple, either side of the Bundaberg Golf Club, there is quite a large triangular area further to the north and that rectangular one to the south. They are both retirement villages, one with a nursing home and the second one shortly to receive one. Above that triangle is a blue triangle, going to the west and just slightly above it, that's an agricultural industrial park where the people like Landmark and Ells and those sort of firms, have set up produce and rural-type agencies.

In addition to that, down in Gavin Street, down to the old town part, there is also another produce agency. Those agencies service that northern side of the river, the rural side of the river. So it's not unexpected that the people who come from that area do do that sort of business in North Bundaberg. If you look to the extreme left of the map, you'll see a yellow trapezium. That's the old Austsoft factory which is now a technology park. In the top position in the eastern side, that irregular shaped purple colour, is the Bundaberg foundry. The old Walkers that used to be in Maryborough are now merged with the Bundaberg foundry. So there is a fair bit of industry there.

In short, ladies and gentlemen, that is a fairly self-contained community. There are three other aspects. The first one is that the irrigation scheme which services Bundaberg is divided at the river. There are different quotas of water and different times which people can pump and so on for the north side of the river and a different one on the south side. Not just here in North Bundaberg where we're looking at now but the whole of North Bundaberg against the whole of South Bundaberg. So, again, this distinction has been made in other fields besides the electorate. By excising

North Bundaberg you would have two lines of demarcation: the Burnett River from the mouth of the Burnett River at Burnett Heads on the coast all the way through Bundaberg and through and almost to Gayndah. And that would be a very clear, unambiguous boundary so when people come to Bundaberg they come into my office or the AEC office, they say “Well, where do you live?” They say, “On the north side of the river”. “Oh, well, you’ll be in Flynn”. Or if it’s the south side of the river, “You’ll be in Hinkler”. Very simple, clear, I imagine a lot easier too for the AEC in the conduct of their roles.

10 So that’s yet another reason why those things might be, perhaps of North Bundaberg for Hinkler should not be seen as any great matter or moment. And there’s one final reason and that is I know that twice in my experience of politics where North Bundaberg has been in a northern electorate that Charlie Davidson, a former Post-Master General, represented North Bundaberg, and in more recent times 15 in the ‘70s, Cole Parish, who lives in Gladstone, was a member for Capricornia. When he was a member he also had North Bundaberg in his northern electorate. So that’s my basic arguments for those two changes.

Now, if you go to my objection submission and go to the middle of it, you will see 20 The Proposed Hinkler. It’s about the middle - is there five or six pages, it’s about the middle, The Proposed Hinkler. If you put back in that part of Hervey Bay, the part of Woocoo-Tiaro and Biggenden, you can see that you move approximately 2600 on the ‘09 figure and nearly 2900 on the July 12 figure back into Hinkler. And if you delete those eight CCDs in North Bundaberg, you see you get a very good figure of 25 eight per cent of 183 then 98,850 comfortably within the quotas. And, in fact, it’s a more comfortable figure than the AECs own figure which was 100,319 - I’m talking about the 2012 figure.

If you look at the basic figures that came out for Hinkler ahead of this whole process, 30 the figures showed that Hervey Bay would be growing over the three and a half year cycle by 19.7 per cent, Bundaberg city by roughly 6.5 per cent, and Bundaberg coastal, which is the SLA - the southern side of the SLA - the Burnett SLA, 16.7 per cent. You can see that it won’t be long before that 100,319 is exceeded, even though it technically meets the guideline now, whereas the figure I proposed at 98,850 is a 35 much more comfortable figure. Well, then you might ask, “Well, okay, what are the effects on the three electorates, which you said at the beginning of your submission could be affected in a minor way?” Well, you can see if you put - if you take those areas out of Wide Bay, that’s the next page over from the Hinkler page, you can see that Wide Bay goes to 89,081, at three and a half years out, 94,238, comfortably 40 within the quota.

Now, we come to Capricornia and I would propose an alteration there to offset the North Bundaberg one. It is one that will resonate well with you because for those of you who were on the Augmented Commission in 2006, you chose, at that time, to put 45 Mount Morgan into Capricornia. The reason I suggest that again is that I represented Mount Morgan for six years and the people of Mount Morgan were never satisfied that they weren’t in Capricornia. They were courteous, they were polite and all that

sort of thing, but the underlying theme was, “We are part of the Rockhampton community”. And why wouldn’t they say that? They are 39 kilometres from Rockhampton. And Rockhampton is the great supermarket city in the - the hub of agricultural industry, the capital and so on. It’s the main service area for government
5 departments, state and federal, and people from Mount Morgan wouldn’t find it unusual to - in fact, they find it very attractive to see what’s happened at the major centre.

In addition to that, while I was a member, I later talked the government into restoring
10 a road that followed an old train line from Mount Morgan down to a place called Kabra, near the Stanwell Power Station. And that’s a direct road straight down the north-western side of the hill, down to the Capricornia highway and into Rockhampton. It’s a much quicker road, much safer road. So, again, there is even greater resonance between Mount Morgan and Rockhampton. Now, if you were to
15 add Mount Morgan and the little wedge of Fitzroy, part B, if you had to connect that to the boundary, you can see there that there is 1429 in ’09, 1439 in 2012, and similarly with Mount Morgan 2075 and 2135 in 2012. That’s with 99,000 on the three and a half year out denominator and 93,050 on the current one, again, comfortably within

20 Then you come to Flynn, which stands between Capricornia and Hinkler, and it is then taken that you then added North Bundaberg. If you take out Biggenden, which was proposed to go into Flynn, and you transfer Mount Morgan and that part of Fitzroy, you get 89,348 for the February 2009 benchmark and 96,399 for the July
25 2012 benchmark, and that’s within 770 votes in the first instance and 380 votes in the second of the Commission’s own figures. So I think you can see, that way, it is possible, without affecting the rest of the state and with four minor shuffles, to leave the old Hinkler electorate roughly the same as was with minimum disruption, and also in the certain knowledge that you reinforced the community of interest around
30 Biggenden and Childers and, to a lesser extent, Woocoo, that the means of communication and travel which is one I have nominated when I referred to the Isis Highway, and physical features, the river and Paradise Sands all make a lot of sense to keep those together.

35 Another one that occurs to me, which may sound a minor point, but putting that bulbous section into a Hervey Bay sphere of influence, taking that piece out and putting it in Wide Bay, you virtually put the whole Maryborough Hervey Bay Road, which I might tell you is a road of the utmost intention because of its busyness, you
40 put nearly the whole of that into Wide Bay and very little of it into Hervey Bay, the area that it serves. I think for that reason, using the travel denominator that guides you, you can see there are a lot of good reasons to leave Hinkler largely the way it was. So gentlemen, that is, essentially my submission.

45 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr Neville, do any members of the Commission have any questions?

MS BRIGHT: If I could just – please, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MS BRIGHT: Good morning. Anne Bright.

5 MR NEVILLE MP: Is that you, Ms Bright, is it?

MS BRIGHT: Yes, it is, Mr Neville. Good morning.

MR NEVILLE MP: Yes.

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MS BRIGHT: I would just like you to share with us further; the community of interest that you just shared for Biggenden, do you see it – and thank you very much for your coloured map, we were able to follow your explanations very, very clearly and easily – do you feel that there is a bigger community of interest for the residents of North Bundaberg with south Bundaberg versus that of Biggenden, just as a general statement?

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MR NEVILLE MP: Look, Ms Bright, I can see that the dividing of any city – I know you have this problem in Cairns - - -

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MS BRIGHT: Yes.

MR NEVILLE MP: - - - Dawson going into Herbert. Look, I understand the difficulty of it. I just think, if you look at the two compromises, one against the other, the North Bundaberg option, a self-contained suburb and community servicing the north side of the river against three major areas on the southern side of the river, I think the disruption is far less in that case than it would be if those other areas were chosen to be deleted.

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30 MS BRIGHT: Thank you, Mr Neville.

MR NEVILLE MP: Thank you, Ms Bright.

35 THE CHAIRPERSON: Any other questions? No. Thank you very much, Mr Neville.

MR NEVILLE MP: Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you for the trouble you have gone to to allow me to make my presentation.

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: Not at all.

MR NEVILLE MP: Thanks.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Not at all. Thank you.

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MR KILLESTEYN: Goodbye, thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I think Ms Waters – is Ms Waters present?

MRS WATERS: Mrs Waters.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mrs Waters? Yes, thank you. Would you like to come forward, Mrs Waters? It's Mrs Gladys Waters, is it?

MRS WATERS: Yes.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mrs Waters. Yes, we have your written submission. What would you like to say?

MRS WATERS: Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and their ancestors. I would like to thank the
15 Commissioners for listening to my presentation today. Before I start in my presentation, I need to table the following question. Can the Commissioners tell me why the Australian Electoral Commission is proposing to use the name "Wright" after it was rejected in 2006 due to public reaction, please.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, I'm only speaking for myself. It seems that Ms Judith Wright was a very eminent Australian, as was Mr Waters, and the fact - to be perfectly frank, the fact that Ms Wright shared a surname with somebody who was disgraced is no valid reason, in my mind, for not naming the electorate after her.

25 MRS WATERS: Thank you. My husband, Len, did not have the opportunities that Judith Wright had. He had to work had to become a fighter pilot. Plus, the 1946 Labor government did not even answer his letters when he applied for a pilot's licence for the taxi service from Brisbane, Goondiwindi, St George and Cunnamulla when he was discharged from the Air Force. Len would have had a much better life
30 if he could have had the opportunities to use his flying skills instead of being a manual labourer, fencing, doing road work, repairs and shearing. After the war, Len was rejected by whites and blacks in his community as he aspired to better himself and wanted to continue his career as a pilot but was denied these ambitions because of funding and support from the government.

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Aboriginals refer to Len as a white's lackey because of his war service and for wearing the uniform and rising to where he did in the Air Force. In recent years, Len was being honoured with a monument at Mildura War Museum but it was refused by the local Aboriginals in Wentworth, as they said the monument was not to be erected on their land at Lake Victoria. When Len's life was being researched for a film, one film producer stated that Australians won't be interested in buying seats to see a black fellas life story and the project was abandoned. I was married to Len for 47 and a half years when he died and I saw first-hand how the rejection by the whites and the blacks had on his life. I believe this is the right to recognise Lenny's contribution to the Australian people when his Aboriginality was denied. I do beg and hope that the name Waters can be changed for the electoral seat.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mrs Waters. Do any Members of the Commission have any questions?

MS BRIGHT: No.

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THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Mrs Waters. We're grateful for your attendance. Julia Lang.

MS LANG: I'm speaking on behalf of doctor – of David Hannah from Albany in Western Australia. He's asked for me to speak on his behalf today. I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and their ancestors. Dr Hannah's objection to the proposed name of the new Queensland electoral redistribution seat was tabled and he actually asked for that to be read out today. If there's any objections for me to actually read it out - - -

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THE CHAIRPERSON: No.

MS LANG: - - - because I know you actually have read it. I don't need to read that out. I've got other submissions for other people to table.

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THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, that's fine. You go ahead.

MS LANG:

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I have learned, with considerable disappointment, that the name for the new electoral redistribution seat is proposed as Wright, after the celebrated Queensland poet, Judith Wright. I'm informed also that the alternative submissions were received, recommending that the seat be named Waters, after Warrant Officer Len Waters, RAAF. Whilst the proposal of Judith Wright as eponym for the new seat has much to recommend it, I believe, sincerely, that the name Waters is a more appropriate and rightful choice on the basis of our Australian sense of egalitarianism. The necessity for lasting recognition of historic national achievements, the reconciliation process and the foregrounding of the name as an inspirational role model for future generations.

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Undoubtedly, Judith Wright was a worthy Australian, and selection of her name as a well-recognised and honoured Australian poet is yet another corrective to the cultural cringe which has tended to devalue Australian literary achievements. Despite the regression and cultural constraints of the past, however, in her own lifetime, Judith Wright enjoyed decades of recognition in the widespread publication and favourable criticism of her work. She received numerous honours including doctorates from prestigious Australian universities and does not need, and I believe would not want, an additional posthumous honour as eponym for a new electoral seat, particularly at the expense of the alternative name, Waters.

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Indeed, there is perhaps unsurprising irony that, as a defender of Aboriginal rights and egalitarianism, her name should be chosen in preference to that of an Aborigine. While we pride ourselves on equality, a particular Australian characteristic, Judith Wright belonged to a dominant white culture and enjoyed the comparative privilege associated with it. Len Waters, on the other hand, was a dirt poor Aborigine, surviving the depression with nothing to sustain him but a dream that one day he would enjoy the freedom of opportunity in the air denied as a bush labourer on the land.

Len Waters lived in and personified aspects of unique Australian culture and geographical landscape that informed Judith Wright's poetry. In the 1940s, however, while Wright was at home composing poetry about the war, Waters was overseas actually fighting it. Given the prejudice, your ignorance of Australian military authorities regarding the capabilities of Aboriginal fighting men, any combat service by an Aboriginal person in that era is worthy of our nation's gratitude and awareness. Waters, significantly, did not fight his country's battles with a rifle and bayonet, his double-edged war for democracy and dignity of his own race was fought in the air at the controls of one of the most sophisticated fighter aircrafts in the RAAF Infantry.

Unlike Wright, his efforts contributed little at this time to the reversal of cultural literary cringe. The only writing Waters did was in his operational flight log, recording the heady triumphs and bitter tragedies of 95 operational sorties. While, as a poet, Wright teased at the nature of Australian identity, Waters lived his dream as a pilot in harsh, uncompromising circumstances as he sought out lethally defended Japanese bases and strafed them at repeated and considerable risk to his own life. Unlike Wright at the end of the war, he did not continue a celebrated existence as a noteworthy Australian and to enjoy the rewards of his efforts. With the end of his country's necessity, his dream of flight was finished. Warrant Officer Len Waters returned to the Queensland bush to be rewarded with the right to shut his mouth about what he aspired to and go back to labouring.

While it is true that after his death Waters received belated recognition from a grateful but still largely ignorant nation, I must point out to you that while I have long been aware of the prominence of Judith Wright, I had no knowledge whatsoever of Len Waters' existence or his magnificent achievement as a combat fighter pilot until comparatively recent times, and then only through the groundbreaking work of Dr Robert Hall. More pointedly, I received additional biographical information, not from an Australian source but from a well-known and now retired Afro-American colonel of the USAs Air Force. Accordingly, I believe that the naming of the new electoral seat after Len Waters will go far in redressing a debt of honour and in educating the Australian public now and for posterity.

As a fighter pilot, one of Australia's elite service personnel, Waters defended democracy and naming the electorate after him would be an appropriate way

of recognising the fact. Furthermore, it would honour the largely unsung heroes of Australian pilots who fought a nasty, demoralising war, mopping up Japanese opposition left in the wake of General McArthur's well publicised achievements in the south-west Pacific theatre. On the home front, it is highly appropriate that the marginalisation and mistreatment of Aboriginals was to become a topic of Judith Wright's poetry and one of her many social concerns. It is a sad irony that her name as a member of the privileged middle class white society and not that of a working class Aborigine, Len Waters, was selected for commemoration as eponym for the new electorate.

It is irony which I believed Wright, a great lady and champion of reconciliation and Aboriginal land right, would not look upon with favour. It is also more disappointing in the light of well deserved celebrity she attracted in her own life while Waters laboured in obscurity under the Queensland sun. The fighter pilot who flew 95 combat missions, some of them as flight leader, has returned, post-war, to work as a bush labourer amongst men who knew nothing of his struggle to realise a dream which, even now, may serve as an inspiration to ordinary Australians. If only it is sufficiently publicised, honoured, reinforced and retold. As a former and rather inept recreational pilot, I stand in awe of Waters' capacity to rise above his circumstances and qualify to serve his country in a time of war in the cockpit of a combat fighter aircraft.

In one sense, he stands as an enduring symbol of what the human spirit can achieve in the face of adversity. In another sense, however, his life story symbolises not only the achievement of a dream but it also –

sorry, I can't even think of that word, sorry –

and denial, a denial which too many Aboriginal people of his day had to endure because of the colour of their skin and the ignorance of the dominant culture in which they tried to function and succeed. Happily, circumstances for Aboriginal people have improved since the day when Len Waters self-educated himself into the elite of the Australian Air Force. Today we speak in here of reconciliation and moving on and looking to the future. I can think of no more magnanimous or healing gesture of reconciliation than to rethink and rename the new electorate as Waters.

As the members of the electorate so-named, exercise their precious right to vote, they will do so in commemoration of the brave and generally unsung men of the RAAF, who fought for democracy on the Australian doorstep over half a century ago. In addition, a man who stands as an inviting symbol of Aboriginal self-motivation, courage and determination, would be enduringly honoured and, with him, the Aboriginal race he proudly represented in battle. While Aboriginal people may now enjoy opportunities that Len Waters could barely have imagined as a young man, the fact remains that in today's Australia, too many young Australians, whether of Aboriginal or European descent, lack the

direction and sense of purpose that inspire many of their forebears. In this sense, Len Waters stands as a heroic example and inspiration.

5 *As a teacher, it disappoints me that, while my students may very quickly
acquaint themselves with Judith White, none of them have heard of Len Waters
or are likely to unless a concentrated effort is made to inform them. I have
watched the faces of white teenagers change and react with surprise and
credibility reflection when they learn of this remarkable man. Time and again
10 his story, as an example in the classroom, has been used successfully to break
down negative stereotypes about Aboriginal people, a process which goes some
distance to the reconciliation most Australians of goodwill support. More than
this, however, Waters' story transcends racial parameters and stands as an
inspiration to young people, white or black, prepared to adopt the ambitious
can-do attitude which was exemplified in his struggle to realise his dream.*

15 *From the race who designed the unique flying wing we can call the boomerang,
an artefact which endures as one of our proud national symbols, here is a quiet
but proud man, the first of the First Australians to take to the air as a combat
pilot to defend his nation and the right of his people to be recognised as an
20 Australian citizen. Waters lived by and risked his life for the democratic
principle of egalitarianism and fairness that we pre-date our nation's identity
upon. In the light of his superlative achievements, his marginalisation in the
post-war years and all that he symbolises in terms of multi-faceted Australian
stories of sacrifice, reconciliation and inspiration for the future, I respectfully
25 urge each of you to reconsider and select the name Waters as a new electoral
seat.*

30 *The principles of the fair go, which Judith Wright stood for, as a highly
respective Australian poet would therefore be honoured in this process. Very
sincerely, David Hannah, English teacher.*

Thank you for the time.

35 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Ms Lang. Any questions? Thank
you very much.

MS LANG: Okay then.

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: Is Mr Buchan, who indicated here – thank you, Mr
Buchan.

MS LANG: I've got several others as well,

45 THE CHAIRPERSON: I'm sorry, Ms Lang, did you say everything you wanted to
say? Did you want to say something on behalf of - - -

MS LANG: Yes, I've got – I've got to speak I can do that all in one go, if you like.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes. I'm sorry, I misunderstood the position.

5

MS LANG: No, that's okay. I've been asked to speak on behalf of Mr Howard Hobbs - - -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

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MS LANG: - - - the Member of Warrego, the Shadow Minister for Local Government and Australian and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

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To whom it may concern. I've been approached to support the naming of the proposed new Queensland division in the federal redistribution of 2009 as Waters and I am happy to do so. Warrant Officer Leonard Victor Waters is remembered as the only known Aboriginal fighter pilot to serve in World War II. An 18 year old sheriff from Nindigully, Queensland, he joined the RAAF on 24 August 1942 as a flight mechanic. He applied, and was accepted for pilot training at Narrandera, then Uranquinty, New South Wales, from where he graduated as a pilot. He attained the rank of Sergeant on 1 July 1944 before being posted to the 78th Squadron in November 1944.

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As a member of the 78 Squadron, based at Noemfoor in the Netherlands, New Guinea, Morotai, Tarakan, he conducted 95 ground attacks and five sweeps over Japanese held positions in New Guinea and the Dutch East Indies, Indonesia, during late 1944 and 1945. Len was promoted to flight sergeant on 1 January 1945 and continued to undertake missions until 6 August 1945, the day Hiroshima was bombed. Before discharge from the RAAF on 18 January 1946, he was promoted to warrant officer, the highest rank for non-commissioned officers. Len Waters was an outstanding Queensland and he is a heroic Australian. His achievements are an inspiration to others. Len believed that if you wanted to achieve your goals, you had to go out and make them. The naming of the proposed new Queensland division as Waters would be a fitting legacy and a fine tribute to his honour. I ask this proposal be given due consideration. Yours faithfully, Howard Hobbs, MP, Member for Warrego.

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THE CHAIRPERSON: Now, I believe, also, you wanted to speak on behalf of Richard Sims, is that right?

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MS LANG: Yes, as well as myself. I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and their ancestors, and I would also like to thank the Commission and panel today for listening to my family's stories. I feel that my family and friends have been lobbying for my father's recognition to bureaucratic deaf ears - I apologise. It appears that the Australian Electoral Commission had made its decision for naming the new Federal Electoral Division for

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Queensland prior to the initial invitation for proposed names back in May. When the Australian Electoral Commission failed with the name Wright back in 2006 they seemed more determined to use the name Wright in Queensland. However, the name Wright still has negative connotations with Queenslanders and it should not be offered as a name for the Federal Electoral Division for Queensland.

Queenslanders find the name Wright is more synonymous with Keith Wright, the disgraced Labor politician, than with the poet Judith Wright. When I was at Inala State High I felt I knew Judith Wright intimately because we studied her life, especially growing up in the New England tableland. And the reason why I say I feel I know her intimately - this is my school book, and I actually have quite a few notations in my school book and dates of when I studied her. So I knew her life story, and I actually - when she wrote about the Hunter, the Macintyre, Charleville, I knew those areas because I got to see them with my mum and my dad. So I know her life story, I know that she had a very privileged background, and she was able to choose her career. Judith Wright definitely represented the privileged parts of Australian society in the '40s and '50s.

Judith Wright's life was eons away from my father's, who spent his early years in an Aboriginal mission before his family moved to Nindigully. Dad's family attended a one-teacher school in Nindigully, and when my dad's family moved from that school, that school actually closed down because they had nine out of their 14 students at that school. So it shows his sort of background. Dad told his family that he always wanted to fly and he was given the opportunity during the war. My father fought for his country even though he wasn't permitted to vote, and his service records show that he was a British subject, not an Australian. After the war my dad was shunned by his community because he didn't fit back into the mould of being an uneducated Aboriginal. Dad wanted to continue flying and sought to obtain a license and financial assistance from the 1946 Labor Government.

When I was researching my dad's achievements during his service I realised that he was very determined to be that pilot. The comments on his final test showed his determination on reaching his goal to be a pilot, and a damn fine one at that. Two of the comments I have noted is:

This pilot started the course very unconfident but since has worked very hard in improving his flying considerably.

And the second one was:

This pilot is of a very quiet manner and very determined to fly. At no time did he display signs of overconfidence, completed his court through sheer determination and hard work. He was slow to absorb instructions at first, although no sequence proved too difficult for him. His behaviour has been very satisfactory during the course.

I know my dad enjoyed his service in the Air Force. He always hoped for the recognition for being the only Aboriginal fighter pilot in the RAAF after the recognition in 1986 when he was told that he was the only Aboriginal fighter pilot during the war. I believe the time is right for his loyalty to be recognised by the country that abandoned him in 1946 when he was discharged from the Air Force and had to resume work as a manual labourer. My dad didn't stop supporting the Labor Party and was more staunch and a Labor Party supporter until his death in 1993. The current Labor Government has the opportunity to apologise for their 1946 party members and recognise my father's contribution during the Second World War where he fought for his country honourably even though he was not recognised as an Australian citizen.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. And did you wish to conclude via some personal submission, Ms Lang?

MS LANG: Well, that was my submission, and it's just that I've been asked to put two more through if I've got time to do that.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MS LANG: One is from Dick Sims, and the other one is from, actually, my brother. He sent it through to me late last night, so it's just a one page if you don't mind my reading that.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MS LANG:

I'm lodging an appeal in the naming of the new electoral seat in Queensland. I think that naming the seat Waters instead of Wright would not only be a great step for reconciliation, but the right thing to do. In no way would I like to diminish the standing or contribution to her art made by Ms Wright. My father was also an artist. He carved emu eggs, taught to him by the elders on the mission. My father has been recognised not as an emu egg carver, nor has he been recognised for a good man. My father has received recognition for his bravery and extraordinary achievement that he, as an Aboriginal person, became a fighter pilot in the 1940s. Comparing the achievements of Judith Wright to Len Waters is akin to comparing apples to oranges.

Ms Wright did use a pen and my father did use a sword, the sword of necessity. It was also a sword of choice. A sword taken up in defence of our country and people. On all occasions the pen is not mightier than the sword when you are defending your country. My father was a proud, honourable and fair man who believed in a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. He had great empathy for those who were not so fortunate. "Fair" was definitely not a description of the treatment of Aboriginal people in our country in the 1940s. He dared to dream, and through hard work and seizing of the opportunities, he helped

create his dreams come true. I think naming the electorate Waters would certainly be a great honour for a brave man.

5 *His legacy being one of hope, a legacy that dreams do come true. Symbolism is powerful, and to be recognised in such a symbolic way would, I am sure, be an inspiration to so many young Aboriginal kids across the country. Thank you for the opportunity to present my case in relation to naming of the new federal electorate. Yours sincerely, Don Waters.*

10 And the last one I've got is from Mr Richard Sims. He knew my dad. The subject is Supporting for the objection by Julia Lang regarding the naming of the new Queensland electorate Wright, after Judith Wright, an Australian poet, rather than naming the electorate Waters, after Julia's father, Len Waters, an Australian Army RAAF Aboriginal fighter pilot:

15 *Len flew his Kittyhawk Fighter on 95 operation missions in defence of Australia. The purpose of this address is to highlight the point I have asked the Commission to address concerning the written objection by Julia Lang, Len Waters' daughter, and my written comment on that objection to the intended*
20 *naming of the new Queensland Federal Electorate, Wright, after the Australian poet Judith Wright. Judith Wright is certainly a notable Australian poet and worthy of significant recognition, but in my view a more suitable accolade would be something closer to academia than a political electorate bearing her name.*

25 *There appears to be no logical link to naming a political electorate after a poet. Indeed, there appears to be considerable public uncertainty as to which Wright the accolade is intended to commemorate. On the other hand, Len Waters' claim to having a Queensland electorate commemorate his name and*
30 *deeds is very strong. A political electorate is a strong image of a democratic system. Len Waters volunteered his wartime services and risked his life on 95 occasions, flying his Kittyhawk Fighter in wartime in defence of our democratic system at a time when our democratic system denied him the vote. He was*
35 *much bigger and politically generous than our democratic system that he fought to defend. We, the Australian people, owe him a debt of gratitude and it is time we repaid it in recognising his ultimate faith in our democracy by naming the new Queensland electorate after this true Australian Aboriginal*
hero.

40 *His Aboriginality is another strong reason to award him the honour in question. Len Waters is far and away the most recognised and highly regarded*
wartime hero of the Queensland and Australia wide indigenous people. To
now reward Len, and compliment the indigenous people across Australia and
45 *across Queensland and Australia by the memory of his name in calling the new electorate after him, would surely add greatly to the Aboriginal respect for the*
justice of our political system. I wish to point out that, currently, there is no federal electorate in Queensland honouring a Queenslander of Aboriginal

origin. This is a mission that you have a chance to rectify. The new electorate is a Queensland electorate and Len Waters was a lifelong Queensland man. While Len was born in an Aboriginal community in northern New South Wales, he grew up and was educated in Nindigully, near St George, in Queensland. He spent the rest of his life living and working in Queensland, including raising his family in Inala over a period of 30 years.

He only left Queensland for military service and occasional shearing jobs in New South Wales and Victoria. By comparison, while Judith Wright did spend 20 years of her life living in Brisbane, she was born in New South Wales, went to school in the New England district of New South Wales and university in Sydney. She spent the large 30 years of her life in Braidwood, in southern New South Wales. Again, by comparison, Len has extensive family and relatives living in southern Queensland and in Brisbane. His widow, Gladys, who was still living in Inala has moved to Middle Park. Len is buried in St George and he was a true son of Queensland. Apart from piloting skills, Len had other little-known immense skills and achievements, many of which were unfulfilled because of lack of opportunity within Australian Aboriginal communities.

These omissions, I believe, add greatly to the debt of the gratitude owed to Len and the Australian indigenous community, which could be repaid by your decision. During his RAAF 78 Squadron Service in flying operation missions, the American military organised an inter-service Australian military versus American military boxing competition. Len won the welterweight championship. His wife has a photo of Len wearing his championship belt. I later flew one of Len's 78 Squadron mates, Flight Lieutenant Robert Crawford, who watched the fight. Bob Crawford told me his squadron mates were surprised when Len told them he had entered the competition and was doubly surprised when he knocked out the Afro-American professional boxer to win the title.

They had no idea Len had immense boxing skills and he had very little chance to train during the previous six months, while flying missions against the Japanese. Had the opportunities been available to Len in civilian life, he may well have held the Australian welterweight championship. Len did fly an aircraft once since his war time service. I had the honour of flying with Len in a former United States Navy SNJ5 aircraft, the American equivalent of the Australian Wirraway, in which Len trained to gain his RAAF wings. Len flew the aircraft in the skies around Camden, New South Wales for an hour and a half when he had not flown another aircraft for 50 years. He flew with immaculate precision and accuracy, performing the full range of aerobatic manoeuvres to an unbelievable polished standard. After we landed, I hugged Len and he had a tear in his eye and so did I.

If ever there was a natural pilot, it was Len Waters. I would not care to have been a Japanese fighter pilot if Len was on his tail. Without going into detail, Len gave my wife, Jeanette, a sculpture, which he had created. Had he had the

5 opportunity to encourage and train, he may have well been the Australian
Rodin. Additionally, Gladys has a tape of Len singing in a Brisbane state-wide
radio competition, which he won. He sang like Perry Como. Lastly, I wish to
comment that if the people of Queensland were aware of Len's full range of
skills, as well as his war time record, I believe they would bring the house
down to claim the honour in question for him and his family. Please do not fail
him when the opportunity to justify a reward is at hand. I believe there will be
plenty of occasions in the future to more appropriately honour Judith Wright.
Signed, Richard Sims and Jeanette Sims.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Ms Lang.

MS LANG: Thank you for the time.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Mr Buchan?

MR BUCHAN: Good morning, everybody. My name's Robert Buchan, I live in St
George, in south-west Queensland. I've been there since 1948 and I've been in
business with my family since 1957. I've no great formal education but I – I was
20 sent away to school but decided not to stay. I went home and went to work instead.
I've been involved with many organisations throughout my life, not for any personal
gain. I've been elected to council at St George four times. The last term was 2004 to
2008 as Mayor of the Balonne Shire. I just mention that to give you a bit of my
history, that's all, madam and sirs.

25 My involvement in relation to Judith Wright is she's a very fine person. She's been,
I believe, well recognised and I have nothing against her. I'm not talking against her.
My involvement with Mr Waters is I've never met him. I never met him but I knew
his brother for more than 50 years. I know his brother, he is still in St George with
30 his family, and I've known for Mrs Waters for many years. A number of years ago,
and I had heard of squadron leader John F. Jackson, of Jackson Airport in Port
Moresby. He was a St George person who left and was the first CO of 75 Squadron.
Finally, he was killed near Moresby and nothing had been done to recognise him and
Mr Waters.

35 I was involved, as a matter of fact I built, a memorial to recognise both Mr Jackson
and Mr Waters in St George. It was opened in 2003 and it's well recognised and
well received in the community. Len Waters, I believe, was a fine Australian and, as
previous speakers and writers have said, he could have stayed at home. He wasn't
40 even recognised as an Australian citizen till 1967 but he elected to get up and do
something for his country and I think you'd have to agree that he did it pretty well.
A fighter pilot is top gun. They've even made movies about that, as you know, and
all that sort of stuff. I, sort of, look around and think what could have been in
relation to both Mr Jackson and Mr Waters. I look around at some of the Aboriginal
45 people that probably need a bit of guidance.

The only people who seemed to get any great credit - and this is not only Aboriginal people, non-Aboriginal people – are the sporting heroes. Some of them seem to go on for a long time but some of the others seem to lose direction, and that’s also Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. I’ve always tried to use Mr Waters, since
5 I’ve known about him, as a bit of a leader to people. Now, someone – I’ve even – I was involved in getting some young fella arrested for stealing. He threw a bit of stuff on the ground one day and when I chided him about that, he told me he was “black,” that was the words he used, and he wasn’t as tidy as I was. I said, “Don’t use that as an excuse, mate.” It turned out that the piece he’d thrown on the ground
10 was a cover of a pair of crescent pliers he’d stolen from a hardware store. So he got into trouble over that, and rightly so.

We need someone as a bit of a guiding light to a lot of these people, and that’s where I come from in that I believe that when people say they can’t do that, I say, “Well,
15 look what this man did in 1944 and 1945. Don’t come and say you can’t do something. You just need the will and the internal fortitude to get up and have a go.” That’s what I believe that Mr Waters did, and I believe he could be used, should be used, more widely as a role model as we see that people like Mr Noel Pearson tries to do instead of what happened to him. If you’re a reader of American history, you
20 might have heard of a man named Ira Hayes. Ira Hayes was a Pima Indian from out of Phoenix and he went to war as a marine and he was one of the ones at Iwo Jima when it was taken.

He’s one of the ones that’s immortalised and they’ve made the statue holding the flag
25 up on Iwo Jima. He was so well-feted then, that the Americans took him home and took him round and sold war bonds and everything and then they did the same as they did with Len Waters, they just threw him out, discarded him, like a piece of dirty rag. He died, actually drowned, in a few inches of water, you know, drunk and all that sort of stuff. They could’ve done something better with him. I believe that
30 after World War II, with what was happening with flying, that a lot of the people, and I know in Mr Jackson’s case, he survived, he had business. He had a GMH garage, he had properties. He would have stayed home and run them, as his brother did, who stayed and looked after the family firms while Jackson and his two brothers went and fought in World War II.

35 As a matter of fact, Jackson’s younger brother took over 75 Squadron after he was killed. I believe that people like Len Waters should have been picked up for his flying ability and utilised in the new – the flying things that were happening then but it didn’t happen. I think the only reason it didn’t happen was because he was
40 discarded the same way Ira Hayes was. And not only for Mr Waters, madam and sirs, I believe that, as I’ve just said, this would be a great recognition of what can be done and he would be a great role model for Aboriginal people for now and in the future to say, “Well, look what this bloke did and why don’t we get off our different coloured behinds and do something about it ourselves”, and that’s where I come
45 from.

And as I say, I've no truck against Ms Wright, I never met Mr Waters. I've known the Waters family for more than 50 years and I believe it would be great if we could have this electorate changed to Waters to represent not only him, but all the people he served with. And I believe that he would be supporting it, just as General
5 Cosgrove did in East Timor when he got the highest award recently, he would accept it not for himself but for himself and all of his fellow people that served up there. That's about what my submission is, and I've come here so I could present it. I'd rather eyeball you than write something. I believe that I can speak a bit better than I can write - that's probably the wrong word to use, write. And I just thought I wanted
10 to come here. I've had other business reasons to be here. I wanted to come here and to speak to you directly, and if you've got any questions I will try and answer them for you.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you Mr Buchan. Any questions?

MR KILLESTEYN: Just a comment, Mr Buchan, and also to Ms Waters and Ms Lang. Look, it's perhaps unfortunate that the issue of the naming of the new seat has at least to a certain extent come down to a debate between the merits of Judith
20 Wright and Mr Waters. I know that wasn't your proposition but - - -

MR BUCHAN: No.

MR KILLESTEYN: - - - some of the debate has been around contrasting merits. Both were fine Australians. Both made significant contributions to Australia in
25 different ways, and the selection of one and not the other, in my view, in no way diminishes the contribution of the other. Nor does it mean that the matter is forever resolved, just as, at the time, Judith Wright's name was not disposed of permanently by the Augmented Committee's decision back in 2006. And that's the only
30 observation I'd make at this point.

MR BUCHAN: I'd agree with you on all those comments. I think the only reason it was knocked back before was because the electorate was up where the other Mr
Wright operated, and I see no - just because your name is Wright or Smith or Brown or something and someone else with that name has done something wrong, that
35 shouldn't - I think it was more the geographical thing. My personal opinion, madam and sirs, for the changing of it last time, if it had been out at Whoop Whoop somewhere then there was no reason why it couldn't have been Wright then. It was just, it was right up there where Mr Keith Wright lived. And I have no problems with Judith Wright, but I just felt it'd be good timing now to see Mr Waters
40 recognised for the reasons I have explained, both for him and his achievements, and for the people of Aboriginal ancestry. I think it would be a great, genuine, real reconciliation process and it might give some of them a bit of guidance, a bit of vision, and a bit of get up and go, as well. Thank you, very much.

45 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Mr Buchan.

MS LANG: Can I just make a comment in response to - - -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, you'd like to say something else?

MS LANG: Just one comment.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, please.

MS LANG: I acknowledge that Judith Wright's name was tabled back in 2006 and it was rejected because of the public outcry, but, as I said, I studied her - I actually studied her for five years at high school and I've always put her name more with the
10 New England area from where she came from, where her family lived, and because she also lived quite a long time around Braidwood.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Around where?

15 MS LANG: Braidwood, just near the ACT. And so it's just that when you research someone and you know someone intimately - I would have thought an electorate in New South Wales would have been more appropriate for her name, because they would, then, recognise it. They would support it more readily than a Queenslander. And that was the only reason why I supported my mum in the opposition of her name
20 and recommending my own father's name for the redistribution seat.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Ms Lang. I suppose you'd also say that, following on from what Mr Killesteyn said, that if divisions could be only named after deceased persons, nobody is going to be hurt that they were left out. All right.
25 Mr Murdoch.

MR MURDOCH: Yes, good morning. Is the custom here to stand or sit?

30 THE CHAIRPERSON: I beg your pardon?

MR MURDOCH: Stand or sit?

THE CHAIRPERSON: Whatever you prefer.

35 MR MURDOCH: I'll sit, if I may.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, certainly.

40 MR MURDOCH: Could I take as read the written submission that my wife and I submitted. I was keen to augment what we said about the racing industry, the thoroughbred horseracing industry. In the two areas to be removed from the Lilley electorate there are approximately 60 thoroughbred racehorse trainers who have in the order of 150 employees, and an indefinite number of people who are in service industries. The horse population fluctuates between 500 and 600. The particular
45 significance is that, currently, all of the industry in Brisbane is in the one federal electorate, namely, Lilley. Under the proposed redistribution the whole of the racing area will be removed from Lilley, but to compound our aggravation with it, the

industry will be split in half, with the Deagon area, which is part of Sandgate/Shorncliffe, going to Petrie at the north, and with the Hendra/Eagle Farm area going into Brisbane.

5 Racing has had a long tradition of taking federal issues up through whoever the federal member for Lilley might be. The current member has been very effective in that role, but in fairness, so, too, have predecessors of both political persuasions. The problem that we see for the future is that in the electorates that racing will be
10 parcelled into, there is little community of interest with thoroughbred horseracing, and our fear is that, particularly with the industry divided, we'll have great difficulty generating any sufficient interest with whoever the members might be from time to time. We're anxious not to lose the spokesperson. The high profile issue of recent years was the Equine Influenza crisis, where being able to deal with Federal
15 Government through the member for Lilley was very effective. Coming up, there are a number of issues that are likely to be current for several years.

One of them is the fact that we will need to campaign federal funding for Hendra Virus, which is the bat carried disease. The other is that, with the pressures being put on racing industry income through corporate bookmakers, the industry is proposing
20 to lobby the Federal Government for a number of legislative changes to protect the industry's income stream. So speaking personally, I'd urge that racing be considered in this complex exercise. I've had the support in my efforts from the Australian Trainers' Association. The ATA is a registered industrial organisation, and might I
25 tender copies of correspondence in support from the Queensland branch.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr Murdoch. Any questions? Well, thank you very much, Mr Murdoch.

MR MURDOCH: Thank you.

30 THE CHAIRPERSON: The last person of whom we have notice who wishes to speak is Mr Chisholm. Is Mr Chisholm there?

MR POWER: Mr Chisholm is unable to attend. My name is Linus Power, and I
35 work for the Labor Party and helped prepare their submissions.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry, could you spell your name, please?

MR POWER: Linus, L-i-n-u-s. Power, P-o-w-e-r.

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: I'm just wondering how long you were likely to be and whether we should have a break?

MR POWER: I could be very brief, Mr Chairperson.

45 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes. All right. Perhaps you can proceed.

MR POWER: Mr Chisholm sends his apology, unable to attend today, and he asked me to be present to be available for the Commission and also to put forward our position. We have little to add to what we've put forward in previous submissions, but I'd like to briefly run down the coast with some issues. We noticed that in
5 Leichhardt the - Kuranda was an issue that came up. People felt there were very strong economic and social connections with Kuranda with the rest of Cairns, it was different from the rest of the tablelands. We note that the Commission has a difficult problem in Herbert. The city of Townsville is obviously larger than one quota, which presents a difficult problem. We noticed the large number of submissions, and
10 we note that they are probably not informed of the difficult position that the Commission was put under.

We also note that the LNPs suggested subdividing of Charters Towers into two areas is probably not a good solution, but recognise that the Commission is left with a
15 difficult position there. Moving further down, we think that the Commission has made the right decision on the areas of Mount Morgan and Gracemere. The only contrasting argument to that is the one that's put forward by the Member for Hinkler. Just commenting on the Member for Hinkler. Those that follow the process note that he usually puts forward very well thought through and interesting proposals towards
20 the Commission, not that the ALP always agrees, but they usually are. In this case, I think, we were a little disappointed that the area of North Bundaberg to be suggested to be taken and separated from the area of Bundaberg is a poor one.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Perhaps I misunderstood that. That is a suggestion that
25 North Bundaberg be a sort of enclave, not physical removed from the electorate of which it's a part, is that right?

MR POWER: Well, the suggestion put forward by the Member for Hinkler was that
30 the eight CCDs that are remaining on the north bank of the river be put into Flynn. At the moment it's the correct decision to keep North Bundaberg in with the rest of Bundaberg in the division of Hinkler. For example, there are no hospitals in North Bundaberg, but there are three bridges - 2 road and one rail - and the three hospitals in Bundaberg are all on the south side, and they service the population of North
35 Bundaberg. There is our submission put that goes into great detail on it - which I will refrain from doing now - but to say that a community that relies on a hospital a few hundred metres away across the river is self-sufficient is a stretch, I think.

The north side is obviously something that has considerable angst because there was so much movement. We recognise that it is a difficult thing for the Commission.
40 We've looked in previous submissions that there tends to be funnels that push population and create movement, and we have made broad suggestions but I leave it to the Commission to resolve that difficult problem. I might just leave it there. If there's any questions that the panel have that need to be clarified from a Labor
45 position I'm available to - - -

THE CHAIRPERSON: No questions? No. Well, thank you very much.

MR POWER: Thank you very much for your time.

THE CHAIRPERSON: If there are no others persons who wish to put any oral
5 submissions to the Commission I think we'll close this session. Thank you very
much.

MATTER ADJOURNED at 11.30 am INDEFINITELY