



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Submission S34

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Dear Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission for suggestions on the current redistribution of federal electorates in Queensland. Like the recent redistribution of state electorates, the data suggests that population growth in the City of Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast Regional Council, City of Ipswich and City of Gold Coast and corresponding relative decline in population in Central Queensland and City of Brisbane will have a significant impact on the redrawing of electoral boundaries. This submission has not processed the numbers, as I have limited time to do that justice, however, will suggest changes that will be based around approximate numbers and community of interests and based on the projected enrolments. It will also seek to give suggestions on how to correct issues that exist with the current boundaries.

Introduction

Key issues with current boundaries

1. An ongoing issue with recent redistributions has been how outer suburbs around some regional cities are placed into electorates of other cities over 300 km away. Examples of this has been suburbs of Townsville in Dawson, suburbs of Mackay in Capricornia, suburbs of Bundaberg in Flynn and suburbs of Townsville and Cairns in Kennedy. While this has been unavoidable due to the population densities with some of these electorates, this redistribution offers an opportunity to correct some of these.
2. The towns of Murgon, Wondai and Kingaroy, all within 50 km of each other are in three separate rural electorates (Wide Bay, Flynn and Maranoa respectively). These three towns are in the same local government area and share a community of interest. This is an anomaly that should be attempted to correct.
3. The way Maranoa nearly encircles Groom and puts Kingaroy in the same electorate as Warwick, which means traversing Groom. While numerically necessary and these two areas do have shared interests and industry, it does appear untidy.
4. The two distinct halves of Wright in Scenic Rim and Lockyer Valley Regional Councils. There is no direct communication with these two halves and should be corrected in this redistribution.

Challenges

1. For many regional electorates to come into tolerance, it is likely that there is going to be movement of close to 15% or more electors from one electorate to another. This is also true for some of the Southeast Queensland electorates that are not in Greater Brisbane. This significant movement will need to be managed well to allay the anger that accompanied the Queensland State Redistribution earlier this year.
2. The increase in sizes of some electorates in Central and Southern rural Queensland to accommodate population growth in Southeast Queensland, if not reasonably communicated, will only lead to perceptions of disenfranchisement that many in regional Australia already feel.

Opportunities

1. The three northern electorates of Leichhardt, Kennedy and Herbert based on projected enrolments are all in quota, albeit all slightly under the average. While this may give a reason to not change electorates in north Queensland, especially with the local anger regarding the recent abolition of a state electorate, there is an opportunity to adjust boundaries around Townsville with positive flow on effects to Kennedy and Leichhardt. If the committee deems it appropriate, any additional electors can be sourced from the Townsville suburbs in Dawson and use these to adjust boundaries with the northern electorates to bring them either to average or above average quota. This will allow a better alignment of electors in their base cities. It will also limit significantly increasing the physical sizes of Kennedy or Leichhardt in the search of electors.

Suggestions

Electorates unchanged

<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Suggestion</i>	<i>General area of focus</i>
Bowman	Slightly below average quota. There is limited ability to expand without disrupting community of interest. Given Bowman is confined to Redlands City Council, no change is proposed.	Redland Bay City Council
Brisbane	Right on average quota. Unchanged	Inner north Brisbane City Council
Griffith	Slightly below average quota. Given Bonner to the east needs to expand, the only way Griffith can gain electors without crossing the Brisbane River is by incremental changes along Ipswich Road. Not worth changing.	Inner south Brisbane City Council
Moncrieff	Right on average quota. Unchanged	Urban central Gold Coast

Electorates with minor changes

<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Suggestion</i>	<i>General area of focus</i>
Herbert	Can remain unchanged. Opportunity exists to include more Townsville electors from Dawson and excess can be distributed across the other two North Queensland electorates to make enrolments closer to or slightly above average. To do this, remove all Townsville City Council suburbs south of Ross River from Dawson. This will allow these suburbs access to a MP not located in Mackay. The total number from this addition can be used to adjust boundaries of Kennedy and Leichhardt.	Townsville and Palm Island
Leichhardt	Can remain unchanged. Can absorb flow on excess from Herbert/Kennedy by moving to include Bentley Park.	Cairns and Cape York Peninsula
Kennedy	Can remain unchanged. Can absorb flow on excess as explained in Herbert.	Rural north and northwest Queensland
McPherson	Within tolerance but on the lower side. Can potentially gain the portions of Gold Coast City Council currently in Wright between the state border and Hinze Dam	Southern Gold Coast

Electorates with significant movement of electors

<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Suggestion</i>	<i>General area of focus</i>
Dawson	The loss of several thousand electors to Herbert plus at least 10000 electors to reach average enrolment necessitates a significant shift south into areas currently in Capricornia. All of Whitsunday Regional Council can be united into Dawson. In addition to this, much of the Mackay Regional Council can also be placed into a redrawn Dawson. Where the line is drawn will depend on if the committee wants to give priority to placing the Pioneer Valley or Bakers Creek/Ooralea into Dawson. It would be doubtful if areas in the south of Mackay Regional Council around Sarina would be able to be included into redrawn Dawson. If numbers allow it to be so, this should be considered.	Mackay, Whitsundays and Burdekin
Capricornia	Capricornia is already over 10000 electors below average before the losses suggested to Dawson and Maranoa. This means that Capricornia moves south to have Rockhampton being central to the electorate rather than being on the edge. Gains can only come from Flynn. Capricornia will need to gain the parts of Central Highlands Regional Council not absorbed by Maranoa, the balance of the Rockhampton Regional Council and the northern portions of Banana Shire Council around Biloela, Moura and Theodore. Should more electors need to be found, the rural areas of Gladstone Regional Council would be the best place to look.	Rockhampton, Isaac and Livingstone Council areas and adjacent environs as far as Sarina, Biloela and Blackwater
Flynn	Is now more or less abolished but there is still room for an electorate based on Gladstone however, population distributions get messy moving south. Does Flynn get redrawn as an electorate that is based on Gladstone but arcs to rural areas down through the Burnett where there is minimal community of interest or does it hug the coast? Both options are problematic as going down the coast will require a hard think about what happens in Bundaberg. Both centres are quite large, and the electorate will need to include the rural areas between them. There is also the parochial nature of the Hinkler name and electorate in Bundaberg. I suspect that Flynn may end up with Gladstone and North Burnett Regional Councils and parts of Bundaberg Regional Council. How far it encroaches on the Bundaberg urban area is for wiser heads than mine.	In current form, abolished. An electorate Gladstone to Bundaberg can be called Flynn to maintain relative current location.

Maranoa	<p>Maranoa is going to have to expand only because it has no other way to gain additional enrolments. 12000 to 15000 electors is a significant gain to make to get close to average enrolment when the electorate is already made up of only smaller communities. It is likely this electorate will have to remain at the lower end of quota range to compensate for its size. The two easiest options to gain a significant number of electors is to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Gain Central Highlands Regional Council in its entirety plus southern portions of Banana Shire Council around Taroom and portions of Toowoomba Regional Council b) Gain all of Toowoomba Regional Council (except the area that was in the former Toowoomba City Council) plus southern portions of Banana Shire Council around Taroom and portions of Central Highlands Regional Council towards Emerald and/or western portions of Isaac Regional Council around Clermont. <p>Both options will have a significant impact on Capricornia, Flynn and Groom. The second option is probably better. Maranoa is more traditionally a southern Queensland electorate that does look more to Warwick, Dalby and Toowoomba for business and communication. This move would unite the Darling Downs district into one electorate and probably has the larger pool of electors to draw from. It is also entirely probable that Emerald will need to be considered for inclusion given it is the main rural hub for areas in the north of the electorate. There is also the opportunity to unite the South Burnett Regional Council into the electorate if including Emerald is too problematic. This second option will also limit how far south Capricornia pushes. The one thing Maranoa should not do is cross the Great Dividing Range into the Lockyer and Fassifern Valleys as they do not have shared communities of interest.</p>	Rural southern and central Queensland/Darling Downs
Hinkler	<p>Leaves Bundaberg and is based on Fraser Coast Regional Council uniting Hervey Bay and Maryborough and southern districts of the North Burnett Regional Council around Gayndah and Biggenden. How close it gets to Bundaberg will depend on Flynn enrolments as Gladstone and Bundaberg urban areas combined contain a significant population. If Bundaberg is deemed too important to leave Hinkler, it runs the risk of Flynn totally encircling it and disrupting the community of interest unless Flynn is renamed Hinkler, Hinkler the new Wide Bay and a new name is given to an electorate between the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Moreton Bay City Council.</p>	Fraser Coast and adjacent Burnett region. Should Flynn be totally abolished, electorate based on Bundaberg/Gladstone could be called Hinkler and Fraser Coast electorate could be called Wide Bay.

Wide Bay	The loss of Maryborough from Wide Bay will mean Wide Bay moves south. Depending on how the committee redraws Maranoa with the inclusion of parts of Central Highlands and Toowoomba Regional Councils, there could be an opportunity to unite the South Burnett Regional Council into Wide Bay given the links to the Gympie Regional Council to the east. This would reduce the intrusion into the Sunshine Coast. Should there be need for further intrusion into the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, it would be best if it were restricted to the rural areas of the Mary Valley and not cross the Bruce Highway south of Cooroy. Nambour could be an option for inclusion but is far from ideal. Geographically, Wide Bay can also take in much of the sparsely populated portions in Somerset Regional Council roughly north of but not including Kilcoy. If this was to occur, Fairfax and Fisher would have to contract to the coastal strip.	Gympie Regional Council/Northern Sunshine Coast/South Burnett Regional Council
Groom	The loss of all but urban Toowoomba to Maranoa will mean that Groom will need to cross the range and take in the Lockyer Valley Regional Council from Wright. This will take a significant number of electors out of Wright which it needs to do. The Lockyer Valley retains strong community of interest with Toowoomba. This change will also remove the awkward arrangement of Wright.	Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley
Blair	By necessity, a significant reduction in enrolment is required here. Blair should retreat and be essentially the 'old Ipswich' electorate (with Oxley being the 'new Ipswich' electorate). The older Ipswich suburbs are unlikely to be sufficient to make a stand-alone electorate and so should continue up the Brisbane Valley Highway until quota is met. I suspect this will occur around Fernvale/Lowood. What remains of the current Blair is likely to be transferred to the electorate that is based on Kilcoy and Beerwah, which I will propose to be Longman or to supplement electors in Groom.	Ipswich Central and adjacent Brisbane Valley
Wright	The loss of Lockyer Valley Regional Council will go a long way to returning Wright to be within tolerance. With the growth rate in the Scenic Rim Regional Council and adjacent developments in Ipswich and Logan City Councils, this should be the electorate that absorbs the overflow from these areas. Portions of the Gold Coast City Council should also be removed and used to increase the enrolment of McPherson and realign Fadden and Forde.	Scenic Rim Regional Council and rural Logan City Council
Fadden	Realign from north south to east west. Generally, south of the Coomera River and include Maudsland, Guanaba, Mt. Nathan and Clagiraba. It may need to retain Coomera but not Pimpama.	Coomera, Helensvale, Oxenford and adjacent suburbs

Forde	Lose all parts of Logan City Council and be based on both sides of the Pacific Motorway generally between the Albert and Coomera Rivers. Predominantly Pimpama and Ormeau with potentially Albert River Valley south of Beenleigh.	Northern Gold Coast City Council/Pimpama and Ormeau.
Rankin	Moves south to incorporate parts of current Forde around Beenleigh and Logan City Council bounded by Pacific Motorway, Compton Road, LGA boundary and the standard gauge rail line. It should lose its electors from Brisbane City Council.	Urban Logan City Council
Bonner	Only way to expand Bonner is south into current Rankin and Moreton. It would make sense to keep Bonner as much as possible to the east of the Pacific Motorway. If more than Springwood, Daisy Hill and Rochedale South are needed, parts of Moreton bounded by the Gateway Motorway and Compton Road around Kuraby could also be added.	Eastern Brisbane City Council
Moreton	The lowest enrolment electorate at this redistribution. Moreton will need to expand south and west. Easiest pick up of electors would be to include those in Brisbane City Council currently in Rankin (Stretton, Calamvale, Algester). If this is too many electors, utilise Beaudesert Road as a clear boundary and the balance can be given to Oxley.	Southern Brisbane City Council
Oxley	The 'new Ipswich' electorate. There could be loss of electors to Ryan around the Centenary suburbs should the committee not see it appropriate to move Samford into Ryan (see below). There could also be some loss of electors around the suburbs of Oxley, Inala and Durack to Moreton. For the most part, Oxley should take the bulk of electors in Springfield, Springfield Lakes, Redbank Plains and Ripley. If more is needed, then Greenbank could also be added.	Greater Springfield and Ripley
Lilley	The obvious way for Lilley to get closer to average quota is to absorb the parts of Petrie and Dickson in Brisbane City Council. If more electors are needed, it would be best to start in Albany Creek and Everton Hills.	Northern Brisbane City Council
Petrie	Petrie can be redrawn as an exclusively Moreton Bay City Council electorate north of the Pine and South Pine River to include Redcliffe, North Lakes, Petrie and Strathpine. The new areas are taken from current Dickson.	Redcliffe/Kallangur/Petrie/Strathpine

Ryan	Significantly under quota and a low growth electorate. Can regain parts of Brisbane City Council around Mt. Crosby and Kholo that are currently in Blair, but this will be nowhere near enough to bring it close to quota. Centenary suburbs south of the Brisbane River can also be a source of electors to accommodate Oxley moving towards Springfield and limit the need for Ryan to move into Moreton Bay City Council. Ryan could expand north into Moreton Bay City Council around Samford, Arana Hills, Everton Hills and Albany Creek. These areas are similar demographics to those in Ferny Grove which is already in Ryan. It is an awkward redraw, but the area is restricted by the D'Aguilar Range and National Park. Crossing into the Brisbane Valley would not meet community of interest. North south connections are much stronger than those across the range. South and eastern portions of current Dickson would be part of new Ryan.	Western Brisbane City Council/" Hills District" Moreton Bay City Council
Dickson	Dickson takes over the urban northern portion of Moreton Bay City Council around Caboolture, Morayfield and Bribie Island but also sweep down to Dayboro and adjacent localities. Depending on how Ryan is redrawn, Samford could also be retained in Dickson. Elector quota may be reached before Caboolture and/or Bribie Island.	North and northwestern Moreton Bay City Council Narangba/Burpengary
Longman	Longman can now be based on the northern end of the Somerset Regional Council currently in Blair, the southern end of Sunshine Coast Regional Council and take parts of the rural Moreton Bay City Council not taken up by my proposed Dickson. It can be generally west of Caboolture and the Bruce Highway to include places like Kilcoy, Beerwah, Landsborough, Maleny and potentially Esk. Parts of Caboolture and/or Bribie Island could also remain in Longman depending on how far north Dickson achieves its elector quota.	Glasshouse Mountains and northern Somerset Regional Council and possibly Caboolture
Fisher	Likely to be contained to the Caloundra/Kawana and Buderim areas generally east of the Bruce Highway.	Caloundra and Kawana Waters
Fairfax	Much of how Fairfax is changed will be determined by the extent of change to its north and south. Should Wide Bay be pushed into the Sunshine Coast area via the Mary Valley, Fairfax will become a much more linear shaped electorate that runs roughly Noosa to Kawana and west to the Bruce Highway. I am finding it very difficult to be able to give a definitive idea of how far Fairfax can extend as much will depend on what happens to the regional electorates to its north.	Northern and central Sunshine Coast

Conclusion

As stated before, these suggestions are based on estimates of electors and can only provide a rough guide as to where boundaries can be made. I am far more confident of my suggestions of the areas north of Rockhampton and west of the Great Dividing Range. South of Rockhampton down to Brisbane, I am far less confident given the huge numbers of combinations that can occur and that some electors are still going to find themselves in an electorate that may not be a perfect fit for their community, especially in the Wide Bay and Burnett areas. The big question is what is going to happen to the name 'Flynn' given the radical redraw and effective abolition of this electorate to accommodate the growth between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast which will necessitate significant moves north of the names of the current electorates. Will the committee risk the community backlash with the removal of the name Hinkler from Bundaberg? If not, where will the 'new' electorate be placed and what will it be called? I do believe the name 'Flynn' should be retained on the electoral map, but it will come down to where will it be located.

This task is quite significant, and I do look forward to reading the contribution of others with their suggestions, as well as what the committee proposes in due course. While I do not pretend that these suggestions are ideal, I do hope they give some constructive ideas on how to redistribute Queensland's 30 federal electorates.

Regards,

Andrew Kamler