



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Submission S56

Anonymous 10

Queensland Redistribution – Suggestions for Petrie, Blair, and Wright Electorates

Petrie's current boundaries are, to be blunt, bizarre. The electorate comprises the former City of Redcliffe or Redcliffe Peninsula, includes the area up to the southern tip of Burpengary East, which makes sense, but then follows the Bruce Highway south over the North Pine River. This literally excludes the suburb of Petrie, whilst crossing the North Pine River includes multiple Brisbane City suburbs in whole or part that have no real connection to the region, and only a tenuous road connection to join them. Any pedestrians, cyclists, or vehicles unfit for highway travel, must of course take the traditional Anzac Ave route, which is what the boundary should follow.

I suggest that everything south of the North Pine River be divested, and that this area be transferred to Dickson. To consolidate the electorate, and because it strikes me as illogical to exclude the suburb sharing the very name of the electorate, I recommend the areas of Petrie, Murrumba Downs – Griffin, and Kallangur be transferred out of Dickson to the Petrie electorate. Similarly, most of Longman Kallangur should be transferred, though the total transfer isn't possible without exceeding the projected 2028 quota maximum.

This keeps naturally connected areas together and is a better fit than a tenuous link via a single highway bridge over a river to areas that have far stronger connections to Dickson or Lilley. Since the Petrie electorate is predicted to grow slightly slower than average, being close to the maximum allowed i.e. 2028 quota +3.5%, is of less of a concern than for the fastest growing electorates.

Is there an alternative? Sure, you could simply slice off an edge somewhere to transfer excess enrolments, but I believe the case for divesting the areas south of the North Pine River and replacing them with the suburbs along Anzac Ave i.e. Petrie etc is more logical.

Blair is currently the electorate most in need of redistribution, as well as one of the fastest growing in Queensland. Over 80% of enrolments are in the City of Ipswich, yet said local government area (which partially lies within the Oxley electorate) is less than 17% of Blair's total area.

I propose reducing the electorate's boundaries to the core urban Ipswich area, simultaneously recognising the electorate's nature as a metropolitan one, and the limited connectivity between urban Ipswich and the broader rural electorate. Projected enrolment 27/08/2028 per [Queensland – SA1 – actual, projected enrolment and growth rate](#) shows the urban Ipswich SA2s, effectively everything bar Kilcoy, Esk, Lowood and Rosewood, comprise 93.5% of the projected 2028 quota, and 91.6% of the current quota. I suggest further consolidation of the Ipswich urban area via transferring the Collingwood Park – Redbank SA2 from the Oxley electorate. While retaining the Karana Downs SA2 in Blair is possible, it may be a better fit with the Ryan electorate, and thus further transfer of parts of urban Ipswich from Oxley would be necessary. Either option satisfies the requirement to be within +/-10% of the current quota, and within +/- 3.5% of the projected 2028 quota.

This of course leaves the Kilcoy, Esk, Lowood, and Rosewood SA2s orphaned, but that need not be an issue. Rosewood itself directly borders, and has road access to, Lowood, Lockyer Valley – East, and Boonah – these latter 2 SA2s presently being part of Wright. Kilcoy, Esk, and Lowood comprise the Somerset Regional Council, and share borders with direct road access to the electorates of Wright, Longman, and Maranoa, plus share a border with Fisher and Fairfax, though road access is through Longman.

Given Wright, Longman, Fisher, and Fairfax are all over size, might a rurally oriented electorate be assembled from the excess? The Somerset region shares its name with the Somerset Dam and Lake Somerset. While few lakes in the wider region are as large as Lake Somerset, or Lake Wivenhoe, a quick look over a map reveals Lake Borumba, Cooloolabin Dam, Wappa Dam, Lake Baroon, Ewen Maddock Dam, Lake Atkinson or Atkinsons Lagoon, Seven Mile Lagoon, Lake Clarendon, Lake Dyer, Perseverance Creek Dam etc. Could this be a thematic focus for a new electorate i.e. rural or semi-rural areas in proximity to lakes? England has its Lake District, might Queensland be able to form a ‘Lakes Electorate’ based on the arc of over size and fast growing electorates either on the periphery of Greater Brisbane, or just outside it, sharing this lake and rural connection? Obviously I realise that if a new electorate is added, an old one must be removed, but to that I point out the radical under sizing of so many Brisbane electorates, combined with their projected slow growth compared to the outer arc of fast growing electorates, is such that cannibalising one to bring the rest to something approaching the 2028 quota +3.5% seems entirely reasonable.

Is there an alternative? Not a clear one to my mind. There is no direct connection to Wide Bay, Fairfax, or Fisher, and the latter two are already over size. Longman is a connected neighbour but again over size. Dickson is under quota, but not so much it can accommodate such an influx without going far over quota. And since I’ve already suggested transferring the Petrie electorate’s excess to Dickson it will be sitting close to the maximum of 2028 quota +3.5%. Nor is Maranoa an option. Like Dickson it’s under quota, but not so far it has the capacity to absorb the entirety of Somerset. Ryan is not an option either as while the two electorates share borders, there’s no road connection, and again it can’t accommodate such a large influx. There’s also nothing in common either as most of Ryan’s population is inner city and/or along the Brisbane River e.g. St Lucia, Toowong, or Auchenflower. As for Wright, for obvious reasons that’s not an option either.

Wright is the fastest growing electorate in the state, currently the third most oversized, and any transfer from Forde - over size and growing fast, will only exacerbate this issue. Likewise if the Fadden overflow is shuffled down to Moncrieff, its excess shuffled into McPherson e.g. Miami, Mermaid Waters, Mermaid Beach - Broadbeach, Broadbeach Waters, and then the rural areas in McPherson transferred to Wright, an over size electorate only becomes even more so. Of course the enrolment shortages in Maranoa and Groom need to be found somewhere so doubtless there will be a long chain of shuffling.

Wright is also really 2 regions – the main one centred roughly on Beaudesert and largely comprised of the Scenic Rim council, and a smaller one centred on Gatton – the entirety of the Lockyer Valley, or close to it. Travel by road between these two areas appears to be impossible without leaving the electorate e.g.

travelling through the Blair district. This is a critical flaw showing a fundamental disconnect between the two parts.

I propose the Lockyer Valley be severed from Wright as this solves both the issue of an electorate lacking any internal connection, and that of excess enrolments both now and for the 2028 projection. Lockyer Valley borders both the Somerset Region, as well as the Rosewood SA2, and has direct road access. Indeed travel between the towns of Esk or Kilcoy and Gatton is faster and shorter distance than to Ipswich. While the town of Lowood is fractionally closer to Ipswich than Gatton, the difference is basically walking distance, and travel time is likewise practically the same. Could Lockyer Valley plus the Somerset Region plus the Rosewood SA2 form the basis of a future 'Lakes Electorate'? All are rural oriented, and Lockyer Valley does have several lakes, albeit nothing quite so spectacularly large as Somerset.

What are the alternatives? Leaving aside the undesirability of splitting Lockyer Valley between electorates, it cannot be divided between Maranoa and Groom without causing those electorates to exceed the maximum permissible enrolments. It would also block the redistribution of eastern excess enrolments e.g. Fadden or Forde, westward, thereby forcing outlying areas into Brisbane or Greater Brisbane rather than preserving the divisions between metropolitan electorates, provincial electorates, and rural electorates.

Finally, while not a suggestion about a specific electorate, I'd like to propose that redistribution efforts avoid a Brisbane-centric approach. Of the electorates needing redistribution, Maranoa is the largest, and along with McPherson, the southernmost, while Dawson is the northernmost. Starting with any of these, and looking to see in what direction they can assimilate areas that are connected by roads and share common interests, should result in a more equitable outcome.