



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Comment on suggestion 5

Andrew Kamler

3 pages

The Chair

Redistribution Committee for Queensland

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment on the suggestions for the current federal redistribution for Queensland electorates. Again there have been some spirited suggestions put forward. While there are all kinds of combinations and permutations that can be made for how various seats can be arranged (my suggestions included), I wish to mainly focus on some of the issues surrounding some of the regional seats that have been put forward.

It is clear and understandable that while the residents of Moore Park Beach would prefer to be in a Bundaberg-based electorate, they are in a similar situation to residents in Townsville south of the Ross River that have to vote for a Mackay-based seat, to those in Bakers Creek and Sarina that have to vote for a Rockhampton-based seat, to those in the southern outskirts of Cairns that vote for Mt. Isa and Noosa residents that have to vote for Maryborough. While I would encourage the committee to find a solution to incorporate those residents in the Bundaberg Regional Council who are north of the Burnett River into the seat of Hinkler, I know this is limited by the number of electors located in other regions. In the long term, as noted in my suggestions and others, a rethink on how to orientate the seats based on regional cities is required as the splitting of major cities between seats is highly unsatisfactory.

As noted by several contributors and following on from my last point, it is indeed preferable that Leichhardt be based on Cairns, Herbert on Townsville, Dawson on Mackay, Capricornia on Rockhampton and Hinkler on Bundaberg. Some had even crunched the numbers to see how this would occur. The problem of this is how seats like Kennedy and Maranoa grow in size and contort in weird ways. Inspired by others, I attempted the sums myself for Leichhardt, Herbert, Kennedy, Dawson, Capricornia, Flynn and Maranoa. I have avoided altering Hinkler as this would alter the numbers I had worked out in my submitted suggestion to the redistribution.

Capricornia		Dawson		Leichhardt	
SA2	Projected Enrolment	SA2	Projected Enrolment	SA2	Projected Enrolment
Berserker	4991	Airlie-Whitsundays	8104	Brinsmead	3760
Bouldercombe	1401	Andergrove-Beaconsfield	10682	Bentley Park	5282
Boyne Island-Tannum Sands	6965	Ayr	6891	Cairns City	6295
Callemondah	23	Bowen	6193	Clifton Beach - Kewarra Beach	7879
Clinton-New Auckland	9071	Burdekin	5940	Earlville-Bayview Heights	6243
Emu Park	3860	Collinsville	2491	Edmonton	7111
Frenchville-Mount Archer	6944	East Mackay	2510	Freshwater-Stratford	2804
Gladstone	4081	Eimeo-Rural View	8147	Gordonvale-Trinity	5956
Gladstone Hinterland	5979	Eungella Hinterland	11	Kanimbla-Mooroobool	6768
Glenlee-Rockyview (South)	1871	Mackay	2380	Lamb Range	2
Gracemere	7954	Mackay Harbour	359	Manoora	3757
Kin Kora-Sun Valley	2810	Mount Pleasant-Glenella	7899	Manunda	3453
Lakes Creek	3548	North Mackay	4463	Mount Sheridan	6024
Norman Gardens	7074	Ooralea-Bakers Creek	3760	Port Douglas	3342
Park Avenue	3764	Pioneer Valley	5466	Redlynch	8499
Parkhurst-Kawana	4709	Proserpine	6125	Trinity Beach-Smithfield	9678
Rockhampton City	2477	Seaforth-Calen	6071	Westcourt-Bungalow	4026
Rockhampton Region East	2540	Shoal Point-Bucasia	3845	White Rock	3133
Rockhampton West	4426	Slade Point	2563	Whitfield-Edge Hill	5997
Telina-Toolooa	4111	South Mackay	5053	Woree	3256
The Range-Allenstown	5273	Walkerston-Eton	6296	Yarrabah	1211
West Gladstone	3386	West Mackay	4251	Yorkeys Knob-Machans Beach	4580
Yeppoon	13421	Total	109500	Total	109056
Total	110679				

Herbert		Flynn		Kennedy	
SA2	Projected Enrolment	SA2	Projected Enrolment	SA2	Projected Enrolment
Aitkenvale	3802	Agnes Water-Miriam Vale	4538	Atherton	7630
Annandale	6113	Bundaberg North-Gooburrum	1360	Aurukun	946
Belgian Gardens-Pallarenda	2330	Bundaberg Region North	6527	Babinda	3000
Condon-Rasmussen	7553	Chinchilla	5364	Bohle Plains	5194
Cranbrook	4276	Clifton-Greenmount	2208	Cape York	4781
Douglas	4964	Crows Nest-Rosalie	4352	Carpentaria	2903
Garbutt-West End	4773	Gayndah-Mundubbera	4596	Croydon-Etheridge	806
Gulliver-Currajong-Vincent	5690	Gin Gin	3830	Daintree	4741
Heatley	2921	Gladstone Hinterland	2000	Deeragun	15327
Hermit Park-Rosslea	3785	Goondiwindi	4441	Herberton	3457
Hyde Park-Pimlico	3466	Inglewood-Waggamba	3275	Ingham	3306
Kelso	7569	Jondaryan	52	Ingham Region	5052
Kirwan East	5660	Kingaroy	7289	Innisfail	6298
Kirwan West	11627	Kingaroy Region North	3575	Johnstone	5512
Magnetic Island	1865	Kingaroy Region South	3049	Kowanyama - Pormpuraaw	1264
Mount Louisa	6658	Millmerran	2296	Kuranda	2983
Mundingburra	2586	Monto-Eidsvold	2686	Malanda-Yungaburra	6186
Ooonoona	4776	Nanango	7053	Mareeba	7700
Palm Island	1169	Southern Downs East	3336	Northern Beaches	4808
South Townsville-Railway Estate	3949	Southern Downs West	3598	Northern Peninsula	1557
Townsville City-North Ward	6377	Stanthorpe	3919	Tablelands	3529
Townsville South	3378	Stanthorpe Region	4453	Torres	2036
Wulguru-Roseneath	3970	Tara	2824	Torres Strait Islands	2868
Total	109257	Wambo	12155	Tully	7347
		Warwick	11238	Weipa	2362
		Total	110014	Wooroonooran	2
				Total	111595

Maranoa	
SA2	Projected Enrolment
Balonne	3230
Banana	6094
Barcaldine-Blackall	3900
Biloela	3770
Broadsound-Nebo	4634
Central Highlands East	4305
Central Highlands West	5313
Charleville	3104
Charters Towers	5115
Clermont	2448
Dalrymple	2670
Emerald	8621
Far Central West	1618
Far South west	2108
Glenlee-Rockyview (The Caves)	1400
Longreach	2673
Miles-Wandoan	2674
Moranbah	5215
Mount Isa	11954
Mount Isa Region	2092
Mount Morgan	2140
Northern Highlands	2384
Rockhampton Region North	3112
Rockhampton Region West	2286
Roma	4787
Roma Region	4490
Sarina	8296
Shoalwater Bay	15
Total	110448

- Leichhardt can take in all Cairns areas between Gordonvale and Port Douglas SA2s without climbing the ranges and be just under quota and can allow for growth.
- Herbert can retake areas south of the Ross River and shed the Northern Beaches, Bohle Plains and Deeragun and be just under quota and can allow for growth.
- Dawson would be able to incorporate areas of the Burdekin Shire Council, Whitsunday Regional Council and the Mackay Regional Council without the Sarina SA2, but be at lower end of quota.
- Capricornia can be limited to Rockhampton, Gracemere, Capricorn Coast and most of the Gladstone Regional Council and be just on quota, with areas of the Gladstone Hinterland SA2 around Many Peaks to move to Flynn.
- Kennedy takes in rural areas from Cape York Peninsula down to Townsville, taking in coastal areas between Cairns and Townsville.
- Flynn becomes a seat based on the agricultural growing regions of the Burnett and Darling Downs (excluding those parts in existing Groom). This electorate would use the Burnett, New England and Bunya Highways as the main communication routes. Despite some similar communities of interests, the fact Groom breaks the flow of the seat adds logistical issues to the seat.
- Maranoa grows to become a roughly rectangular seat framed by the Flinders and Leichhardt Highways and taking in the remote areas between Rockhampton and Mackay. While this seat would be based primarily on mining and grazing, the inclusion of Sarina SA2 would be considered out of place. I did examine how this SA2 could be placed into Dawson, but the numbers in the north to remove the Burdekin and Ayr and place into either Kennedy or Maranoa just didn't fit.

Like those that have made suggestions about restricting some electorates to urban centres, Maranoa does grow to be unacceptably large in area and while some would argue that it works for Durack in Western Australia, that ignores the fact that a large portion of Durack is uninhabited while any expanded version of Maranoa contains many significant population centres dotted throughout the entire electorate and would make adequate representation difficult for the local member. As a result, I would feel that this would fail the community of interest criteria. So, while far from ideal, until Queensland grows enough to be entitled to a 31st seat, we are more or less stuck with the status quo. It does seem generally accepted that the easiest thing to fix boundaries in the north is to move Bentley Park into Kennedy.

I note that some contributors have also raised concerns with the Wright electorate and have attempted to find a solution to it. I find it curious that some of the more thorough suggestions do not change it at all, including the major political parties which indicated to me a lack of understanding of the geography of the area, or the political expediency associated with it. One contributor did try and widen the 'gap' linking the two parts of the current electorate, but in the end, it was only piecemeal. I would implore the committee to examine how this seat is orientated.

With regards to names, I see no reason to change any of the electorate names at this stage. I commend the suggestion of Mabo however, the suggestion of Bjelke-Petersen would be classed as inappropriate at this point in time. I would suggest that it certainly would be appropriate sometime in the future but at this point, memories of Sir Joh's government is still raw for many Queenslanders and the fact that Lady Flo Bjelke-Petersen, herself a former senator for Queensland, is still alive. It would be fitting that a seat called Bjelke-Petersen should be named after both Sir Joh and Lady Flo. Under AEC guidelines, the criteria to name a seat this is not currently met.

There are several contributors that have given good suggestions on how to redraw boundaries, some minimalist, some drastic. I hope mine would be considered a good balance of minimalist and out of the box thinking.

I wish you well with your deliberations.

Andrew Kamler