



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Comment on suggestion 14

Garry Reed

2 pages

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Garry Reed

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AEC

[REDACTED] | Queensland Redistribution Secretariat

QLD State Office | QLD State Office

Australian Electoral Commission

Dear David and Redistribution Committee, I am making comments on the suggestion from the LNP to move Collinsville from the Capricornia Electorate to the Kennedy Electorate. See: <http://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/2017/qld/files/suggestions/qld17-s0016-liberal-national-party.pdf>

Unfortunately the LNP submission is a scanned copy and not able to be text copied. I dispute the following reasoning.

Collinsville lacks community of interest and is without established transport and communication linkages with the division of Capricornia. It is proposed it be transferred to the division of Kennedy, aligning it with communities with similar inland characteristics.

I agree with the statement that Collinsville is without established transport and communication linkages with the division of Capricornia. I have heard from candidates for Capricornia that a visit to Collinsville adds many hours by road to their electioneering. Glenden, the nearest town in Capricornia, is about 2 hours' drive from Collinsville yet the coastal town of Bowen in Dawson is about 50 minutes away and in the Whitsunday Regional Council area with Collinsville. Capricornia is based on Rockhampton which is at the southern extremity, being about 8 hours' drive from Collinsville.

Transferring Collinsville to Kennedy could make the road access situation even worse as there is no direct road between the base of Kennedy in Charters Towers, requiring a road trip of about 4 hours through neighbouring electorates. Referring to the suggestions from the Hon Bob Katter who holds Kennedy, he expresses no interest in taking on Collinsville, but does express concern that he struggles to service the 6th largest electorate in Australia – any redistribution should take the existing difficulties servicing the electorate into

consideration. <http://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/2017/qld/files/suggestions/qld17-s0018-hon-bob-katter-mp.pdf>

I disagree that transferring Collinsville to the division of Kennedy, *aligns us with communities with similar inland characteristics*. Collinsville is much closer in community, government and medical services, and business and recreational contacts with the coastal towns of Bowen, Mackay and Townsville. I have not been to Charters Towers for about 20 years yet visit Bowen and Mackay multiple times per year.

I understand that Collinsville used to be in the Dawson and Kennedy electorates in the past but I can't access the records from the AEC in that historical time frame to confirm that – I need to visit the National Archives of Australia to find this information apparently

It concerns me that the motivation from the LNP to move Collinsville from Capricornia to Kennedy is for political advantage as a move to Dawson makes much more sense and as locals say is a no-brainer. Capricornia and Dawson are marginal seats held by the LNP and Kennedy is a very strongly conservative electorate.

I would like to complain about the AEC website as I have found it to be confusing and difficult to navigate.

I hope my comments are of value to the AEC and this redistribution.

Yours sincerely, Garry Arthur Reed