



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Comment on suggestion 12

Australian Labor Party

4 pages

COMMENTS on SUBMISSIONS for the 2017 Queensland Federal Redistribution

Australian
Labor Party
(State of
Queensland)

Australian Labor Party
Comments on Submissions to
**Australian Electoral Commission Redistribution of
Federal Divisions in Queensland 2017**

The ALP thanks the Queensland Redistribution Committee for the opportunity to provide comment on suggestions made by submitters to the 2017 Redistribution of Federal Divisions.

While many of the submissions differ from that made from the ALP, there are 2 that require particular comment.

Submission by Liberal National Party

The submission by the LNP seeks to have Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait Islands excluded from the Leichhardt electorate and included in the Kennedy electorate.

This would see the remote communities of the Cape York Peninsula separated from the city of Cairns. Cairns is the transport, administrative and service hub for Cape York and Torres Strait Island communities. The proposal by the LNP would see the urban centre of the Kennedy remain in Mount Isa, but be the base of Parliamentary representation for communities on Cape York and the Torres Strait islands.

The proposal change by the LNP appears to be cynically designed to support the removal of Collinsville from the Capricornia electorate rather than promoting communities of interest.

Collinsville has a clear connection to other mining communities in the Bowen Basin. Collinsville has very little community of interest with Mount Isa, the Cape York Peninsula or Torres Strait Islands, as proposed by the LNP.

Submission by Queensland Greens

Brisbane Northside

The submissions from the Queensland Greens seeks to make significant change to Federal division boundaries despite the enrolment variations having little justification for such significant change.

The Queensland Green submissions make significant changes to division boundaries in the Brisbane North area.

The Lilley electorate boundaries established by the commission in 2010 have stood the test of time, based on the sound principles of community interest and grounded in reasonably accurate population growth forecasts.

The Sandgate area has been in Lilley for nearly 100 years and has deep connections to suburbs down the train line such as Nundah – and has no connection to Redcliffe whatsoever, given the 3km bridge & large body of water separating them and their different city councils.

The Queensland Greens proposed southern border for Lilley overturns the sensible decision by the commission in 2010 to incorporate the Ascot/Clayfield area into the Brisbane electorate – an area whose community of interest lies more with the suburbs of Albion, New Farm, Teneriffe, and Fortitude Valley.

Such a proposal would overturn a sensible community of interest that exists within Lilley.

Ipswich

The Queensland Greens, and other submitters, recommend significant change to Blair. This is unnecessary and the various options proffered invariably involve dramatic flow-on boundary effects on Brisbane Southside, Logan, Scenic Rim and Gold Coast based seats.

None of these suggestions improve the already strong community of interest for Blair. Blair is based firmly within Ipswich City Council and Somerset Regional Council boundaries.

The rural towns of Blair are linked to the west by the Warrego Highway and northwest by the Brisbane Valley Highway while the urban eastern suburbs of Ipswich are connected via the Ipswich Motorway and Centenary Highway.

To be fair, all suggestions maintain Blair as the primary Ipswich based seat in one way or the other.

The suggestion of the Greens should be rejected as it would take parts of Ipswich out of Blair and have the seat cross the Brisbane River to take in parts of Brisbane.

Overwhelmingly suggestions recommend the Brisbane River is an appropriate and easily identified boundary between seats proximate to it.

The only exception to this is in Blair where the Somerset Regional Council area straddles the Brisbane River thereby not offending community of interest considerations.

Blair should remain unchanged. No change is required as it is currently and projected to be within quota.

This suggestion of the Labor Party on the boundaries of Blair is supported by other suggestions including that of the LNP.

Areas of agreement

Between all the submissions, there were some areas which saw general agreement-

- The submissions from the Queensland Greens and Liberal National Party both agree with Labor's original submission that rural parts of Longman should be shifted to Fisher.
- There were little, often no changes made to McPherson and Moncrieff given both are within tolerance.
- Areas south of Mackay airport should be shifted from Dawson to Capricornia, matching the existing rural communities of interest.