



The Federal Redistribution 2009  
QUEENSLAND



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**Comment Number 6  
on Public Suggestions**

**Mark Mulcair**

**6 pages**

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**From:** Mark Mulcair [markmulcair@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 May 2009 5:26 PM  
**To:** QLD Redistribution  
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**Attachments:** Queensland Comments.doc

2/26 Hopetoun Street  
Mitcham VIC 3132  
0407 095 015  
[markmulcair@gmail.com](mailto:markmulcair@gmail.com)

Dear Committee Members,

Please find attached my comments on suggestions for the 2009 Queensland redistribution.

As before, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

(Dr) Mark Mulcair

## **COMMENTS ON SUGGESTIONS FOR QUEENSLAND REDISTRIBUTION**

### **1) Naming of Divisions:**

Suggestions for the name of the new division include Theodore, Killen, Bjelke-Petersen, Wright, plus my own proposal of Gair. All of these would be suitable names, although I am not sure that Sir Joh meets the criteria for naming at this point in time. While naming a division after Australian Idol contestant Ricki-Lee Coulter would certainly be an interesting change, I assume the Committee won't be taking this suggestion too seriously.

### **2) Submissions from the Central Western Shires:**

A number of submissions from shires, organisations and individuals in the central west have requested they be returned to Maranoa, citing lack of community of interest with Flynn. I strongly support their arguments, and I reiterate the point from my original submission that these shires have no problem being part of a geographically larger Maranoa. While I understand the Committee's desire to reduce the size of rural seats, these areas clearly want to be in Maranoa, and they feel their community of interest is best served in a southern outback seat.

My original submission proposes adding the central west to Maranoa, while removing Nanango and Kingaroy. In this way, areas that want to be with Maranoa could be placed in the division, while areas with little connection to the seat would be removed. This clearly satisfies the community of interest for both the central west and South Burnett regions.

### **3) Submission from Mr Bob Katter MP:**

I have a feeling Mr Katter will not be happy with some of the proposals for Kennedy, especially from the major parties and Mr Bob Richardson. Labor proposes excising the key town of Charters Towers, the LNP removes Mount Isa and adds Cape York, and Mr Richardson cuts Kennedy in half to create the unnecessary new seat of Fulton.

All of these proposals fail the community of interest criteria, and all should be rejected. Mr Katter in his submission outlined the importance of Charters Towers and Mount Isa to his seat, while Cape York's community of interest is clearly with Cairns and the remainder of Leichhardt, not with Kennedy.

I support Mr Katter's suggestions for Kennedy, and submit that my proposal best meets the community of interest criteria. My proposal is in fact very similar to Mr Katter's own 'Cascade Proposal', although I go further in removing all of Townsville from Kennedy.

I note that under Mr Katter's proposals for Kennedy, Herbert and Dawson, most of central Mackay could be kept in Dawson. However, I believe the key factor is to have clear and obvious boundaries through Townsville and Mackay, even if this means a greater split of these cities. My proposals use major rivers and council boundaries, which I submit are stronger than the rather arbitrary boundaries through south-east Townsville and West Mackay that would be needed to keep Mackay CBD in Dawson.

#### **4) Submission from Mr Bob Richardson:**

Mr Richardson proposes radical changes to rural Queensland which are unnecessary and result in some very odd-looking divisions. His proposed Kennedy (which stretches from Gladstone round to the coast near Townsville then up to the Gulf) and Hinkler (which seems to stretch from Bundaberg to the southern outback) are particularly bizarre. These changes would result in severe voter dislocation and sever many existing communities of interest, for no apparent reason. The changes to rural Queensland would also impact significantly on the Brisbane seats, in particular Blair and Forde (with flow on effects to other urban seats).

I do agree with Mr Richardson, however, in his proposal to remove Edmonton and Bentley Park from Leichhardt, and his proposal to transfer Mirani LGA and unite Whitsunday RC in Dawson. These are sensible changes which could have been achieved without the need for extensive modifications elsewhere.

#### **5) Submissions from the major parties:**

Of the two major parties, the general thrust of my submission mirrors that of the ALP more than the LNP. Labor's pattern of rural seats is similar to mine, and their proposed Blair, Oxley, Rankin, Forde and Theodore are essentially my proposed Blair, Oxley, Rankin, Gair and Forde, rotated clockwise. In contrast, the LNP's choice of location for their new seat results in a very different arrangement of seats, particularly in rural Queensland.

I submit that my proposed new division is more coherent, and also results in more logical boundaries for surrounding divisions, than those of the major parties:

- Both major parties' new seats would detach parts of the Ipswich hinterland from Ipswich itself. These areas should remain with Ipswich in Blair.
- Both major parties propose changes to Bonner, which are not necessary given Bonner has a strong eastern boundary and is within tolerance.
- Both parties also propose extensive transfers between Petrie and Dickson. While this would reduce the elongated north-south nature of Petrie, Dickson would then straddle both Brisbane City and Moreton Bay councils. It seems more sensible to leave Dickson contained within the former Pine Rivers LGA by having it lose Esk and regain Kallangur/Dakabin (as per my original suggestion).
- Both major parties make significant unnecessary changes to Kennedy (see above).

#### **Specific Comments on ALP Submission**

- The ALP's proposal for Theodore is similar to my proposed Forde, uniting Boonah with Beaudesert and adding Kingsholme/Upper Coomera from Fadden. However, I believe the Gold Coast hinterland is better linked with southern Logan than with Gatton and Laidley. It's worth noting that by placing Gatton, Laidley and part of Ipswich City in Theodore, Labor almost cut their proposed Blair in half north of Ipswich.

- While I agree with the transfer of Acacia Ridge to Moreton, I don't believe it's necessary to extend further south into Algester. Algester should be placed with Drewvale and Parkinson in the division of Rankin. Expanding west along the river allows Moreton to adopt the strong southern boundary of Compton Road and Learoyd Road.
- I agree with the decision to remove the Centenary Suburbs from Ryan, and the ALP's compensating transfer of the Ferny Grove/Ferny Hills area was an option I considered. However, most major roads and the railway line run back toward Brisbane, not south into Ryan. Also, this change would detach part of Moreton Bay RC (former Pine Rivers LGA) to Ryan, and it seems more logical to contain Ryan as a Brisbane City division by expanding eastwards into Brisbane.
- The proposed transfer of Maroochydore from Fairfax to Fisher would result in Fisher having a long, very narrow northern 'finger' between the motorway and the coast. I submit my proposal of transferring Sippy Downs and a small part of hinterland results in a less awkwardly-shaped division.
- While the ALP proposes moving some western parts of Flynn into Maranoa, they leave the bulk of the central west in Flynn. As a result, they are forced to expand Maranoa further into South Burnett, an area which has no connection to the rest of the seat. I believe my proposals for Flynn and Maranoa better meet the community of interest.

### **Specific Comments LNP Submission**

- Many of the problems with the LNP's suggestions stem from their choice of location for a new seat. Their proposed Killen would extend from suburban Ipswich, through the Ipswich hinterland, up into the Brisbane Valley and across the Southern Downs. Not only is there limited community of interest between Springfield Lakes and Warwick, the location of Killen unnecessarily impacts on Maranoa and Kennedy.
- The boundaries for the proposed Killen seem to leave a small part of Esk in Dickson, largely isolated from the rest of the division. It would be better to have united Esk in Killen and left suburban parts of Ipswich in Blair or Oxley.
- The decision to remove Mount Isa from Kennedy is a direct result of Killen taking electors from Maranoa, which is already under quota. Mr Bob Katter has outlined at some length in previous redistributions why this is completely contrary to community of interest, and I strongly recommend the Committee take note of this.
- Likewise, the proposal to detach Cape York from Leichhardt makes little sense. This region looks to Cairns as its major centre and has much weaker association with Kennedy. It should remain with the bulk of Cairns in Leichhardt. Even if the Committee was forced to remove Mount Isa from Kennedy, it would still be more sensible to transfer additional parts of southern Cairns to Kennedy than to move Cape York.

- In contrast, the LNP's proposals for Capricornia and Flynn are worthy of consideration. The continued northward drift of Capricornia risks further splitting of Rockhampton and Mackay in the future, and the LNP's suggestion might provide a better long-term arrangement of seats. Also, while I still believe the central west should be with Maranoa, these shires might be happier to remain with Flynn if it were a predominantly rural division instead of a coastal one.
- While I agree that Mooloolaba and Alexandra Headland would fit better with Fairfax than Fisher, the only way this can be achieved is by placing Nambour in Wide Bay. This area has few links with Gympie or Maryborough and should remain in Fairfax. This arrangement would also require Fisher to retain Kilcoy and part of Caboolture; these areas should be returned to Blair and Longman, respectively.
- While the proposed transfers from Moreton to Griffith are sensible, Griffith is within tolerance and requires no change. This transfer also results in unnecessary changes to Bonner, which is also within tolerance and should be left unchanged.
- The LNP makes significant changes to Moreton, pushing it across the Pacific Motorway and into Logan City. At present, Moreton is located to the west of the motorway and within Brisbane City, making it more logical to expand to the west, not the east.

#### **6) Submissions from Liberal/National MPs:**

Both Mr Neville and Mr Truss make proposals for regional Queensland that essentially mirror those of the LNP. As mentioned, I largely oppose the LNP's proposals for Leichhardt, Kennedy and Maranoa, while their proposals for Capricornia and Flynn have some merit.

Mr Slipper's proposal to return Noosa to Fairfax makes sense, but cannot be achieved without significant change to the northern divisions. The northward movement of Fairfax, Fisher and Longman would also result in more dislocation to seats in northern Brisbane. Mr Somlyay recommends creating two new seats and abolishing one. This was one option I did consider, but in the end it would cause unnecessary disruption to many seats.

#### **7) Other suggestions:**

One submission proposes reuniting Maryborough and Hervey Bay. This makes enormous sense, but unfortunately isn't possible without major changes elsewhere.

Hinchinbrook Shire's submission cannot be accommodated since Herbert is currently over quota, and there is no obvious place for Kennedy to gain compensating electors.

The submission from Townsville Council suggests parts of Townsville currently in Dawson be returned to Herbert, but this is not really feasible given both Leichhardt and Herbert are over quota. While my proposal places more of Townsville in Dawson, it also reduces from three to two the number of divisions into which Townsville RC is split.

## 8) Correction to my original submission:

- I note that in summarising the changes to Maranoa, I omitted the transfer of Clifton LGA. To clarify, Clifton LGA is transferred from Maranoa to Groom under my proposals, as without this change Maranoa would be outside tolerance.
- ‘...due to the low growth in Dawson relative to Capricornia...’ should read ‘...due to the *low relative enrolment* in Dawson compared to Capricornia...’. It’s obvious from the enrolment figures that Dawson has higher predicted growth than Capricornia.