



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



**Comment Number 26
on Public Suggestions**

Julie Grace

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From: GRACE, Julie [Julie.GRACE@correctiveservices.qld.gov.au]
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Friday 8th May

Dear Ms Bright

REGARDING THE REDISTRIBUTION OF THE LEICHHARDT ELECTORATE

I would like to register my opposition to the suggestion submitted by the Liberal and National Parties that the area to the north of Port Douglas, including Cape York and the Torres Strait be moved into the electorate of Kennedy.

The Cape and Torres areas have strong cultural and economic ties to the Cairns region. Many Aboriginal and Islander families from this region reside in Cairns and much of the trade in the region is undertaken through Cairns. Residents of these areas need a Federal member who is able to liaise with Cairns businesses and cultural communities.

The location of electoral offices for Kennedy (Innisfail and Mt. Isa) is such that they would preclude visits by the majority of people living in the Cape and Torres communities.

Currently if a community member is flying to Cairns it is fairly simple to set up a face-to-face meeting with a local member. It is impossible to access offices in Innisfail without some form of transport and as there is no public transport between Cairns and Innisfail this would, in effect, cut voters off from their elected representative.

The people in remote areas need strong representation and a close relationship with their Federal member. This will be either impossible or incredibly inconvenient if the member were based in such an inaccessible location.

While I understand Leichhardt is over quota for the number of people enrolled to vote in the electorate, moving the Cape and Torres voters to Kennedy moves what is mostly a static population away from Leichhardt whilst allowing Leichhardt to continue to increase the number of voters as the population increases in the Cairns Southern Corridor and Northern Beaches, thus requiring a further reshuffle in the future.

The ties with our families in the Cairns area, the consideration that our groceries and freight all come from Cairns and that all flights from the Cape and Torres area land in Cairns are all important reasons to maintain the connection of the Cape and Torres to the Leichhardt electorate.

I hope you will consider my suggestions favourably when making redistribution decisions.

Kind Regards

Julie Grace