



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 15

Rena Barletta

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AEC tells Edmonton and Kuranda voters:

Now you are in Katter Country

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RESIDENTS of Edmonton and Kuranda are set to become part of Katter Country after yesterday's release of proposed new federal electoral boundaries.

Due to Leichhardt now exceeding its voter limits, the Australian Electoral Commission has recommended the Edmonton and Kuranda areas, including Julatten and Mt Molloy, become part of Bob Katter's Kennedy electorate.

Kennedy will in turn lose the northern beaches of Townsville.

The new boundaries push Kennedy up to Blackfellow Creek just south of Bentley Park and to the north to follow the Tableland/Cairns Regional Council boundaries.

While Labor had been expecting the boundary to move north it appears to be the big loser having easily won both the Kuranda and Edmonton booths at the last election.

The proposed changes have sparked a war of words between former Leichhardt MP Warren Entsch, who yesterday refused to rule out running in the seat he retired from at the last election, and Mr Katter, who confirmed he will



Katter: City folk beef up his electorate.

run again in Kennedy, a seat he has held since the early 1990s.

Mr Entsch branded the changes as "ridiculous" as they split Edmonton from Cairns and the growth area of Mt Peter away from the region's centre into Mr Katter's electorate that was centred on Mt Isa and to a lesser degree Innisfail.

"It does not make sense, Edmonton and Kuranda are part of Cairns city," he said.

"It is ridiculous, how are the issues of Mt Isa and Charters Towers relevant to the people on the south side of Cairns.

"And I suggest to you the people of Kuranda will also not be happy

about it." The LNP had proposed to the AEC that Cairns become a single seat.

Mr Katter said that would have disenfranchised people throughout the region and moved to allay fears he would not be engaging with the people of Edmonton and Kuranda.

"There would seldom be a five-day period when I am not in Cairns whereas there is often a week when I am not in Innisfail," he said.

While the boundary changes closely mirror Labor's submission, sitting Leichhardt MP Jim Turnour said he could accept losing Edmonton as there were too many voters in the electorate but would encourage voters to voice their dissent at losing Kuranda.

"Clearly there are strong tourism links between Cairns and Kuranda," he said.

Members of the public may lodge an objection about the redistribution proposal to the AEC in one of the following ways by mailing GPO Box 2590, Brisbane, Qld, 4001; faxing 07 3834 3452; or emailing qld.redistribution@aec.gov.au

Visit http://www.aec.gov.au/electorates/redistributions/2009/qld/proposed_report/index.html to view the redistribution proposal.

Our Say, Page 28.

www.cairns.com.au

* I object to this change
see above.

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