



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 88

Joy Evans

2 pages

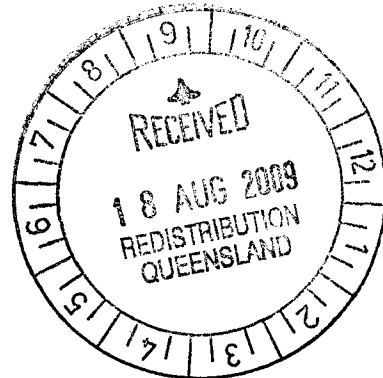
Joy Evans

6 Lerew Court
Annandale Q 4814

phone: 07 4725 3808
mobile: 0419 78 13 48
email: joy@solutionmatrix.net

5 August 2009

The Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE QLD 4001



Dear Australian Electoral Commissioner

Re: Proposed redistribution in the seat of Herbert

I wish to lodge an objection to proposed redistribution changes to the seat of Herbert which would lead to the suburbs of Annandale and Wulguru being incorporated into the Dawson division. Reasons for my objection can be categorised under three headings – lack of consultation, alienation from my community, and inability to be an informed voter.

Lack of consultation with the community

- There was no indication in the local media or elsewhere that this proposed redistribution would occur. There appeared to be no, or poorly advertised, consultation with the community. The first I heard of the proposal was when I recently noticed the proposed changed boundaries in the newspaper.

Alienation from the community

- As a resident of Annandale, my Member of Parliament in Herbert would live about 400 kilometres to the south. I live within 15 minutes' drive of Townsville's city heart, just five minutes from the major shopping centres of Stockland and K-Mart Plaza, seven minutes from the business I deal with in my self-employment, nine minutes from the swimming pool which I attend five days a week, and up to 15 minutes from the schools in which I undertake supply teaching. My community of interest is all within 15 minutes of my home.
- Lavarack Barracks in Murray is located directly across University Drive from Annandale. The convenient location of Annandale leads to it being home to many army personnel who have similar relationships with the Townsville community as I do. Under the proposed redistribution, army personnel would therefore work in the Herbert electorate, yet live in the Dawson electorate, even though located just across the road.

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- The Townsville Hospital and James Cook University are located five minutes away from Annandale, again just across University Drive in Murray. Many of the workers in these institutions face the same situation as army workers. They would live in the Dawson electorate, yet work in the Herbert electorate.

Uninformed voter

- If the proposed redistribution goes ahead, I will not be an informed voter. Mackay is located about 400 kilometres away. Issues that affect the people of Mackay and district are unlikely to be issues that concern me as a Townsville resident - if I am informed of these issues in the first place. Our local newspaper, the *Townsville Bulletin* and *The Australian* are the two papers I read regularly. I would suggest that most of the residents of Annandale would regularly read the *Townsville Bulletin*. I cannot remember the last time I read an article about the Mackay district, if I ever did. I would therefore feel marginalised as a Townsville resident.
- It is to be questioned whether the Mackay and district residents would be happy with my voting on their issues in an election. Although uninformed of the relevant issues, I would be forced to do this, however, instead of voting on issues that directly concern me in the Townsville region.

I trust that my submission will be granted due consideration.

Yours faithfully



Joy Evans
6 Lerew Court
Annandale Q 4814