



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 461

**Rod Keady
78 Squadron Association**

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Goodenough Is Kiriwina Is Cape Gloucester Nadzab Aitape Hollandia Noemfor Morotai Tarakan

Australian Electoral Officer for Queensland
GPO Box 2590 Brisbane QLD 4001

August 17, 2009

Re:Objection to the Proposed New Queensland Division's Name

Dear Sir /Madam,

In 2006, the Australian Electoral Commission originally recommended "WRIGHT" as the new Electoral Division name but did not proceed with it as the public uproar regarding the name "WRIGHT". The announcement in The Sunday Mail on 26 July 2009, with the new electoral division's name as "WRIGHT", leads one to think of Keith Wright, a former Australian Labor Party politician and convicted rapist. We believe many Queenslanders will always associate the name with the disgraced politician.

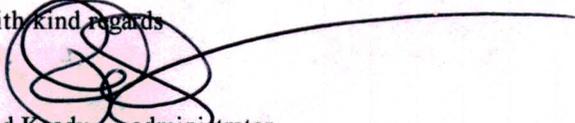
Alternative Name suggested for the Proposed New Queensland Division's Name - WATERS

As the New Electoral Division is in Queensland, 78 Squadron Association administration believe that Len Waters represented Queensland as the only Aboriginal Fighter pilot in the RAAF, more honourably than Judith Wright. Mr Waters was born in New South Wales, but his family moved and settled in Queensland. He joined the Air Force a couple of months after his 18th birthday as ground crew and when the opportunity arose to remuster as aircrew he jumped at the chance. He was awarded his flying badge on 1st of July 1944 and remains the sole Aboriginal to fly as fighter pilot for the Royal Australian Air Force.

Mr Waters life has already received some commemoration, such as his depiction on an Australian Post stamp and a monument being erected to him in St George, Queensland on 24 August 1942 and settled in St George at the end of the war. Mr Waters was proud to be the only Aboriginal fighter pilot in the RAAF even though the Australian Government abandoned him at the end of the Second World War. He resumed his life as a manual labourer and was a staunch unionist and Australian Labor Party supporter until his death on 24 August 1993. "Mr Waters' stands as a role model to all Australians regardless of ethnic background, recognising him in the naming of this electorate would be contributing to Reconciliation between all Australians. Given Mr Waters served his country and rose to the rank of Warrant Officer in the RAAF at a time in Australia's history when he wasn't eligible to vote, the many members of 78 Squadron Association believe the naming of the new Queensland electorate after him is a fitting tribute to honour his legacy and sacrifice."

Recommendation for the new Queensland Electoral Division's Name - WATERS: is the new Queensland Electoral Division's name instead of WRIGHT which will always be synonymous with Keith WRIGHT the former Australian Labor Party politician and convicted rapist. Mr Waters honourably served Australia during a time of crisis and was proud of his heritage. The administrators and the members of No 78 Kittyhawk fighter squadron association wish to strongly urge the department to reconsider.

With kind regards


Rod Keady.... administrator

For and on behalf of 78 squadron association