



The Federal Redistribution 2009
QUEENSLAND



Objection Number 532

**Michael O'Dwyer
State Director LNP**

50 pages

21 August 2009

Mr Ed Killesteyn
Electoral Commissioner
Redistribution Committee for Queensland
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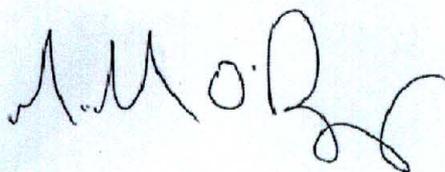
Dear Mr Killesteyn,

The Liberal National Party (The LNP) responds to the Redistribution Committee for Queensland's invitation under Section 69 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* for objections to the proposed redistribution of Queensland into electoral divisions.

Our submission is attached.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael O'Dwyer', written in a cursive style.

Michael O'Dwyer
State Director

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Summary

The Liberal National Party's (LNP) objections are underpinned by our belief that the essence of democracy includes fair representation for all electors – metropolitan, rural, regional and remote parts of Queensland.

The LNP has examined the proposed electoral divisions, consulted with industry groups, local governments, regional councils and individual electors and submits the following objections and comments.

The LNPs specific objections fall into two categories:

- Structural unfairness that destroys community of interest resulting in an unrepresentative outcome; and
- Community of interest dislocations in specific proposed electoral divisions.

The LNP respectfully recommends adjustments to the following Redistribution Committee of Queensland's proposed divisions:

South East Queensland South:

Proposed Bowman
Proposed Forde

South East Queensland North:

Proposed Brisbane
Proposed Dickson
Proposed Fairfax
Proposed Fisher
Proposed Lilley
Proposed Longman
Proposed Petrie
Proposed Ryan

Country:

Proposed Capricornia
Proposed Dawson
Proposed Flynn
Proposed Herbert
Proposed Hinkler
Proposed Kennedy
Proposed Maranoa

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 69 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Act), the Liberal National Party (LNP) responds to the invitation for objections to the Redistribution Committee for Queensland's (RCQ) proposed redistribution of Queensland into electoral divisions.
- 1.2 Our objections are underpinned by our belief that the essence of democracy includes fair representation for all electors – metropolitan, rural, regional and remote parts of Queensland.
- 1.3 The LNP has examined the proposed electoral divisions, consulted with party units, industry groups, local governments, regional councils and individual electors and submits the following objections and comments.
- 1.4 The LNP appreciates that in complying with the requirements of the Act (Sections 63A and 66 (1)) some uncomfortable community of interest outcomes will result in any proposed redistribution by the RCQ. We are of the view that in some proposed divisions there are other choices that the Augmented Electoral Commission (AEC) should be satisfied will improve the community of economic, social, regional and other interest outcomes and comply with the overriding numerical limits requirement.
- 1.5 The LNPs specific objections fall into two categories:
 - Structural unfairness that destroys community of interest resulting in an unrepresentative outcome; and
 - Community of interest dislocations in specific proposed electoral divisions.

2. Context

- 2.1 The context in which our submission is prepared is the quite extraordinary consistency of views expressed by media and political commentators' that the political consequences of the changes made by the RCQ's proposed boundaries are overtly adverse to the LNP.

2.1.1 The AEC's attention is drawn to *The Weekend Australian* July 25-26 p.6:

'Election boundary squeezes Dutton' by Matthew Franklin Chief Political Reporter:

"...an electoral redistribution that will sharply improve Kevin Rudd's re-election chances."

"...The redistribution would also allow Labor to tighten its grip on at least three of its own marginals ...".

"The changes would represent an electoral boost for the Prime Minister ..."

"Sunshine migrants bring a smile to Rudd dial" by George Megalogenis:

"Yesterday's redrawing of Queensland's federal electoral map has Labor beaming because it improves their chances of picking up seats at the next federal election."

"They have brought a further three Coalition seats within gobbling distance for Labor - ..."

"Whichever way you throw the dice, Labor looks like becoming the dominant party in Queensland - "

"Electorate redraw could wipe Coalition off the Map" by Peter Van Onselen

"It's a Ruddymander. The draft redistribution of federal seats in Queensland by the Australian Electoral Commission is a disaster for the Coalition".

"Labor got much more of what it wanted out of the redistribution than the Coalition did – reduced margins in Liberal seats ...and improved margins in Labor seats.

"In fact with the exception of the nationally Liberal margin the new seat of Wright, the Coalition got almost nothing positive out of the new boundaries."

"The magnitude of the disaster ..."

"The kick in guts the Coalition has received in Queensland ..."

2.1.3 The AECs attention is also drawn to Antony Green's blog (Appendix 1) 'Federal Redistribution:Queensland's Draft Electoral Boundaries' 24 July 2009

"...Overall Labor can be seen as having improved its position on the new boundaries. However, some of this may simply be a product of modern marginal seat campaigning. ..."

2.2 Our own analysis of the RCQ's draft Federal boundaries concurs with these conclusions.

2.3 Whilst the ultimate political outcome is not a factor specified as a criterion to be taken into account under either section 66 (applicable to the RCQ) or section 73 (applicable to the task now before the AEC), the whole purpose underlying the Act is to provide for democratic outcomes and it is important this not be overlooked.

2.4 Past experience indicates that the AEC departs from the draft boundaries published by the RCQ only at the margin. As a result the objections contained in this submission do not seek major changes in the structure of the published draft boundaries. Accordingly the LNP's objections to the RCQs draft electoral boundaries propose adjustments:

- that align with numerical requirements of the Act; and
- in the view of the LNP are more consistent with paragraph 73(4)(b) of the Act than the RCQ's proposed boundaries.

3. RCQ's General Strategy

3.1 The LNP notes the RCQ's general strategy but contends it is deficient for the reasons presented below.

3.2 The LNP draws to the attention of the AEC the following comments with reference to section 73 of the Act. It provides, inter alia:

"Redistribution of State or Australian Capital Territory

(1) An augmented Electoral Commission for a State or the Australian Capital Territory shall, in accordance with subsections (3), (4) and (5), determine, by notice published in the *Gazette*, the names and boundaries of the Electoral Divisions into which the State or Territory is to be distributed and, subject to subsections (6) and (7), those Electoral Divisions shall, until altered by a determination under this subsection or subsection 76(6), be the Divisions in the State or Territory.

(2) The augmented Electoral Commission shall make a determination under subsection (1) as soon as practicable after it has considered, in accordance with section 72, all the initial objections and any further objections.

(3) The determination shall distribute the State or Territory into Electoral Divisions equal in number to the number of members of the House of Representatives to be chosen in the State or Territory at a general election.

(4) In making the determination, the augmented Electoral Commission:

(a) shall, as far as practicable, endeavour to ensure that the number of electors enrolled in each Electoral Division in the State or Territory will not, at the projection time determined under section 63A, be less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment of that State or Territory at that time; and

(b) subject to paragraph (a), shall give due consideration, in relation to each Electoral Division, to:

(i) community of interests within the Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;

(ii) means of communication and travel within the Electoral Division;

(iv) the physical features and area of the Electoral Division; and

(v) the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory;

and subject thereto the quota of electors for the State or Territory shall be the basis for the redistribution, and the augmented Electoral Commission may adopt a margin of allowance, to be used whenever necessary, but in no case shall the quota be departed from to a greater extent than one-tenth more or one-tenth less.

(4A) When applying subsection (4), the augmented Electoral Commission must treat the matter in subparagraph (4)(b)(v) as subordinate to the matters in subparagraphs (4)(b)(i), (ii) and (iv)."

- 3.3 Section 66, which governs the principles applicable to the RCQ, is to similar effect. Accordingly, whilst the references below are to section 73, the same principles are applicable under section 66.
- 3.4 As a matter of law, provided that the requirements of paragraph 73(4)(a) and the concluding words of subsection 73(4) are met, the operative provisions are those in paragraph 73(3)(b). The question then arises how "due consideration" is to be given to community of interest, means of communication and travel, area and existing boundaries. The provision does not expressly say.
- 3.5 The LNP submits that as a matter of law the result must be that, subject to satisfaction of paragraph 73(4)(a) and the quota requirement, they should result in two outcomes which are presently relevant:
- the larger divisions being at the lower end of the permissible ranges for numbers of electors; and
 - where, within the permissible enrolment (and forecast enrolment) parameters, an existing divisional boundary can be maintained, that course should be preferred over one which changes an existing boundary.
- 3.6 The latter criterion is referred in a number of the specific comments on proposed divisions. In each case it will be seen that preservation of an existing boundary as proposed, in addition to satisfying quota and population growth requirements, better preserves communities of interest and allows electors to maintain existing representation.
- 3.7 A useful discussion of why criteria (b)(i), (ii) and (iii) support the contention of the LNP that the larger divisions should be at the lower end of the permissible ranges for numbers of electors, subject to the quota and growth requirements, can be found in the Electoral and Administration Review Commission Report on State electoral boundaries (November 1990) which led to the notional voter concept in State redistributions being adopted.

The following paragraphs of that Report are, in the submission of the LNP, equally applicable to Commonwealth redistributions:

“10.29 If there exists in Queensland a situation in which citizens, because of remoteness, distance, or other geographic factors, are placed at a disadvantage in terms of effective access to their MLAs this must adversely affect their ability to take part in the conduct of public affairs. Such a disadvantage must prejudice good government because representative democracy requires reasonable access by electors to their elected representatives. If some deviation from equal suffrage is necessary to overcome this disadvantage then, in the opinion of this Commission, such deviation is justified.”

Reference can also usefully be made to paragraphs 10.190 and 10.211, and indeed the general discussion of the issue of electoral weightage in Part 10 of that report.

- 3.8 The LNP has not relied upon what it views as a departure by the RCQ from these principles in the draft determination of divisional boundaries to propose specific changes. That is because, at this late stage in the process, the making of such changes would require changes by the AEC of a major nature necessitating further consequential changes. This arguably would be inappropriate as the opportunities to comment on a further set of boundaries will not be available.
- 3.9 The purpose of this aspect of the submission is to draw the matter to the attention of the AEC in the hope that these principles will be more adequately kept in mind in the context of future redistributions.

4. Specific Objections

South East Queensland South Divisions

Proposed Blair, Bonner, Bowman, Fadden, Forde, Griffith, McPherson, Moncrieff, Moreton, Oxley, Rankin, Wright

4.1 Proposed Blair

4.1.1 The LNP submits no objections.

4.2 Proposed Bonner

4.2.1 The LNP submits no objections.

4.3 Proposed Bowman

4.3.1 The LNP commends the RCQ for retaining the existing boundaries of Bonner and Griffith.

4.3.2 The LNP submits no adjustments be made to the adjacent division of Bowman. Electors will benefit from a greater degree of certainty if existing boundaries are maintained.

4.3.3 The LNP respectfully recommends that that the 860 electors located in the Carbrook area transfer to proposed Bowman rather than moved to the proposed division of Forde. This will restore the boundaries that have applied since the 2007 election.

4.3.3.1 When the last redistribution occurred in 2005 the then RCQ did not take the opportunity to move this area to another division. The reasons for retaining the area in Bowman are even more compelling today given planning changes made by the Queensland Government since the initial boundaries were released.

4.3.3.2 Proposed Bowman is one of 15 existing divisions projected to be within the permissible range of plus or minus 3.5% of the projected average enrolment. (*Report of the Redistribution Committee, 2009. para 53. page 12*)

4.3.3.3 There is scope for adjustment advocated by the LNP is within the permissible limits as detailed below.

4.3.4 The AEC's attention is drawn to the Queensland Government's South East Queensland's Regional Plan 2009-2031 released July 2009 which confirms that growth in Redland City will not be as strong as other south east local authorities/councils.

- 4.3.4.1 The July 2009 Plan indicates that some 900 hectares of Redland City has been rezoned bushland significantly reducing land available for population growth since the RCQ recommended transferring Carbrook to proposed Forde.
- 4.3.4.2 Growth in the number of dwellings between 2006 and 2031 in Redland City is expected to be 42.2%. This is the second lowest rate of growth across the 11 relevant local authorities and only exceeds the 39.3% growth expected in Brisbane.
- 4.3.4.3 Carbrook has a distinctly rural character in common with the southern Redlands rather than the urban character of neighbouring Cornubia and Shailer Park in Forde.
- 4.3.5 Retaining Carbrook in Bowman is a logical extension of the planning changes announced in July.

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Bowman	89,614	99,061
Transfer from prop Forde Carbrook-Cornubia (part)	-860	-934
	90,474	99,995

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Forde	80,574	99,028
Transfer Carbrook-Cornubia (part) to prop Bowman	+860	+934
	81,434	99,962

4.4 Proposed Fadden

- 4.4.1 The LNP makes no objections.

4.5 Proposed Forde

4.5.1 The LNP respectfully recommends the adjustments as detailed in proposed Bowman 4.3. Proposed enrolments are within permissible limits.

4.6 Proposed Griffith

4.6.1 The LNP submits no objections.

4.7 Proposed McPherson

4.7.1 The LNP submits no objections.

4.8 Proposed Moncrieff

4.8.1 The LNP submits no objections.

4.9 Proposed Moreton

4.9.1 The LNP submits no objections.

4.10 Proposed Oxley

4.10.1 The LNP submits no objections.

4.11 Proposed Rankin

4.11.1 The LNP submits no objections.

4.12 Proposed Wright

4.12.1 The LNP submits no objections.

5. South East Queensland North Divisions

Proposed Fairfax, Fisher, Longman, Petrie, Dickson, Lilley, Brisbane, Ryan

4.5 Proposed Fairfax

- 5.1.1 The LNP submits that the proposed Fairfax boundary incurs community dislocations which may be averted with minor adjustments. The LNP respectfully recommends:
- Adjustment to the proposed boundary at Palmwoods to transfer “Old Orchard” residential subdivision from proposed Fisher to proposed Fairfax; and
 - Adjustment to the proposed boundary at Montville to unite the town in one proposed division and not split between two proposed divisions.
- 5.1.2 The proposed Fairfax southern boundary at Palmwoods School Road (Appendix 2 Attachment A) fractures the Palmwoods community by locating the Old Orchard suburb in proposed Fisher.
- 5.1.2.1 Examination of the *Whereis* Website (Appendix 2 Attachment B) details the suburb and indicates the proposed modification to the southern boundary.
- 5.1.2.2 Approximately 500 electors are in this subdivision without prospect of substantial future population growth.
- 5.1.2.3 The Australian Bureau of Statistics mapping (Appendix 2 Attachment C) shows Old Orchard as part of the Palmwoods community. Attachment D (Appendix 2) is adapted from the ABS website to indicate the suggested southern boundary that would enable the community of Palmwoods to be united in one division.
- 5.1.3 The proposed boundary currently splits the town of Montville. To ensure community of interest is retained we respectfully submit that Montville should be united in either proposed Fisher or Fairfax. There are approximately 700 electors in Montville.
- 5.1.3.1 To unite Montville in proposed Fisher, we suggest that the RCQ southern Fairfax boundary be shifted from Okinja Road to the Buderim-Mooloolaba Road.
- 5.1.4 The proposed adjustments are minor and maybe comfortably accommodated within the RCQ’s 2012 projections for proposed Fairfax of 96,354 and proposed Fisher of 95,108. The communities of Montville and Palmwoods

are established entities and without prospect of significant population growth.

5.1 Proposed Fisher

5.2.1 The LNP respectfully submits that adjustments accord with the LNP's Fairfax proposals in 5.3. The proposed adjustments are within permissible limits.

5.2 Proposed Longman

5.3.1 The LNP respectfully recommends adjustments as detailed in proposed Dickson 5.5.

5.3.2 As in proposed Dickson (5.5) adjustments have been made to the proposed division of Longman including additional changes to ensure enrolment requirements are met.

5.3.3 These changes are:

- Dakabin-Kallangur-Murrumba Downs is transferred to Petrie
- Only part of Deception Bay (that part south of Deception Bay Road to the coast) is transferred to Petrie
- Dayboro area of Moreton Regional Council is transferred to Dickson

5.4 Proposed Petrie

5.4.1 The LNP respectfully recommends adjustments as detailed in proposed Dickson 5.5.

5.4.2 As outlined in Dickson 5.5 the LNP has included Dakabin-Kallangur-Murrumba Downs in Petrie. This will ensure these areas are contained within a single division rather than being divided between three divisions as proposed by the RCQ.

5.4.3 It is proposed to retain Brighton, Deagon, Sandgate and Shorncliffe in Lilley rather than transferring them to Petrie. These areas have an historical connection to the division of Lilley and will ensure the retention of Lilley as encompassing the bayside environs of Brisbane's northern suburbs.

5.4.4 These changes will result in Petrie becoming a division centred on the Redcliffe Peninsula and suburbs adjacent to the Bruce Highway. This will reinforce the character of the division rather than including within its boundaries older, well established suburbs of Brisbane.

5.5 Proposed Dickson

- 5.5.1 The LNP respectfully submits that the proposed Dickson boundaries pay little heed to the existing character of the Dickson division. In 2005 the then RCQ in its Report linked the Shires of Esk and Pine Rivers and noted that a similar linkage occurred in the 1992 redistribution. The RCQ is now seeking to unscramble that egg with consequences that are unlikely to be in the best interests of the electors of Dickson or surrounding divisions.
- 5.5.2 The LNP believes that the character of Dickson as a seat linking urban and rural areas should be strengthened by the retention of the semi rural areas the RCQ proposes to add to the division of Longman. Accordingly, the LNP proposes retaining in Dickson those parts of the Moreton Regional Council from Lake Kurwongbah in the east through Dayboro to Mount Pleasant in the west.
- 5.5.2.1 This area is closely associated with the former Pine Rivers Shire rather than the former Caboolture Shire located in Longman.
- 5.5.2.2 There are no direct links to the Caboolture-Morayfield area from Dayboro.
- 5.5.2.3 Access to education, retail and commercial facilities is to the south east to Petrie and Strathpine in the former Pine Rivers Shire. Significant transport links run in this direction rather than to the north.
- 5.5.3 The RCQ's proposal appears to run counter to its attempt "to keep localities intact, splitting them where necessary only in order to achieve enrolment tolerances, or where there were readily identifiable boundaries that better assisted the definition of a division." (*Report of the Redistribution Committee, 2009, para 59, page 15*)
- 5.5.4 This suggestion involves the retention of 3311 electors in Dickson.
- 5.5.4.1 The retention of this area in Dickson would minimise the dislocation of existing boundaries and limit the number of electors moved to a new division as well as paying greater heed to important social and economic factors.
- 5.5.5 The LNP submits that the inclusion of 8466 electors in Dickson from the existing division of Longman detracts from the essential character of the division.

- 5.5.6 In 2005 the then RCQ transferred 11505 electors from Dickson to Longman. In general terms it is now proposed to return this area to Dickson. This appears inconsistent with the general desire to minimise movements of electors between divisions. The fact that this area has been moved at successive redistributions raises the question of whether future population movements will result in these electors being moved once again at the next redistribution.
- 5.5.7 It is likely that the rate of population growth in Dickson will mean the division will have to contract in the future.
- 5.5.8 Accordingly, the LNP submits that the Dakabin-Kallangur-Murrumba Downs and Petrie areas be included in Petrie. This will ensure that the entire Kallangur area is included in a single division rather than divided between Dickson and Longman as proposed by the RCQ.
- 5.5.9 Further changes are recommended to Dickson to ensure that enrolment requirements are met.
- 5.5.9.1 Residents of the south eastern corner of Dickson have close links with the Brisbane suburbs of Bridgeman Downs, McDowell and Everton Park. Significant arterial roads, such as Albany Creek Road connect these suburbs with those located in the existing and proposed Dickson.
- 5.5.9.2 There is little discernible difference between this part of suburban Brisbane and the adjoining suburbs of the Moreton Regional Council.
- 5.5.9.3 The LNP recommends that this area be included in Dickson to bolster enrolments as well as building on the strong links with adjacent areas of Dickson.

5.6 Proposed Lilley

- 5.6.1 The LNP respectfully recommends adjustments as detailed in proposed Dickson 5.5.
- 5.6.2 The changes described in proposed Dickson require further amendments to the proposed boundaries of the division of Lilley.
- 5.6.3 It is proposed that the suburbs of Gordon Park and Stafford be included in Lilley rather than Brisbane to bolster Lilley's enrolments. However, it should be noted that these suburbs, north of Kedron Brook, have a close affinity to the adjoining suburbs of Stafford Heights and Kedron which are also included in Lilley.

5.6.4 At the same time it is suggested that the southern part of Everton Park and the remainder of Stafford also be transferred to Lilley.

5.6.5 These changes would result in Kedron Brook becoming part of the boundary of the divisions of Dickson, Ryan, Brisbane and Lilley.

5.7 Proposed Brisbane

5.7.1 The LNP respectfully recommends adjustments as detailed in proposed Dickson 5.5.

5.7.2 A number of consequential changes to the boundaries of the proposed division of Brisbane are outlined below. These changes do not alter the character of the division as proposed by the RCQ.

5.8 Proposed Ryan

5.8.1 The LNP respectfully recommends adjustments as detailed in proposed Dickson 5.5.

5.8.2 The LNP believes, that, where possible, existing boundaries should be maintained, particularly when these boundaries are of long standing. Arguably, this is of even greater importance where a small number of electors are involved and where there will be minimal impact on total enrolments in the relevant divisions.

5.8.3 Accordingly, the LNP submits that the area described as Paddington (part) and Toowong (part) should be returned to Ryan rather than being transferred to the proposed division of Brisbane. There are only 2,344 electors involved.

5.8.4 The area from the Brisbane River across Milton Road towards Paddington has a recent association with the division of Ryan and looks towards the suburban centre of Toowong in Ryan as its main focus.

5.8.5 There is little need to change this existing boundary and it should be restored.

5.8.6 To accommodate this change it is proposed that 1,243 electors in what is described as Enoggera (part) be returned to the division of Brisbane rather than moved to Ryan. This area has a long association with the division of Brisbane and this proposal would simply restore electors to the existing division.

5.9.1 The LNP respectfully recommends adjustments as detailed below.

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Dickson	85,616	94,648
Transfer Dakabin-Kallangur- Murrumba Downs to proposed Petrie	-13,747	-15,845
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	71,862	78,796
Transfer Moreton Bay (R) from proposed Longman	+3,311	+3,722
Transfer Part Brisbane city from proposed Lilley	+13,259	+13,631
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	88,439	96,156

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Longman	84,523	95,999
Transfer Moreton Bay (R) to proposed Dickson	- 3,311	-3,722
Transfer Dakabin-Kallangur- Murrumba Downs to proposed Petrie	-3,701	-4,237
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	78,112	88,681
Transfer Deception Bay from Proposed Petrie	+7,695	+8,161
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	85,206	96,201

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Petrie	85,479	95,993
Transfer Deception Bay to proposed Longman	-7,695	-8,161
Transfer Brighton- Sandgate etc to proposed Lilley	-12,670	-12,806
	65,114	75,026
Transfer Dakabin-Kallangur- Murrumba Downs from proposed Longman	+3,701	+4,237
Transfer Dakabin-Kallangur- Murrumba Downs from proposed Dickson	+13,747	+15,845
	85,562	95,108

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Lilley	94,269	97,040
Transfer part Brisbane city to proposed Dickson	-13,259	-13,631
	81,010	83,409
Transfer Brighton- Sandgate etc from proposed Petrie	+12,670	+12,806
Transfer Stafford etc from proposed Brisbane	+3,641	+3,751
	97,321	99,966

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Brisbane	93,250	99,779
Transfer Stafford etc to proposed Lilley	-3,641	-3,751
Transfer Paddington-Toowong (part) to proposed Ryan	-2,344	-2,453
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	87,265	93,575
Transfer Enoggera (part) from Proposed Ryan	+1,243	+1,295
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	88,508	94,870

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Ryan	94,446	97,298
<i>Transfer Enoggera to proposed Brisbane</i>	-1,243	-1,295
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	93,203	95,903
<i>Transfer Paddington- Toowong (part) from proposed Brisbane</i>	+2,344	+2,453
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	95,547	99,086

6. Country Divisions

Proposed Leichhardt, Kennedy, Herbert, Dawson, Capricornia, Flynn, Hinkler, Wide Bay, Maranoa

6.1 Proposed Leichhardt

6.1.1 The LNP submits no objections.

6.2 Proposed Kennedy

6.2.1 The LNP submits adjustments to proposed Kennedy as detailed in 6.3 proposed Herbert.

6.2.2 The transfer of Bohle Basin (part) and Northern Beaches-Pinnacles from proposed Herbert to proposed Kennedy maintains the homogeneity community of interest in proposed Kennedy.

6.2.3 To offset the transfer of Bohle Basin (part) and Northern Beaches-Pinnacles (part) from proposed Herbert to proposed Kennedy, the LNP submits that Charters Towers Regional Council south of the Flinders Highway in proposed Kennedy transfer to proposed Dawson.

6.2.4 The LNP respectfully recommends the proposed adjustments as detailed in 6.3 proposed Herbert.

6.3 Proposed Herbert

6.3.1 The LNP objects to the proposed Herbert boundaries on the grounds of community of interest and submits a proposed alternative boundary.

6.3.1.1 The proposed RCQ Herbert boundary splits the Lavarack Barracks from its dormitory suburb of Annandale thus fracturing the strong community of interest that is established between the Lavarack Barracks and the suburb of Annandale "*the traditional home of hundreds defence families*" (*Townsville Bulletin* editorial, July 25 2009 'Interesting boundary changes' Appendix 3) and service personnel.

6.3.1.2 The RCQ's proposed Herbert boundary has engendered strong community opposition from Annandale residents who object to the proposed transfer to proposed Dawson. For example:

- (1) *Townsville Bulletin* editorial July 25 2009 "Interesting boundary changes" (Appendix 3):

- (2) *Townsville Bulletin* story August 1 2009 "Voters angry over changes" (Appendix 3);
- (3) *Townsville Bulletin* opinion August 5 2009 "Electoral humbug" (Appendix 3);
- (4) *Townsville Bulletin* story August 5 2009 "Voters take a swing at boundary plan" (Appendix 3).

6.3.2 The LNP respectfully recommends that to restore the longstanding community of interest that exists between the Lavarack Barracks and its dormitory suburb of Annandale, Murray Part (Annandale) be transferred from proposed Dawson to proposed Herbert with accommodating adjustments to proposed Kennedy, Dawson and Capricornia for the reasons detailed below.

6.3.2.1 Townsville is Australia's only garrison city and the nexus between the city and the Lavarack Barracks is recognised in the RCQ's report: "The Committee determined that Lavarack Barracks remain within Herbert due to the strong community of interest that exists between the barracks and Townsville." (RCQ Report Clause 190 p.32) There are more defence families/persons residing in the suburb of Annandale than those who live on the barracks.

6.3.2.1.1 Currently there are 539 electors enrolled at Lavarack Barracks.

6.3.2.2 Local Government boundary reform of 2008 merged the cities of Townsville and Thuringowa based on common community of interest. Transferring the premier and inner suburb of Annandale from Herbert to proposed Dawson seemingly contradicts the 2008 reform measure and its reasoning.

6.3.2.3 Townsville is Australia's largest tropical city and the leading administrative and business centre for north Queensland. The inner suburb of Annandale is the home for a significant number of community and business persons and leaders who are committed to the city's welfare, growth and development. It is incongruous that under the proposed Herbert boundary issues requiring the attention of the local Member of Parliament will need to be communicated to a distant Parliamentary representative.

6.3.2.3.1 The regional issues and interest between the city of Mackay and the inner Annandale suburb of Townsville are dissimilar in focus and distinct economic regions. The defence industry and its service personnel should be located in proposed Herbert and not be split between two competing Parliamentary representative – one in proposed Herbert and one in proposed Dawson located in Mackay.

6.3.2.4 Should the proposed Herbert boundary stand it is clear that the strategic suburb of Annandale will be disadvantaged in terms of communicating on issues. The serving Member for existing Dawson has ruled out an office in the Townsville end of proposed Dawson. (*Townsville Bulletin* August 5 2009 "Irate voter's voice boundary anger", Appendix 3).

6.3.3 The LNP respectfully recommends:

6.3.3.1 That Annandale bounded by University Drive, Bowen Road and the Ross River be transferred from proposed Dawson to proposed to Herbert.

6.3.3.2 That the Bohle Basin (part) and Northern Beaches-Pinnacles (part) in proposed Herbert be transferred to proposed Kennedy to maintain community of interest homogeneity thus the proposed Kennedy boundary is the existing boundary.

6.3.3.3 That consequential adjustments be made to neighbouring divisions as detailed below.

6.3.3.4 The transfer of 3 Idalia CCDS from proposed Dawson.

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Herbert	89,531	100,252
Transfer Bohle Basin (part) and Northern Beaches Pinnacles (part) to proposed Kennedy	-6,801	-7,414
	82,730	92,838
Transfer part Murray (Annandale) from proposed Dawson	+5,978	+6,275
	88,708	99,113
Transfer Idalia (part) from prop Dawson CCDs:		
3,043,103		
3,043,105		
3,043,106	+860	+1,386
	89,568	97,727

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Kennedy	95,221	100,246
Transfer Nthn Beaches Bohle Basin from prop Herbert	+6,801	+7,414
	<hr/> 102,022	<hr/> 107,660
Transfer part Charters Towers Regional Council south of Flinders Highway from proposed Kennedy to proposed Dawson	-5,895	-5,930
	<hr/> 96,127	<hr/> 101,730
Transfer Burdekin (S) Stuart-Roseneath (part) Woodstock-Cleveland- Ross (part) from proposed Kennedy to to proposed Dawson	-1,203	-1,257
	<hr/> 94,924	<hr/> 100,473

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Dawson	93,042	100,610
Transfer Charters Towers south of Flinders Highway from proposed Kennedy	+5,895	+5,930
	<hr/> 98,937	<hr/> 106,540
Murray Part from prop Herbert	-5,978	-6,275
	<hr/> 92,959	<hr/> 100,265
Transfer Burdekin (S) from prop Kennedy Stuart-Roseneath (part) Woodstock-Cleveland- Ross (part) to proposed Dawson	+1,203	+1,257
	<hr/> 95,162	<hr/> 101,522
Transfer Idalia (part) to prop Herbert CCDS 3043103 3043105 3043106	+860	-1,386
	<hr/> 95,022	<hr/> 100,136

6.4 Proposed Dawson

- 6.4.1 The LNP objects to proposed Dawson boundary on the grounds of community interest as detailed in 6.3 proposed Herbert.
- 6.4.2 The LNP respectfully recommends the proposed adjustments as detailed in 6.3 proposed Herbert.

6.4.2.1 The Charters Towers Regional Council refers to its region as 'located in the coastal hinterland of North Queensland stretching north to Ingham and south to Bowen' (www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au) which suggests that geographically there is homogeneity with proposed Dawson, Kennedy and Herbert.

6.4.2.2 The transfer of Charters Towers Regional Council below the Flinders Highway in proposed Kennedy to proposed Dawson has a more compatible community of interest compared with the strong inter-relationship that exists between the Lavarack Barracks and its dormitory suburb of Annandale.

6.4.2.3 The transfer of three Idalia CCDs to proposed Herbert.

6.5 Proposed Capricornia

6.5.1 The LNP objects to the proposed Capricornia boundary on community of interest grounds and submits specific adjustments.

6.5.2 Residents of Mount Morgan and Gracemere reportedly are "disappointed" that the communities have been transferred from proposed Capricornia to proposed Flynn. (*Morning Bulletin* 25 July 2009 "New lines drawn for Mt Morgan? Appendix 4")

6.5.2.1 The Federal Parliamentary Member for existing Capricornia's spokesperson is on record saying that "Mount Morgan and Gracemere had a long historic association with Rockhampton" and "it would be disappointing if these areas were to go into Flynn" (Ibid).

6.5.2.2 Gracemere as a suburb of Rockhampton is extrinsically linked to Rockhampton City. The LNP respectfully recommends that Gracemere be transferred from proposed Flynn to proposed Capricornia as detailed below.

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Capricornia	89,826	95,822
Transfer Fitzroy Pt A (part) from proposed Flynn	3,906	4,669
	93,732	100,491

6.6 Proposed Flynn

6.6.1 The LNP objects to the proposed Flynn boundary on community of interest grounds and submits specific adjustments.

6.6.2 The LNP respectfully recommends that the suburb of Gracemere which is a suburb of Rockhampton transfer from proposed Flynn to proposed Capricornia therefore maintaining historical linkages and associations.

6.6.3 Proposed Flynn includes parts of the Bundaberg Regional Council (Bundaberg – Burnett Part A, Burnett Part B and Kolan). The entire northern rural environs of Burnett Part B are in Flynn excepting 8 CCDs in the suburb of North Bundaberg.

6.6.3.1 The LNP respectfully recommends that the CCDs detailed below be transferred to proposed Flynn from proposed Hinkler for community of interest reasons. We submit that:

- the Burnett River forms a natural boundary; and
- many business of urban North Bundaberg service the adjoining rural areas. These include regional shopping centres, Post Office, hotels, rural and produce agencies. (Prior to 1984 this urban area was included in Capricornia).

6.6.4 Proposed Flynn incorporates North Burnett – Biggenden transferred from existing Hinkler. Whilst located in the North Burnett Regional Council Biggenden's community of interest linkages are towards the Fraser Coast as demonstrated by promotional material showing the area as a Fraser Coast location and a nearby destination to visit (www.frasercoastholidays).

6.6.4.1 The LNP respectfully recommends that North Burnett - Biggenden transfer from proposed Flynn to proposed Hinkler – thereby maintaining the existing Divisional boundary. The community of interest reasoning is detailed below.

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Flynn	90,120	96,781
Transfer Fitzroy Pt A (part) To proposed Capricornia	-3,906	-4,669
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	86,214	92,112
Transfer Nth Burnett - Biggenden to proposed Hinkler	-1,141	-1,165
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	85,073	90,947
Transfer North Bundaberg from Hinkler		
3,071,601	503	511
3,071,602	558	568
3,071,603	366	386
3,071,604	305	330
3,071,605	694	817
3,071,612	419	464
3,071,613	485	580
3,071,614	563	702
	+3,893	+4,358
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	88,966	95,305
Transfer from proposed Maranoa		
Barcaldine - Aramac		
Barcaldine - Jericho		
Barcaldine - Barcaldine		
Blackall Tambo - Blackall		
Blackall Tambo - Tambo	3,767	3,742
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	92,708	99,292

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Hinkler	88,420	100,319
Transfer North Bundaberg To Flynn	-3,893	- 4,358
	<hr/>	
	84,527	95,961
Transfer from proposed Flynn Nth Burnett – Biggenden	1,141	1,165
	<hr/>	
	85,668	97,126

6.7 Proposed Hinkler

6.7.1 The LNP respectfully recommends adjustment to proposed Hinkler as detailed in 6.6 proposed Flynn.

6.8 Proposed Wide Bay

6.8.1 The LNP submits no objections.

6.9 Proposed Maranoa

6.9.1 The LNP submits adjustments to proposed Maranoa.

6.9.2 Proposed Maranoa with an area of 725,513 square kilometers has a projected enrolment of 98,112. The LNP submits that subject to paragraph 73(4)(a) and the quota requirement 73(4)(b) particularly 73(4)(b)(ii) that proposed Maranoa as a larger division should be at the lower end of the permissible enrolment ranges.

6.9.3 Regional interests (73(4)(b)(i)) often are subordinate to quota requirements and it is clear from the comments of Mayor of with Barcaldine Regional Council (ABC story, July 27 "Residents 'over' electorate changes" Appendix 5) that being moved from division is a regional interest disadvantage. The proposed inclusion of the area in proposed Maranoa will be the "fifth change" for some residents.

6.9.4 The LNP has considered the several submissions from the Central West seeking transfer to proposed Maranoa and balance with the statement of the community leader in the Barcaldine region.

6.9.4.1 The LNP respectfully submits that Barcaldine R – Aramac, Barcaldine, Jericho and Blackall-Tambo be transferred from proposed Maranoa to proposed Flynn as detailed below.

6.9.2 The Barcaldine Regional Council

	<i>Enrolments 2009</i>	<i>Enrolments projected 2012</i>
Proposed Maranoa	95,078	98,112
Transfer		
Barcaldine - Aramac		
Barcaldine – Jericho		
Barcaldine – Barcaldine		
Blackall Tambo – Blackall		
Blackall Tambo – Tambo to proposed Flynn	3,767	3,742
	91,311	94,370

6.10 Proposed Groom

6.10 The RCQ has proposed no change to the boundaries of Groom and the LNP submits no objections.

7 Name of New Division

7.1 The LNP submits no objection.

APPENDIX 1

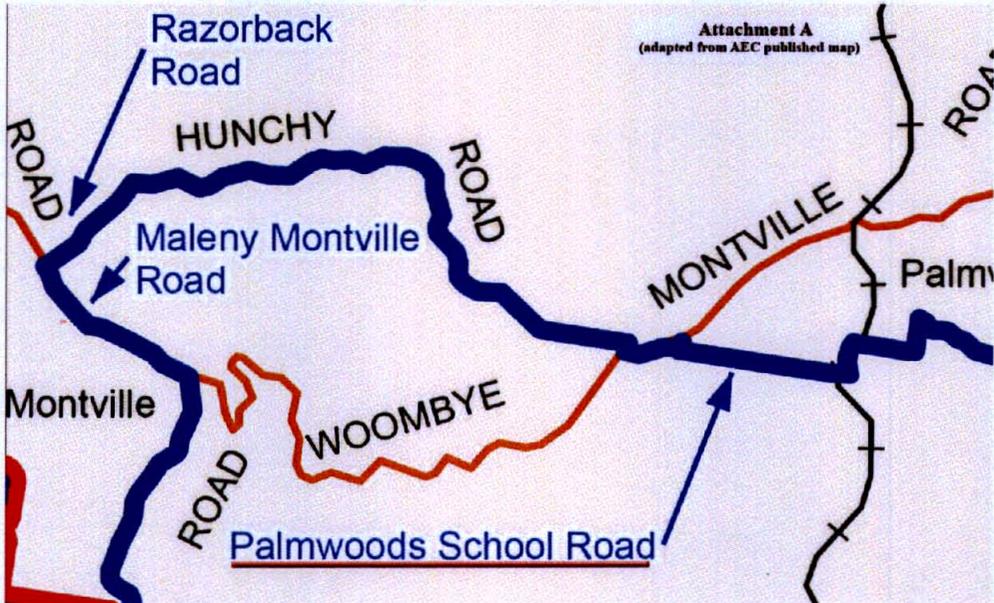
Psephologist Antony Green July 20 2009 blog

<http://blogs.abc.net.au/antonygreen/2009/07/federal-redistribution-queensland-draft-electoral-boundaries.html>

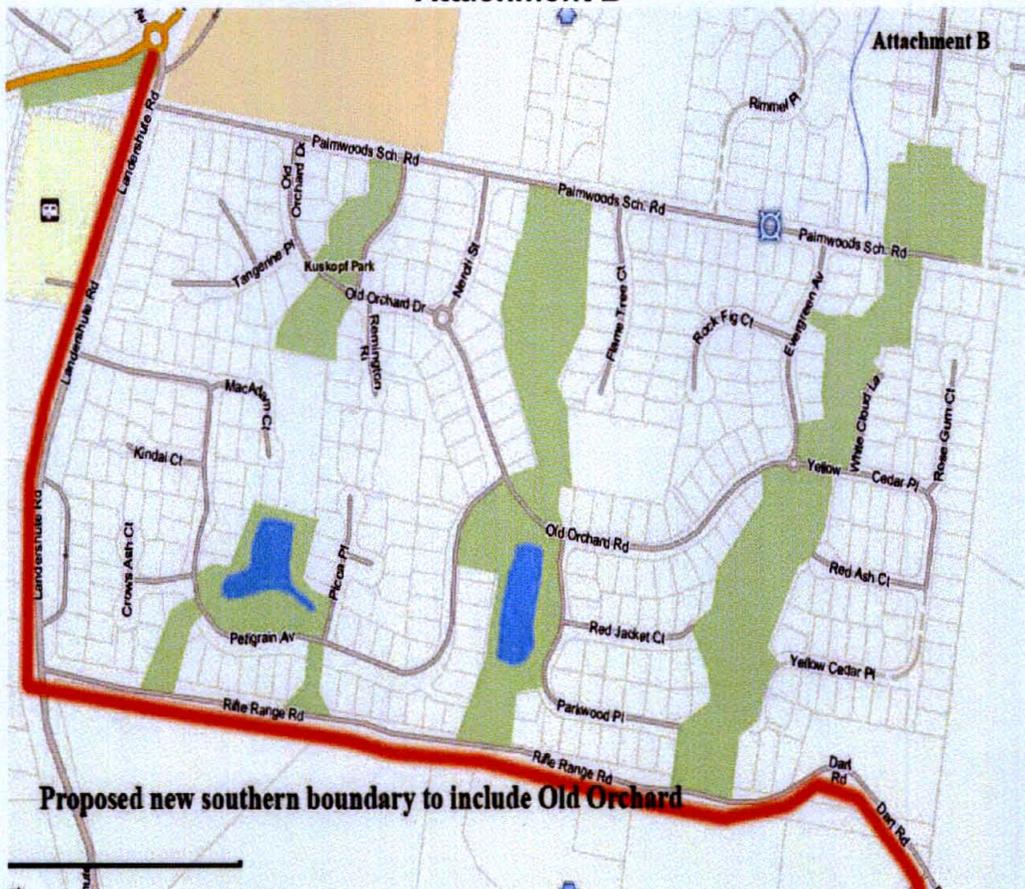
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APPENDIX 2
Proposed Fairfax

Attachment A



Attachment B



Attachment C

Attachment C

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Search for a place name or postal area within Australia.
 HINT: Enter at least three characters.

Search Location Search Tips

Your search has returned 2 results.

Which location do I select?

- Palmwoods (Maroochy Shire) (State Suburb) - Old
- Palmwoods (Urban Centre/Locality) - Old

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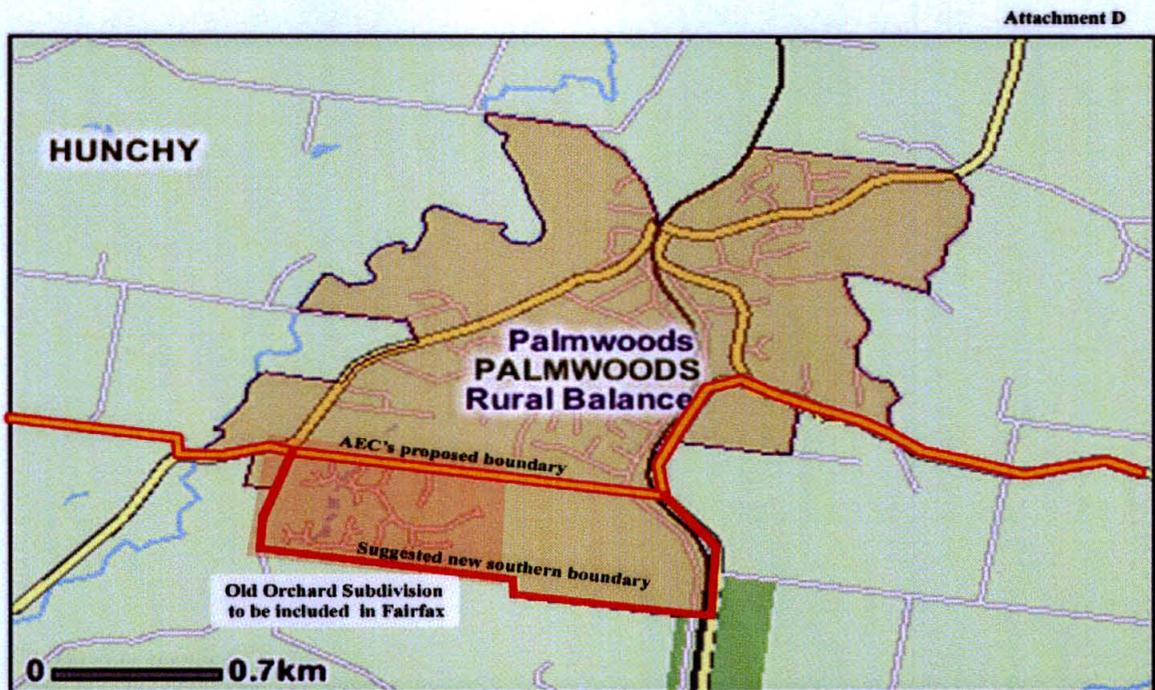
Map is not clickable Display map

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This page last updated 6 August 2009

Email notification service

Attachment D



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Appendix 3

Townville Bulletin Editorial July 25 2009



Opinion

Electoral humbug

RESIDENTS of Annandale are justifiably upset with proposed changes to Federal electoral boundaries, which would place them in the Mackay-based seat of Dawson, instead of the Townsville-based seat of Herbert. A meeting last night of concerned residents talked of the 'ridiculous' nature of the proposed new boundaries, which means the people of Annandale's local federal MP will be 400km away.

As part of the proposed redistribution, the northern beaches will be excised from Kennedy, held by independent Bob Katter, and put into Herbert, held narrowly by the Liberals' Peter Lindsay.

Of course, the ruling Labor Party won't have a problem with the new boundaries, making Herbert easier to win as hundreds of defence families live in Annandale, and they are traditional Liberal voters.

But it does seem a bit rich to be living in a Townsville suburb, only to have your local MP based in Mackay. It's a long way to go for an appointment.



Opinion

Townsville Bulletin

Saturday July 25, 2009

Interesting boundary changes

SPECULATION is mounting that Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is ready to go the polls as early as March next year to capitalise on the Liberal Party's leadership tension over its emissions trading policy and a belief that unemployment will climb higher towards the latter half of 2010.

Yesterday, the Australian Electoral Commission handed down its Queensland report, detailing changes to federal electoral boundaries including Herbert, Dawson and Kennedy.

The new boundaries mean that Herbert will lose a major slice of Annandale, the traditional home of hundreds of defence force families.

Annandale will instead go into the seat of Dawson, held by Labor's James Bidgood.

This will concern the Liberal Party's incumbent, Herbert MP Peter Lindsay, who has in the past secured the majority of the defence force vote.

With the margin in Herbert narrowly favouring the Liberals, the re-distribution enhances the chances of the ALP's Herbert candidate, expected to be either former Mayor Tony Mooney, current city councillor Jopny Hill or McDonald's franchisee supreme George Colbran.

Under the new boundaries Deeragun and the Northern Beaches, which had been in independent Bob Katter's seat of Kennedy, will now go into Herbert.

Mr Katter, lamenting the loss of the Northern Beaches as part of his constituency, yesterday took a big swipe at the former Thuringowa council, headed up by current Townsville Mayor Les Tyrrell.

He blamed Thuringowa's 'political games' for a failure to achieve proper water and bore fields development, costing the Northern Beaches access to water and \$23 million in government grants.

Mr Katter also blasted the council for its obsession with 'super small housing blocks' and the total removal of all trees from development, saying it was 'a disgusting blight against the people associated with Thuringowa Council, some of whom are now with Townsville council'.

Whatever the political machinations of federal boundary changes or council mergers, it's time for politicians to stop treating the people of the Northern Beaches as second class citizens.

The people of Bushland Beach have suffered enough with the Mount Low Parkway road debacle, which has eased since the State Government opened a new overpass last month.

Even at state level, most Northern Beaches voters are part of the Ingham-based Hinchinbrook electorate.

Whoever represents the northern suburbs must start paying more attention to their needs. Many are young families just starting out in life.

With rates up, unemployment rising and the economy doing it tough, they deserve a break.

† Page 64 Townsville Bulletin Saturday, July 25, 2009
† 18 824 800K 25 JUL 2009 08:15:00

Townsville Bulletin August 1 2009
Story

Voters angry over changes

By CHRIS QUAGLIATA

WULGURU and Annandale residents are fuming over proposed electoral boundary changes that could see their Federal MP based more than 400km away.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) redistribution proposal would put about 10,000 voters in Annandale and Wulguru, including Levarack Barracks, in the Mackay-based federal seat of Dawson.

Annandale resident Erian Fugh said the proposal was 'ludicrous'.

"My concern is that Townsville is northern Australia's largest city. We already get treated rather shabbily by politicians of all persuasions, whether it's federal or state," he said.

"This would be a gross indignity on the average punter in my belief."

The Labor voter said he saw no benefit in being incorporated

into a seat that was held by the government. "This goes outside political affiliation. This boils down to simple common sense, and I think it's lacking."

"I honestly don't believe that people who live in Mackay would pay the same amount of attention to this little pocket of people in Townsville."

Dave Clelland, also of Annandale, said it was wrong to have a section of Townsville so close to the CBD represented by a member based almost 400km away.

"Surely they can trim the boundaries around a bit and have a bit of leeway," he said.

"I think they should weigh up the area of interest as well as the numbers."

Herbert MP Peter Lindsay has called a meeting for angry residents to voice their opinion next week, with the results to form part of a written objection to be sent to the AEC.

Dawson MP James Bidgood, who already represents about 10,000 voters in Townsville sub-

urbs Stuart and Concoona, has said Mr Lindsay's objections to the proposed changes were political, with the loss of defence force votes in the Annandale area a threat to his seat.

Mr Lindsay there was a 'general feeling of disbelief' within the community after a number of people registered complaints with his office.

"I am going to lodge a strong objection on behalf of these residents with the Australian Electoral Commission," he said.

"It doesn't matter who you vote for or if you vote at all. Essentially I want to hear the voices of the public in regards to this issue and in turn be their voice."

"It's about what's best for the community and for our federal electorate. It's not about party politics."

The meeting will be held next Tuesday at the Annandale Community Centre from 8.30pm.

The AEC will take written objections on the redistribution proposals until August 21.

Townsville Bulletin August 5 2009
"Voters take a swing at boundary changes"

Voters take a swing at boundary plan

IRATE Annandale and Wiggwara residents vented their anger over proposed electoral boundary changes at a meeting last night.

The meeting at Annandale Community Centre, was organised by Herbert MP Peter Lindsay.

An Australian Electoral Commission redistribution proposal would put about 18,000 voters in Annandale and Wiggwara, excluding Lavender Barracks, in the Mackay-based federal seat of Dawson.

Dawson MP James Bidgood came in for a hammering at the meeting. Annandale resident Irene Kennedy made her feelings about the Labor politician from Mackay quite clear.

"I think the member for Dawson doesn't have our best interests at heart," Ms Kennedy said. "He has already made it clear he will not have an office here."

Resident Mark McGregor said he would make invalid votes at federal elections if he was moved into the federal seat of Dawson.

"I don't want to be voting for a bypass road down in Mackay," Mr McGregor said. "I want to be voting for a ring road near where I live."

Annandale's Mal Heron said the city had to realise electoral boundaries would need to move as the population grew, but the city did not need to be split, yek, or in this way.

"Sooner or later Townsville will have to face the prospect of being cut down the middle," Mr Heron said.

"But I think the electoral commission will have to grab that opportunity later on. "It could be a more dramatic boundary change, down the middle like Brisbane, Army Chaplain Rod Bailey said he lived in Annandale and worked across the road.

"I don't want to be alienated from my community," he said.

Mr Lindsay said residents in the affected areas should lodge handwritten submissions to the commission. "If we can get the right number of objections in... they will say we have got a problem here," Mr Lindsay said. "There is no political motivation on my part. We are doing this because this is right."

About 10,000 voters in Stuart and Oonoonba were moved into Dawson before the last election. When residents asked Mr Lindsay about moving those people back into Herbert he said he thought it was "already a done deal", but he would consider having a meeting with those residents if there was community interest.

The ABC will take written objections on the



THEY'LL LISTEN... Herbert MP Peter Lindsay says people should lodge written objections



Appendix 4

Morning Bulletin Story July 25 2009



Morning Bulletin
Story July 25 2009.doc

Appendix 5

ABC News story July 27 2009 "Residents 'over' electorate changes"



Mayor Chandler -
Barcaldine.doc

Morning Bulletin Story July 25 2009

New lines drawn for Mt Morgan?

25th July 2009 

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND: FIRST Mount Morgan residents had their council disbanded so they could become a key part of the greater Rockhampton region.

Then when the seat of Fitzroy was also wound up, the town's residents were put into Mirani, a seat where their member lives some 300-plus km to the north.

Now, a proposed federal redistribution would see the historic town change from the seat of Capricornia to the Gladstone-based Flynn.

An Australian Electoral Commission redistribution report, released yesterday, proposes 8244 electors from the Gracemere and Mount Morgan areas move into the seat currently held by Labor's Chris Trevor.

Mount Morgan's Kerrilyn Page isn't a fan of the proposal.

"It certainly would be disappointing," said Ms Page, who owns the town's newsagency.

She said the redistribution once again moved the focus away for Mount Morgan residents from Rockhampton, its nearest major infrastructure base.

"I think with the state redistribution it wasn't really felt locally until the election," Ms Page said.

"That caused a lot of confusion and disappointment. I imagine this would be the same."

She said Mount Morgan was traditionally a Labor stronghold, but because of the state redistribution it now found itself with an LNP member - Ted Malone, who she said was working hard in his role.

Flynn is a far more marginal seat than Capricornia, which is considered a safe Labor seat.

A spokesman from Member for Capricornia Kirsten Livermore's office yesterday said Mount Morgan and Gracemere had a long and historic association with Rockhampton.

The spokesman said it would be disappointing if these areas were to go into Flynn.

"We are looking at it very closely," he said. "However, the Australian Electoral Commission is an independent body and is tasked with ensuring that each electorate has the same number of voters and therefore every vote is equal. The decision in this is really up to the AEC."

Member for Flynn Chris Trevor said he was "overjoyed" his hometown remained in the electorate and that the Australian Electoral Commission didn't accept the LNP suggestion that Gladstone and Rockhampton be merged.

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for the Australian Electoral Commission said the key factor in boundary changes was getting the numbers within accepted levels.

Capricornia could gain up to 545 electors, or lose up to 6261, and remain within numerical tolerances.

As well as the Gracemere and Mount Morgan changes, the proposal would see Capricornia lose an additional 336 electors to Dawson, south of Mackay, but gain 4312 electors from that same seat at Ooralea, Alexandra, Walkerston and the Pleystowe areas west of Mackay.

The Electoral Commissioner Ed Killesteyn said legislation required new boundaries to be drawn up. Mr Killesteyn said the number of electors in each division should not range more than 3.5% below and above the state's projected average enrolment of 97,232 electors. The full details are available on the AEC website at www.aec.gov.au Written objections must be lodged with the Australian Electoral Commission no later than 6pm on Friday, August 21.

Residents 'over' electorate changes

By Chrissy Arthur

Posted Mon Jul 27, 2009 8:24am AEST

Updated Mon Jul 27, 2009 8:23am AEST

A western Queensland Mayor says people in remote areas are tired of being moved to different federal electorates due to boundary changes.

A proposed redistribution of seats will see the communities of Longreach, Winton, Barcaldine and Blackall moved from the coastal-based seat of Flynn into Maranoa.

Barcaldine Mayor Rob Chandler says it is the fifth change for some residents.

"Well there we go again - from Kennedy in the old days, to Capricornia, to Maranoa, to Flynn and now back to Maranoa - look we are the poor kids on the block here when it comes to looking for someone to redistribute," he said.

Councillor Chandler says moving from a marginal seat may not be a good thing.

"The fact that we now for the first time ever in our history in a marginal seat, we have been well looked after and when you think we're coming up to a federal election - I personally think we'd be better off staying in the seat of Flynn for purely a monetary purpose - we would be recognised and targeted because we are a marginal seat," he said.

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Antony Green's Election Blog

ABC's Election Analyst blogs on the wonderful world of Australian Elections.

July 24, 2009

Federal Redistribution: Queensland Draft Electoral Boundaries

The Australian Electoral Commission released its proposed new boundaries for Queensland this morning. Details of the new boundaries can be found at [the AEC site](#).

(This post has been updated at 4:00pm Friday 24 July.)

The Commission proposes the 30th seat be called Wright and located along the NSW border west of the Gold Coast. It is a notional Liberal held seat.

However, while the Coalition gains the new seat, two of the Liberal Party's most marginal seats are now notionally Labor held. The Townsville based seat of Herbert held by Peter Lindsay, switches from being a very marginal Liberal seat to a very marginal Labor seat. Closer to Brisbane, the marginal seat of Dickson, held by Liberal frontbencher Peter Dutton, is now notionally a Labor seat with a margin of 1.3%

In the South East corner, Treasurer Wayne Swan's seat of Lilley has its margin cut from 8.6% to 5.9%, but Labor's position in the marginal seats of Blair, Moreton and Petrie is strengthened. Labor's position is weakened in Longman and the Liberal seat of Ryan has its margin cut from 3.8% to 1.2%.

The marginal seats on the old boundaries are shown below. Labor held 15 seats, the Coalition 13 (Liberal 10, National 3) with Independent Bob Katter holding the northern outback seat of Kennedy. Nine of Labor's 15 seats were marginal on the old boundaries.

Marginal Queensland Electorates - Old Boundaries

Labor Seats		Coalition Seats	
0.2%	Flynn	0.04%	Bowman
2.1%	Petrie	0.1%	Dickson
2.9%	Forde	0.2%	Herbert
3.2%	Dawson	1.7%	Hinkler
3.6%	Longman	3.0%	Fairfax
4.0%	Leichhardt	3.1%	Fisher
4.5%	Blair	3.8%	Ryan
4.5%	Bonner		
4.7%	Moreton		

On the new boundaries, Labor now notionally hold 17 seats with the addition of Herbert and Dickson, against the Coalition's 12 (Liberal 9, National 3) with one Independent. The Liberal margin in Bowman is so narrow it could almost be a Labor seat.

Nine of Labor's 17 seats are marginal, but this includes Herbert and Dickson. Three of Labor's former marginal seats, Blair, Moreton and Petrie, have been substantially strengthened, while Brisbane has moved into the marginal category.

Marginal Queensland Electorates - New Boundaries

Labor Seats		Coalition Seats	
0.4%	Herbert (sitting Liberal MP)	0.0%	Bowman
1.3%	Dickson (sitting Liberal MP)	1.2%	Ryan
1.3%	Longman	1.5%	Hinkler
2.0%	Flynn	2.9%	Fairfax
2.4%	Forde	3.6%	Fisher
2.4%	Dawson	3.8%	Wright
3.7%	Brisbane		
3.8%	Leichhardt		
4.5%	Bonner		

Overall Labor can be seen as having improved its position on the new boundaries. However, some of this may simply be a product of modern marginal seat campaigning. The Liberal Party effort in retaining seats like Herbert and Dickson was at the expense of the Coalition's campaign in electorates surrounding these key marginal seats. As is often the case in these situations, even a small change in boundaries can bring into the electorate booths that damage the position of the sitting MP.

The tables below set out in detail an analysis of the boundary changes and political impact on each of the proposed electorates.

Blair

Held by	Shayne Neumann	Blair remains based on Ipswich, but 28,000 voters in the conservative voting rural areas south and west of Ipswich have been transferred to the new seat of Wright. The electorate gains the Somerset Council area north of Ipswich, but overall Labor's position is strengthened.
Old Margin	Labor 4.5%	
New Margin	Labor 7.4%	

Bonner

Held by	Kerry Rea	No change.
Old Margin	Labor 4.5%	
New Margin	Labor 4.5%	

Bowman

Held by	Andrew Laming	Around 860 voters in Cornubia and Carbrook at the southern end of the electorate have been transferred to Forde. This area voted Liberal in 2007, and with these votes removed, the calculations for Bowman could put the seat a handful of votes on either side of the electoral pendulum.
Old Margin	Liberal 0.04%	
New Margin	Liberal 0.00%	

Brisbane

Held by	Arch Bevis	Brisbane loses two Labor voting areas, Stafford in the north to Lilley and more than 20,000 voters in Ashgrove and suburbs further west into Ryan. Into the electorate come the traditional Liberal voting suburbs of Ascot and Clayfield from Lilley, loosening Labor's grip on Brisbane.
Old Margin	Labor 6.8%	
New Margin	Labor 3.7%	

Capricornia

Held by	Kirsten Livermore	Gains some areas west and south of Mackay, but loses solid Labor voting booths south of Rockhampton.
Old Margin	Labor 12.7%	
New Margin	Labor 12.0%	

Dawson

Held by	James Bidgood	Gains Liberal voting areas in Annandale on the south side of the Ross River in Townsville, resulting in a decline in the Labor margin.
Old Margin	Labor 3.2%	
New Margin	Labor 2.4%	

Dickson

Held by	Peter Dutton	Loses the rural areas of the upper Brisbane River valley while gaining a number of Labor voting suburbs from Longman. This is bad news for sitting Liberal MP Peter Dutton, as his seat is now notionally Labor held.
Old Margin	Liberal 0.1%	
New Margin	Labor 1.3%	

Fadden

Held by	Stuart Robert	Shrinks in area, losing parts of the Gold Coast hinterland to Wright and parts of the Brisbane-Gold Coast corridor to Forde.
Old Margin	Liberal 10.2%	
New Margin	Liberal 10.9%	

Fairfax

Held by	Alex Somlyay	Minor changes, gaining an area around Eumundi from Wide Bay while losing Eudlo and Sippy Downs to Fisher.
Old Margin	Liberal 3.0%	
New Margin	Liberal 2.9%	

Fisher

Held by	Peter Slipper	Loses the Kilcoy area to Blair and parts of Morayfield and the Caboolture hinterland to Longman.
Old Margin	Liberal 3.1%	
New Margin	Liberal 3.6%	

Flynn

Held by	Chris Trevor	Strengthened for the Labor Party with the loss of more than 7,000 predominantly National voters in the central west of the state to the neighbouring seat of Maranoa.
Old Margin	Labor 0.2%	
New Margin	Labor 2.0%	

Forde

Held by	Brett Raguse	Labor had hoped to strengthen its position by shedding the southern rural areas of Forde. These areas have been transferred to the new seat of Wright, but instead of some Labor voting suburbs in Logan City, the seat has gained urban conservative voters in the Gold Coast hinterland.
Old Margin	Labor 2.9%	
New Margin	Labor 2.4%	

Griffith

Held by Kevin Rudd No changes to boundaries
 Old Margin Labor 12.3%
 New Margin Labor 12.3%

Groom

Held by Ian Macfarlane No changes to boundaries
 Old Margin Liberal 8.2%
 New Margin Liberal 8.2%

Herbert

Held by Peter Lindsay This marginal Liberal seat is now ever so notionally Labor held, with the loss of Liberal voting Annandale on the south bank of the Ross River to Dawson. Inot Herbert come parts of Deeragun and Townsville's northern beaches, transferred from Kennedy.
 Old Margin Liberal 0.2%
 New Margin Labor 0.4%

Hinkler

Held by Paul Neville Loses some areas away from the coast to neighbouring Flynn and Wide Bay.
 Old Margin National 1.7%
 New Margin National 1.5%

Kennedy

Held by Bob Katter Gains areas to the north and south of Cairns, but loses some northern parts of Townsville. In two-party preferred terms this weakens the National hold on the seat, but Kennedy is currently in the hands of Independent Bob Katter, and his hold on the seat is unaffected by the redistribution.
 Old Margin Ind Held
 New Margin Ind held

Leichhardt

Held by Jim Turnour Loses Edmonton south of Cairns to Kennedy, along with Kuranda, Julatten and Mount Molloy on the tablelands. This weakens Labor's position, but only by 0.2%.
 Old Margin Labor 4.0%
 New Margin Labor 3.8%

Lilley

Held by Wayne Swan Major adjustments all around, as Lilley loses the Labor voting areas around Sandgate to Petrie in the north, loses the Liberal voting suburbs of Clayfield and Ascot to Brisbane in the south, while gaining a political mixed bag of suburbs on the western side of Webster Road from Petrie.
 Old Margin Labor 8.6%
 New Margin Labor 5.9%

Longman

Held by Jon Sullivan Longman shifts northwards into the Sunshine Coast hinterland. Areas shed to the south and east have strengthened
 Old Margin Labor 3.6%

New Margin **Labor 1.3%** Petrie for Labor and turned Dickson from a marginal Liberal to a marginal Labor seat, but this has been at the expense of Labor's position in Longman.

Maranoa

Held by **Bruce Scott** In the north gains the western parts of Flynn on the rail line between Winton and Alpha.

Old Margin **National 14.4%**

New Margin **National 14.1%**

McPherson

Held by **Margaret May** Loses inland parts of the Gold Coast to the new seat of Wright.

Old Margin **Liberal 8.8%**

New Margin **Liberal 8.6%**

Moncrieff

Held by **Steven Ciobo** Loses inland parts of the Gold Coast to the new seat of Wright.

Old Margin **Liberal 14.0%**

New Margin **Liberal 13.8%**

Moreton

Held by **Graham Perrett** Loses area around Calamvale in the east to Rankin, but gains parts of Acacia Ridge and Corinda from Oxley and parts of Underwood from Rankin. This strengthens Labor's hold on the seat.

Old Margin **Labor 4.8%**

New Margin **Labor 6.1%**

Oxley

Held by **Bernie Ripoll** Labor's position in Oxley has been weakened with the addition of the Centenary Suburbs west of the Centenary Highway.

Old Margin **Labor 14.1%** However, this change has weakened the Liberal grip on Ryan,

New Margin **Labor 11.3%** while the areas lost by Oxley have helped Labor's position in the marginal seat of Moreton.

Petrie

Held by **Yvette D'Ath** Strengthened for Labor by the loss of suburbs south of Bald Hills to Lilley, while Labor voting areas in Sandgate and Deception Bay have been added.

Old Margin **Labor 2.1%**

New Margin **Labor 7.5%**

Rankin

Held by **Craig Emerson** Lots of changes to the boundaries, but this Logan City seat remains safe for Labor.

Old Margin **Labor 11.7%**

New Margin **Labor 12.1%**

Ryan

Held by **Michael Johnson** Weakened substantially for the Liberal Party by the loss of

Old Margin	Liberal 3.8%	areas south of the Brisbane River. Into the electorate come
New Margin	Liberal 1.2%	Labor voting areas around Ashgrove and Ferny Grove.

Wide Bay

Held by	Warren Truss	Only minor changes.
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Old Margin	National 8.5%
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New Margin	National 8.5%
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Wright

Held by	New seat	New seat created from the rural ends of the existing electorates
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Old Margin	New seat	of Blair and Forde, augmented by the hinterland of the four
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New Margin	Liberal 3.8%	Gold Coast seats.
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Posted by Antony Green on July 24, 2009 at 10:10 AM in [Federal Redistributions](#) | [Permalink](#)
[Technorati](#) Tags: [antony green](#), [electoral boundaries](#), [federal redistribution](#), [queensland redistribution](#)

Comments

Thanks Antony.

I was surprised by the musical chairs in Brisbane, with pretty important changes to Lilley, Brisbane and, perhaps most drastically, Petrie moving North to be more focussed on Redcliffe.

Good news for Yvette D'Ath, though I think she'll have to move her electorate office.

Geez, Maranoa is becoming a big one, and 15 votes in Bowman, that must beat McEwan as the most marginal in the country, surely?

Good to hear that they chose 'Wright' as a name too.

Posted by: Phil | [July 24, 2009 at 10:23 AM](#)

I hear that the redistribution took Labors wildest dreams proposal and went even further than they had hoped for. So a real kick for the LNP in QLD. What a joke.

Safe seats like that of Wayne Swan loose a few % points but those of questionable talent next door, Yvette D'Ath, get a free 5% points taking them out of marginal.

Posted by: Joe | [July 24, 2009 at 02:22 PM](#)

I wouldn't want to be the member for Bowman. Just when you think it couldn't get more marginal, a redistribution takes the margin from 0.04% to 0.00%!

Posted by: [Stephen](#) | [July 24, 2009 at 04:42 PM](#)

Joe i think you are being a little melodramatic.

I guess it partly works on your definition of marginal. Lilley for example was gained by the liberal party in 1996 and losing its safe areas to Petrie would make it quite vulnerable if Labors Vote were to go down. Maybe abit like a safe seat say Bennalong lost liberal votes to prop up marginal paramatta? Margins are abit like a photo is a moment in time and can be deceptive. Longman was not a safe seat before the last election and it certainly isn't now.

Posted by: ScottyJ | [July 24, 2009 at 06:42 PM](#)

I feel very sorry for the Kilcoy/Villeneuve/Woodford districts. They've been placed on the far boundary of a big electorate again, just as they were in Longman in the 1990s and Fisher at the last redistribution. Now they will have an MP that will probably be based in Ipswich, even further away than Caloundra where Peter Sliper's Fisher office is now.

I know it's not strictly what redistributions are for and it's easier said than done, but there needs to be a distribution in the (very) near future that actually groups the Kilcoy area in a way that does not make a distant satellite area to a suburban or provincial seat with a distant major population cluster.

Posted by: Luke | [July 24, 2009 at 08:16 PM](#)

PS Looking at the Courier Mail today, based on the 2007 results, Laming is holding onto Bowman by 15 votes.

COMMENT: They took that figure from my website. It was my first estimate of the margin which was on the site till about 4pm yesterday. My second estimate had Labor leading by 8 votes. It is so close I've chosen to classify the seat by the sitting member. There would probably be more than 20,000 voters moving in and out of the electorate in this term of Parliament, so arguing over estimated margins of a dozen votes based on 2007 results is all a bit meaningless.

Posted by: Luke | [July 25, 2009 at 11:08 AM](#)

All of the seat of Ryan is now on the north side of the river as it should be if one takes seriously the "community of interest" provisions.

It will be interesting to see if the LNP regards itself as bound by the "grandfathering" backroom deal done at the time of the merger and which protects incompetents and no-hopers - perhaps the vetting committee of the LNP will see off a few of those who have outlived any useful purpose.

Posted by: Peter Murray | [July 25, 2009 at 11:26 AM](#)

Moving Kuranda from Leichhardt to Kennedy is ridiculous. The community of interest provisions are that Kuranda is nowadays partly a dormitory suburb of Cairns (half an hour away) and a tourist destination with access from the Cairns Airport via road and SkyRail.

Edmonton is most definitely part of Cairns (in is in the same local government area for example) and is 15 minutes from the Cairns Post Office.

Edmonton in particular has been cruelly mistreated by this propvisional redistribution: neither Kuranda nor Edmonton have any community of interest with Kennedy.

I acknowledge the difficulties of finding the numbers to keep Kennedy up to quota but these boundary adjustments are ridiculous.

Posted by: Peter Murray | [July 25, 2009 at 11:36 AM](#)

Bob Katter as a rat from the old National Party - now an independent - will have some problems getting to know the electors in Edmonton in the Cairns suburbs and it has hard to see them voting for him in the same proportion as the electors did under the old boundaries.

I think you need to make some allowance for that Antony when you make forecasts of the results under the new boundaries.

COMMENT: No I don't need to take account of that. I'm not forecasting a result, I'm re-arranging the last election using the results of the last election. If people vote differently at the next election they vote differently, but you don't make your prediction that they will vote differently by changing the results of the last election.

Posted by: Peter Murray | [July 25, 2009 at 11:44 AM](#)

I didn't argue about the results of the last election. To make my point clearer Leichhardt moved from NPA to ALP in I think 1982; then to the LPA and then back to ALP. Edmonton is mostly working class and there will be a lot more workers in the tourist industry out of work at the next election. It is - in my opinion - very unlikely that the then voters of Edmonton will have their moment on the road to Damascus and vote in any meaningful way for Katter who is a rat; a buffoon; and an independent. I would be very surprised if Edmonton voters gave him even 10% of their votes unless there is a large number of local independents.

COMMENT: I make no assumptions and express no view about how people might vote at the next election. You said I should take account of this in estimating margins. In calculating a redistribution, I do nothing more than re-arrange the booth by booth results at the last election. In doing that, I don't need to take any account of what contests might occur at the next election. In the case of Edmonton and its impact on Bob Katter's margin, I've made no estimate at all, and even if I did, I very much doubt that the numbers of voters in Edmonton are going to have much impact on Mr Katter's margin.

Posted by: Peter Murray | [July 25, 2009 at 05:51 PM](#)

Just wondering of the reason for the creation of the electorate of Wright. Did this seat become created because of the increase in population of Queensland OR increase in population of the area that Wright is situated in.

ANSWER: With a growing population, Queensland became entitled to a new seat, its 30th, under Section 24 of the Constitution. The positioning of the new seat within Queensland was determined by the Redistribution Committee taking into account population patterns.

Posted by: Supun Liyanage | [July 26, 2009 at 01:14 PM](#)

I am surprised that given the release of the QLD report, there has not been more speculation about the NSW redistribution and what the AEC has in mind. I thought I would chance my arm on the strategy of the AEC in drawing new boundaries in NSW.

In the QLD report there was a strong focus on the projected enrolments and the tolerance of plus or minus 3.5%, with other factors then given due consideration. On that basis, I have examined the NSW figures and drawn a few conclusions. The projected enrolments in NSW provide an average number per division of 98,907, with a 3.5% tolerance range of 102,372 to 95,448. There is only one seat that has a projected enrolment over 102,372. It is Reid which is bound to shed electors to Lowe which is below the lower tolerance level. There are 12 seats that have projected enrolments below the lower tolerance level of 95,448. In addition to Lowe, they are [in ascending order] Calare, Parkes, Gilmore, Throsby Lyne, [Lowe] Cunningham, Fowler, New England, Berowra, Riverina and Hughes. The seat of Hughes is just below 95,448.

While every NSW seat needs re-jigging, the above 12 need it most. I think there are two options: abolish Riverina or abolish Macarthur [which to me, is tantamount to abolishing Werriwa as well].

Riverina is one of the twelve seats below tolerance. Its electors would be spread to Calare, Farrer, Hume and have knock-on effects in Parkes, New England and Lyne. There would be a sort of curling effect flowing from southern NSW to the north coast of NSW. But the ripple effects of abolishing Riverina would however be rebuffed somewhat in Eden-Monaro which is well above the lower tolerance level and unlikely to shed more electors to Gilmore as it did in the last redistribution. Abolishing Riverina doesn't easily assist in boosting the numbers in Gilmore, Throsby, Cunningham and Hughes, all of whom are linked to each other and running down the south coast. In the case of Hughes, it is wedged between the coastal seats and Werriwa. I suspect that the AEC will not abolish Riverina because it is yet another rural seat [following on from Gwydir] and therefore too political. The ripple effects of abolishing Riverina do not have the impact to influence numbers in Gilmore, Throsby, Cunningham and Hughes, and for that matter, Fowler & Lowe. [I think Berowra can be topped up from Bennelong, Mitchell and Greenway all of which have healthy projected enrolments.]

I think Macarthur is a better chance for abolition. That effectively means Werriwa too because it would move further west into Macarthur acquiring some of Campbelltown's electors. The effect of the abolition of Macarthur would push east into Hughes whose numbers would be augmented by those in Werriwa. The ripple effect of this would be felt in Cunningham, Throsby and Gilmore with their northern boundaries moving further north. This could also allow Eden Monaro to return to its former coastal boundary. The abolition of Macarthur would also push south through Hume and allow the curling effect already noted to correct the low enrolments in Riverina, Calare, Parkes, New England and Lyne; significantly redraw Hume and fine-tune numbers in Farrer & Eden Monaro. The enrolments in Fowler could be topped up as well but less painfully. It means that the Liberals would lose at least two seats: Macarthur of course, and Hughes whose boundaries would reflect more of Werriwa's Labor electors. Gilmore could be a line-ball Labor seat on the worst scenario for the Liberals.

Abolishing a seat like Lowe doesn't solve the shortfalls in seats such as Parkes and Calare. Neither does the abolition of Throsby or Gilmore.

There you have it! I've had my two bob's worth. I wonder if anyone out there has an opinion on this as well. We shall all learn soon enough on Friday.

Posted by: [John Anderson](#) | [August 02, 2009 at 09:08 PM](#)

Like John Anderson, I'm amazed that little, if anything, has been said about the NSW redistribution and what the AEC has in mind. All I hope is that this redistribution produces a better outcome than the 2006 one, which could only be described as a dog's breakfast.

It will be interesting to see what is done with the Hume Corridor and whether we see the creation of a Bradman out of Hume and Riverina, or whether either of Macarthur or Riverina is the seat that is blown away.

Speaking personally, as a resident of Hornsby Heights, I will be interested to see what happens with Berowra and what, if anything, is done with Bennelong and Reid, which are now both well over the quota.

Anyway, by this time tomorrow, it will be out in the open.

Posted by: [Col Gilbertson](#) | [August 06, 2009 at 04:54 PM](#)

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