



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Comment on suggestion 4

Jeff Waddell

13 pages

Comments on Suggestions

AEC's Queensland Redistribution

Jeff Waddell



To the Redistribution Committee for Queensland

I take this opportunity to comment on the other 24 submissions to the Queensland Redistribution as well as add some additional content to my own.

Corrections to my proposed Bonner – Griffith boundaries

I propose 2 modifications to my proposed Bonner – Griffith boundaries.

The first relates to the proposed use of Wynnum Rd as the Bonner – Griffith boundary from Norman Creek to Creek Rd.

The change from my original submission is to move the proposed Bonner – Griffith boundary from Wynnum Rd to Richmond Rd immediately to the E of Morningside Railway Station, with the electors N of Richmond Rd also transferring to Bonner.

The second change is to continue the proposed Bonner – Griffith boundary further south on Newnham Rd all the way to its intersection with Logan Rd; with electors to the W of Newnham Rd all transferring from Bonner to Griffith.

Amended maps and transfer tables follow with altered numbers from my original tables in red:

Amended Tables of Transfers: Bonner and Griffith

Division	Component	Proposed	Projected
Bonner		100,770	107,808
From Griffith	Balmoral SA2 - all	3,062	3,369
From Griffith	Bulimba SA2 - all	4,568	4,884
From Griffith	Cannon Hill SA2 - balance	3,660	3,931
From Griffith	Hawthorne SA2 - all	3,470	3,840
From Griffith	Morningside - Seven Hills SA2 - part: N of Richmond and Wynnum Roads	5,007	5,490
From Griffith	Murarie SA2 - balance	1,109	1,232
From Griffith	Norman Park SA1 #3111813 - N of Wynnum Rd	220	241
To Griffith	Holland Park West SA2 - balance	-2,867	-2,993
To Griffith	Mount Gravatt SA2 - balance	-8,560	-9,484
To Griffith	Upper Mount Gravatt SA2 - balance	-5,747	-6,083
New Total		104,692	112,235
Variation		1.44%	1.92%
To Bonner	Total transfers in	21,096	22,987
From Bonner	Total transfers out	-17,174	-18,560

Division	Component	Proposed	Projected
Griffith		106,999	115,269
From Bonner	Holland Park West SA2 - balance	2,867	2,993
From Bonner	Mount Gravatt SA2 - balance	8,560	9,484
From Bonner	Upper Mount Gravatt SA2 - all	5,747	6,083
From Moreton	Annerley SA2 - part: N of Venner Rd & W of Ipswich Rd	2,177	2,440
From Moreton	Fairfield - Dutton Park SA2 - balance	2,086	2,296
To Bonner	Balmoral SA2 - all	-3,062	-3,369
To Bonner	Bulimba SA2 - all	-4,568	-4,884
To Bonner	Cannon Hill SA2 - balance	-3,660	-3,931
To Bonner	Hawthorne SA2 - all	-3,470	-3,840
To Bonner	Morningside - Seven Hills SA2 - part: N of Richmond and Wynnum Roads	-5,007	-5,490
To Bonner	Murarrie SA2 - balance	-1,109	-1,232
To Bonner	Norman Park SA1 #3111813 - N of Wynnum Rd	-220	-241
To Moreton	Annerley SA2 - part: S of Waterton St & E of Ipswich Rd	-1,072	-1,152
To Moreton	Tarragindi SA2 - balance	-1,883	-2,038
New Total		104,385	112,388
Variation		1.14%	2.06%
To Griffith	Total transfers in	21,437	23,296
From Griffith	Total transfers out	-24,051	-26,177

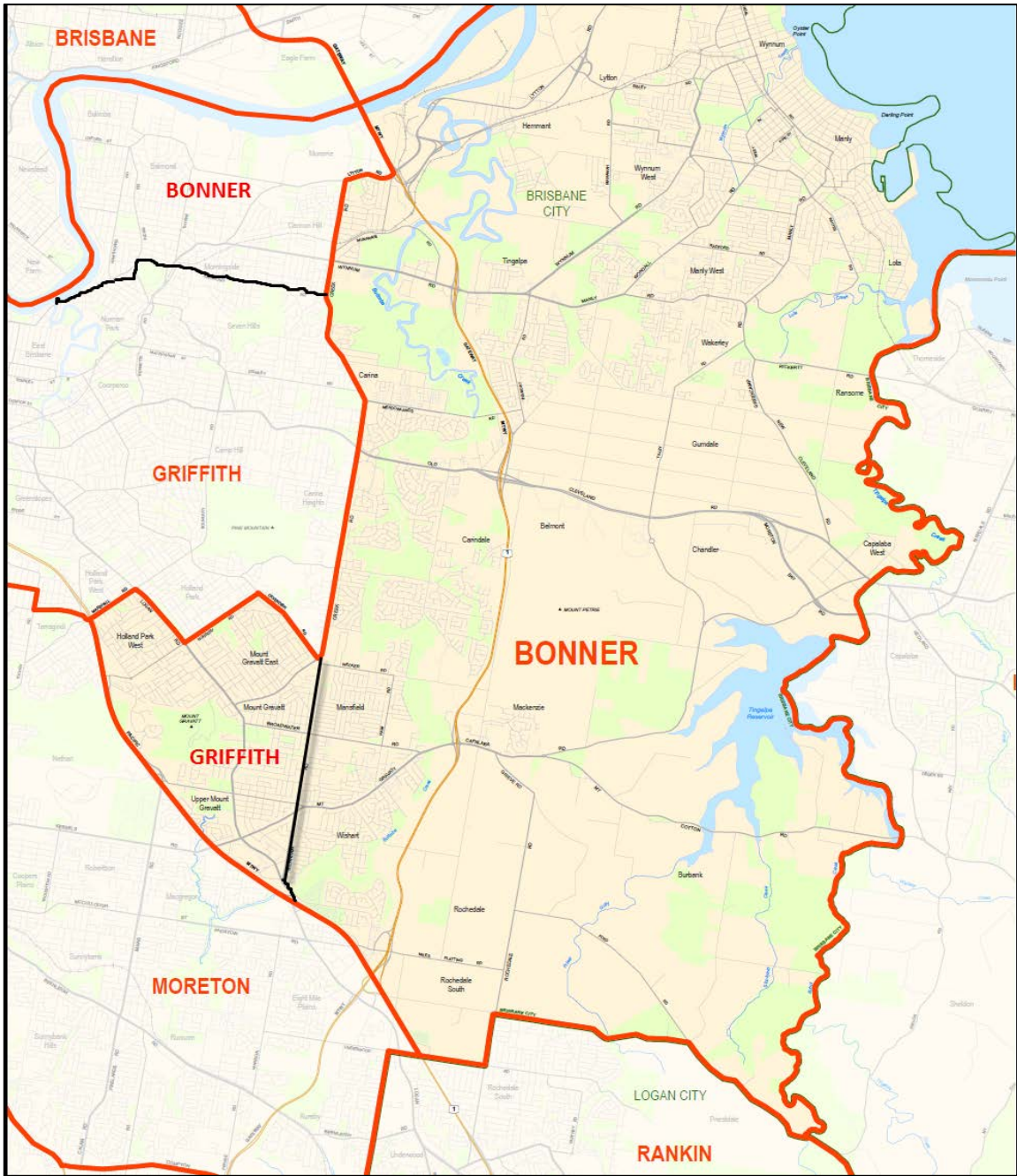


Image 1 – Corrected proposal for Bonner – Griffith boundaries using AEC map of Bonner.

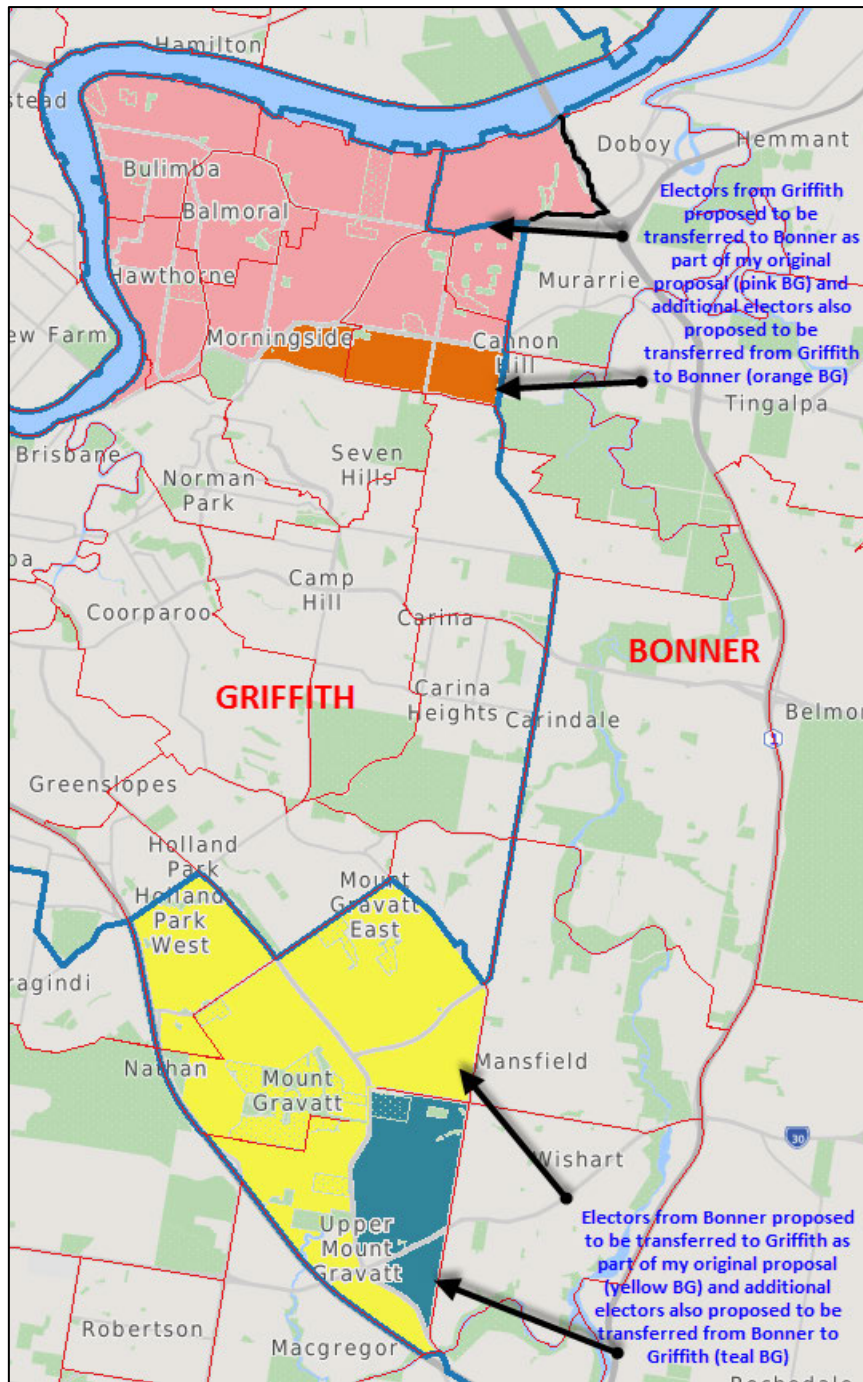


Image 2 – Amendments to Bonner – Griffith boundaries from my original submission.

Pre-empting objections to my proposed Lilley - Petrie boundaries

As a relative newcomer to this process, I wasn't aware of the objections to transfer Brighton, Sandgate, Shorncliffe and Deagon out of Lilley at the previous Redistribution until it was pointed out to me by one of the other independent contributors – Mark Yore. (Thanks Mark)

So I've gone back to re-visit my proposed Lilley – Petrie boundaries to offer a "Plan B" assuming the same objections are raised again.

I'm still loathe to make any changes to Dickson by expanding it eastwards into Brisbane LGA territory as I think that would compromise its primary community of interest which is the Hills District of Moreton Bay LGA.

Petrie has already moved south in my original submission, transferring most of Deception Bay to Longman. So I don't think it would be too much of a stretch to continue Petrie further south than its existing southern boundary along Albany Creek Rd.

Assuming that Brighton, Sandgate, Shorncliffe and Deagon must be retained in Lilley; Lilley must transfer electors to Petrie to the west.

My "Plan B" Lilley – Petrie boundary continues southwards along Kirby Rd beyond Robinson Rd West to Ellison Rd; briefly W on Ellison Rd; briefly S along Webster Rd, W along Pie St; briefly S along Maundrell Tce; W along Lawrence Rd and the road reserve; briefly S along Kenna St; NW along Martindale St; SW along Little Cabbage Tree Creek; S along Trouts Rd and finally W along Hamilton Rd to Old Northern Rd and the Dickson CED boundary.

But let's cut to the chase as to why the Member for Lilley – then Treasurer Wayne Swan - appeared before the 2009 Commission to argue the retention of those coastal localities in Lilley. Brighton, Sandgate, Shorncliffe and Deagon are all Labor-voting suburbs, so to lose these suburbs to Petrie (offset by gains around Aspley, Bridgeman Downs, Carseldine and Bracken Ridge) would have cut the ALP margin in Lilley. At the 2013 Federal Election, this could have made the difference between the ALP holding or losing the Division. I've done some rough calculations based on the exchange of polling places and the margin was only around 200 votes with originally proposed boundaries.

Amended Tables of Transfers: Lilley and Petrie

Division	Component	Proposed	Projected
Lilley		107,162	114,595
From Brisbane	Everton Park SA1 #3102516 - part	3	3
From Brisbane	Kedron - Gordon Park SA2 - balance	2,990	3,216
From Brisbane	Stafford SA2 - balance	1,156	1,297
To Petrie	Aspley SA2 - part	-5,176	-5,391
To Petrie	Bridgeman Downs SA2 - balance	-3,881	-4,050
To Petrie	McDowall SA2 - part	-1,808	-1,910
New Total		100,446	107,760
Variation		-2.67%	-2.15%
To Lilley	Total transfers in	-6,716	-6,835
From Lilley	Total transfers out	-10,865	-11,351

Division	Component	Proposed	Projected
Petrie		106,757	113,340
From Lilley	Aspley SA2 - part	5,176	5,391
From Lilley	Bridgeman Downs SA2 - balance	3,881	4,050
From Lilley	McDowall SA2 - part	1,808	1,910
To Longman	Deception Bay SA2 - all exc. SA1 #3137323	-14,198	-15,065
New Total		103,424	109,626
Variation		0.21%	-0.45%
To Petrie	Total transfers in	10,865	11,351
From Petrie	Total transfers out	-14,198	-15,065

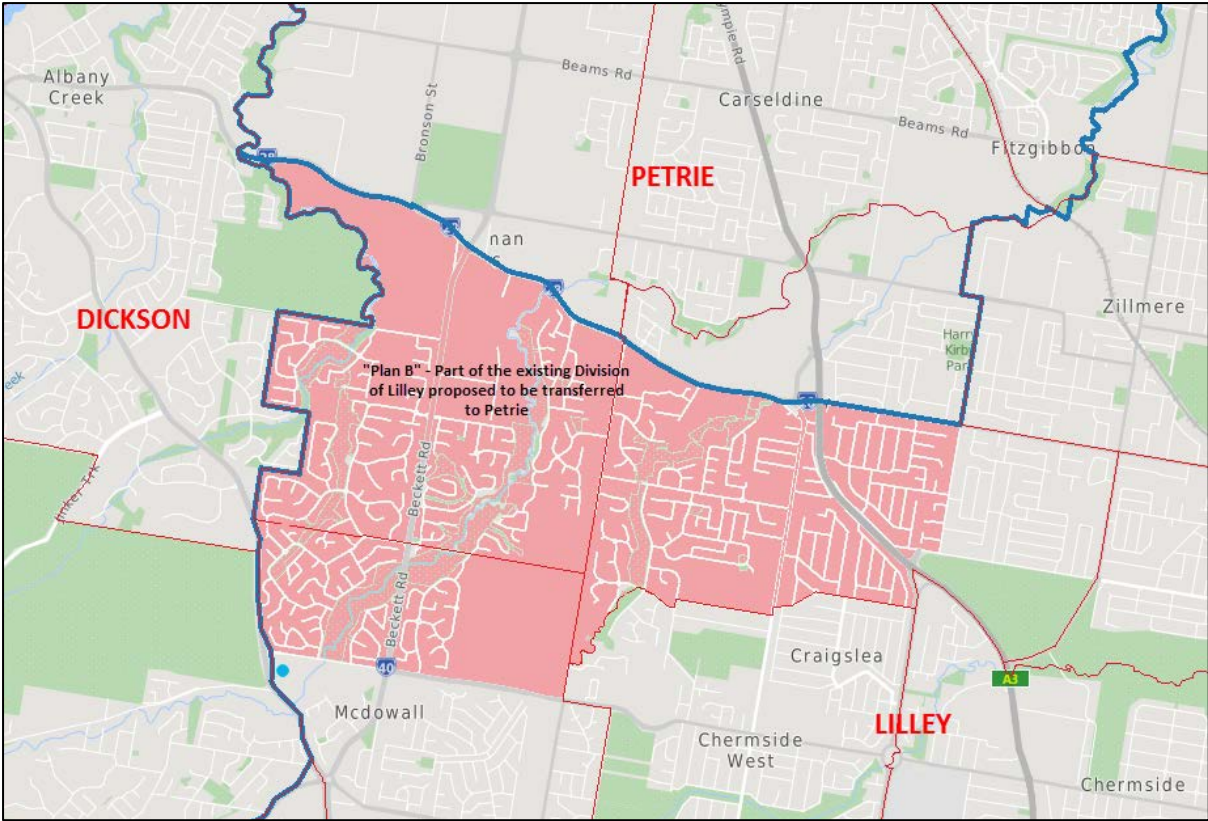


Image 3 – “Plan B” amendments to the Lilley - Petrie boundary.



Image 4 – “Plan B” proposal for Lilley – Petrie boundaries using AEC map of Lilley.

Alteration to my proposal to rename McPherson to Berry

With the final Queensland State boundaries published on the 26th of May, one of the District names I proposed - which the ECQ adopted at draft stage, but dropped for the final boundaries - was McMaster.

I wish to make a correction to my original submission to rename the Division of McPherson to Berry, and instead propose it is named in honour of Sir Fergus **McMaster**. This is an entirely appropriate alternative name for this Division as it contains Queensland's portion of the Gold Coast Airport.

A link detailing Sir Fergus McMaster's outstanding contribution to Australia is below:

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mcmaster-sir-fergus-7422>

The Other Submissions

As I concluded in my Submission – S10; “The success or otherwise of a Redistribution, should be measured by the number of suggestions it incorporates, the number of objections it addresses, whether the clarity of boundaries has improved and whether the number of LGA's divided between Electoral Divisions has reduced.”

So in light of that KPI, I will compare the content of my Suggestion against the other 24 proposals to see how many of the other Suggestions are resolved – either partially or fully – by my Suggestion.

Suggestions S1-S6; S9; S14; S17

All 9 Suggestions are from residents of Moore Park Beach, the Moore Park Beach Community Association and local councillor, Jason Bartels; requesting that Moore Park Beach and surrounding communities be united in the same Division with the electors of greater urban Bundaberg, with a preference for being a part of the Division of Hinkler.

Whilst my Suggestion does not incorporate Moore Park Beach into Hinkler, it does transfer greater urban Bundaberg into Flynn and thereby locating the residents of Moore Park Beach in the same electorate as greater urban Bundaberg.

Should the Redistribution Committee adopt my Suggestion this would ensure the Member for Flynn would need to set up an office in Bundaberg as the greater portion of my proposed Division of Flynn is electors from within the Bundaberg LGA.

Suggestion S7 – Martin Gordon

Martin is one of a handful of regular, independent, contributors to Commonwealth, State and Territory Redistributions. His historical knowledge of previous electoral boundaries is invaluable, his independence from

any political influence and years of experience contributing to Redistributions should be given the utmost weight when the Redistribution Committee sits down to determine its proposed boundaries.

Martin and I often agree to disagree on proposed boundaries, but his passion for ensuring that boundaries are drawn in compliance with Sections 66(3) and (3A) of The Commonwealth Electoral Act should not be underestimated.

Martin's proposal and approach is very different to mine. As with the other regular independent contributors; I pass no judgement on his submission, but I give it the respect that it is due. I trust that the Redistribution Committee will do the same.

Suggestion S8 - Fraser Coast Regional Council

The Fraser Coast Council wants the entire LGA included in a single electorate and nominates Wide Bay as their electorate of choice.

Yet another Suggestion successfully accommodated by my Suggestion S10.

I don't know if they were expecting to share the same Division as electors in the LGA's of Banana, Cherbourg, North Burnett as well as parts of Bundaberg and South Burnett, though.

Suggestion S11 - Andrew Kamler

Andrew's Suggestion is a whole of State approach. He agrees with me that the current composition of the Division of Wright separates Lockyer Valley LGA from the rest of the Division so needs to be changed.

His proposals for Ryan to cross the Brisbane River and for Bonner to move N of the Brisbane River was even more radical than some of my boundary changes.

Suggestion S12 - Dr. Mark Mulcair

Mark is another of the handful of regular, independent, contributors to Commonwealth, State and Territory Redistributions.

Mark also notes what appears to be a significant discrepancy in the enrolment projection data between the State and Federal data. Time will tell which was the more accurate.

We agree on making Kedron Brook the new boundary between Brisbane and Lilley. His proposed Lilley – Petrie also mirrors my "Plan B" above.

As with Martin Gordon's suggestion above, Mark's proposal and approach is very different to mine, and far more minimalist. Mark has also been contributing to Electoral Redistributions far longer than I have. I trust that the Redistribution Committee will also give his submission the consideration and respect it deserves.

Suggestion S13 – Darren McSweeney

Darren is the third and last of the regular, independent, contributors to Commonwealth, State and Territory Redistributions who have made suggestions to this Redistribution.

Darren's presentations are always of the highest quality and this one is no exception.

His approach to fulfilling the numerical requirements for the provincial cities on the Queensland Coast is identical to mine, even if our boundaries do not align.

Like me and the other 2 independents above, our hearts are in the same place even if our suggested boundaries do not always align. I pass no judgement on Darren's submission either, but I give it the respect that it is due. I trust that the Redistribution Committee will also give his submission the consideration and respect it deserves.

Suggestion S15 – Bob Richardson

Bob also notes the discrepancy between the State Projected Enrolment data and the AEC figures.

Some of Bob's proposals are radical (and I mean that in a nice way) such as replacing Flynn with a new Division of Riordan. This - I assume - is in honour of the 2 generations of the Riordan family that represented the Division of Kennedy between 1929 and 1966. (As I noted in my original suggestion, there is already enough of a pro-ALP imbalance of Divisions named after people who were not former Prime Ministers in Queensland.) His proposal for Leichhardt is more conservative and he makes a strong case for the retention of Cape York in that Division.

Whilst Bob has crunched all his numbers and sent all his maps, we only get to read the detail of his thoughts on his proposed Division of Leichhardt.

Suggestion S16 – LNP

The first of the Political Party submissions: I always view the submissions of the political parties with the mindset of "what's in it for them?"

Unlike those of us who do this in an honorary capacity, the political parties have the resources to be able to be able to put together suggestions based on known areas of political/electoral strengths and weaknesses.

Whilst some of their proposals surprisingly aligned with mine (Cape York to Kennedy, all of Cairns in Leichhardt), this is hardly surprising given that Kennedy is predominantly a conservative seat, not in LNP hands. Their proposal for no change to Wright – a Division which is currently not drawn in compliance with the Commonwealth Electoral Act - left me shaking my head. Bringing Dawson further into Urban Townsville defies belief, but given the LNP lost this Division by only 37 votes last year, a push of Herbert northwards, into more conservative electors in the north of the Townsville LGA can swing that result around.

Their proposal to push Flynn westwards to break up Maranoa is not dis-similar to what was proposed at the State Redistribution. Whilst there is merit from a means of communication and travel perspective, my

concerns are that from an area and physical features perspective the LNP is proposing to divide the marginal and semi-desert west of the State between 3 Divisions rather than 2; when, numerically, there aren't sufficient electors for even 1 Division.

Suggestion S18 – Bob Katter

It appears that the Member for Kennedy's concerns relate primarily to increasing the area of the Division he currently represents and his second concern appears to be keeping elector movement to a minimum.

The good news for Bob is that my proposal does exactly what he asks, though I don't know if exchanging the Gulf and western Queensland for Cape York was quite what he had in mind.

Suggestion S19 – Queensland Greens

The Greens submission is big on maps and data, but short on detail. So whilst I can see what The Greens are proposing I can't determine why.

Suggestion S20 – Sean Leader

Sean's suggestion focuses on the greater SE of Queensland, addressing Fadden's projected over-quota enrolment. It's a simple and straightforward suggestion.

Suggestion S21 – Mark Yore

Mark, like Bob Richardson, is a contributor to Queensland Redistributions.

Mark's proposal ties in with mine in that we both propose no changes to either Bowman or Rankin.

Our approach to base Regional Divisions on the major cities of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone is similar, even if those boundaries do not always align.

Though not contained in my proposal, I support his proposal to transfer of Moreton Island from Bonner to Petrie.

His proposed Blair is quite radical (and again, I mean this in a nice way) – more creative than anything I considered.

Suggestion S22 – ALP

The ALP seems to start from an “existing boundaries first” perspective (as many other contributors have done) with minimal changes to existing boundaries – see my summary below.

Based on those perspectives; their fix for the over-quota Leichhardt is to further divide greater urban Cairns between Leichhardt and Kennedy. The same mentality is applied to Mackay with Capricornia creeping ever closer to the Mackay CBD.

I’d seen enough!

Suggestion S23 – Dean Ashley

Dean has done his research - being able to refer to the 2009 Redistribution and knowing what proposals were rejected last time around meant he didn’t make the same mistakes I did. (Note to self – read the entire previous Redistribution Report next time, not just the enrolment projections)

Dean goes to the effort of doing some regional number crunching to better define his plan of attack.

In isolation, his solutions to the under-enrolled and over-enrolled Divisions in the greater SE work.

His proposal for the 10 Regional Divisions immediately caught my eye when he aligns with my proposal to expand Maranoa northwards and re-claim South Burnett to the Divisions further east. I had doubts when he proposed to transfer Bentley Park to Kennedy as other contributors have also done, but his proposal to get Dawson out of Townsville LGA again aligns with my suggestion.

Suggestion S24 – Jane McNamara

Jane proposes changes to Herbert, Maranoa and Kennedy by extending Herbert westwards to the NT border. This approach is not dis-similar to the approach taken by the ECQ at the recently completed State Redistribution, or suggestions proposed by the LNP for Flynn.

Suggestion S25 – Pirate Party

This is the first submission to any Redistribution by the Pirate Party that I have seen in my 4 years of contributions. If a party as relatively small as the Pirate Party can put together the resources to contribute to an electoral Redistribution along with the ALP, LNP and Greens, I find myself asking the obvious: Where’s One Nation’s submission? Especially for Queensland!

Good on the Pirate Party for getting into this important part of the political process as well!

Their suggested changes in the greater SE are – for the most part - minimalist; their solutions to the coastal cities north of Fraser Island do not attempt to unite the cities in single Divisions where possible.

Summary

In many of the suggestions put to the Redistribution Committee, there appear to be two common perceptions on how electoral boundaries are to be drawn - neither of which are based on the legislative requirements in The Commonwealth Electoral Act.

They are:

1. The starting point for proposed new electoral boundaries are the existing boundaries; and,
2. Movement of Electors between Divisions is to be kept to a minimum.

Wrong, wrong, wrong, wrong, wrong!

This is **not** a criticism of the individuals or the organizations that base their submissions on these perceptions.

The criticism is directed at some Redistribution Committees; who, over recent years appear to have measured the success of their Redistributions according to these false perceptions, and have even set principles that align with these false perceptions.

Another reason these perceptions exist, is because every Redistribution Committee measures the number of electors transferred between Divisions as a part of their proposed new boundaries, and publishes that measurement as if it were a KPI relative to the success of Redistribution. This gives a false impression that the fewer electors transferred between Divisions, the better. And therefore, Redistributions with minimal elector movement are more compliant with the legislation than Redistributions with "avoidable" elector movement. The factoring in of any communities of interest changes since the previous Redistribution is avoided.

As I wrote in my submission; there is nothing in Section 66 or even Part IV of the Commonwealth Electoral Act that in any way remotely suggests elector movement between Divisions should be kept to a minimum.

And point 1 above is logically drawn from point 2. By basing proposed Divisional boundaries along existing Divisional boundaries, it's logical that the movement of electors between Divisions **can** be kept to a minimum.

The AEC must address and eliminate these false perceptions, which have been allowed to flourish over time, so that they have become part of the mindset of many contributors.

I call on the (relatively) new head of the AEC, Mr. Tom Rogers, to help stamp out these false perceptions by whatever means necessary. This should include **not** appearing to measure as a KPI, the number of electors transferred between Divisions.

In Closing

Time for a bit of blatant self-promotion:

Recent announcements at my place of employment indicate almost the entire department in which I work is to be outsourced or off-shored over the next 12 months.

So if the AEC or any other interested party is looking for someone with a head for numbers and an eye for detail; with the knowledge, passion, commitment and dedication around electoral statistics, the redistribution process, and associated disciplines - in an ongoing capacity; I'd be absolutely delighted to hear from you.

Quoting a line of an old Bruce Springsteen song; "This gun's for hire".

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