



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
QUEENSLAND

Submission CS9

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25 October 2026

Dear Committee members

The suggestions have been insightful reading with a wide variety of contributions ranging from constructive to irrelevant. I will focus my comments to those that have made constructive suggestions and link them to those that I made in my own submission (S34). I have also chosen to ignore the contributions from the ALP, LNP and the Greens as they have produced the usual partisan nonsense on how to maximise their voter base with some suggestions just totally detached from reality.

Acknowledgement

I wish to acknowledge the contributors of submissions 14, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 37, 38, 42, 43, 47, 52, 53, 56, 57, 58, 59 and 61. While there are some things I have disagreed with, it is a lot of work to make numbers work in a meaningful way and, in a way, I am piggy-backing my suggestions on the data they have utilised. For that, I am very thankful of their hard work and hope they continue to contribute to the process.

Common themes

The one thing that has struck me is that many contributors have shared my sentiment on several suggestions.

1. The ability for this redistribution to allow electors generally north of the Tropic of Capricorn to be in electorates closer to their focus cities. It was nearly unanimously recognised that the ability to move Dawson electors within the Townsville City Council to Herbert and use these to adjust electors in Kennedy and Leichhardt. It appears this is a no-brainer move that will be well received by locals.
2. The resulting move south of Central Queensland electorates is a problem for the viability of Flynn in its current form. Calls for its 'abolition' and be relocated on the Sunshine Coast is not unreasonable if only to prevent the awkwardness that will result from removing Bundaberg from Hinkler if Flynn remains in its general area.
3. Consensus that Wright needs to be removed from the Gold Coast City Council and from the Lockyer Valley Regional Council to better address community of interest.
4. Expansion of Brisbane-based electorates to help offset the growth in the Moreton Bay to Sunshine Coast and Northern Gold Coast corridors.

As I expected there were all kinds of combinations that were suggested between Rockhampton and the Sunshine Coast. Some suggestions were what I was generally expecting and others were quite novel. I will go through each electorate and provide comments based on what was presented by the abovementioned contributors.

Electorates

Blair

There is general agreement that Blair should be based on central Ipswich but disagreement as to which way it should extend. I tend to agree that it should be extended more to Brisbane Valley as splitting the Lockyer Valley between Blair and Groom could be confusing.

Bonner

Bonner has always been an unusual mix of Brisbane suburbs. That said, the main proposals are either move the border west or south. My submission did indicate taking more areas east of the Pacific Motorway into Springwood and Daisy Hill, as Griffith is quite a compact electorate with no need to change. I have changed my opinion and think the transfer of Carina Heights, Mount Gravatt East and Holland Park would be a logical move and allow Griffith to move further south along Ipswich and Fairfield Roads. The suggestions of transferring Bulimba to Bonner or moving the western boundary from Creek Road are not reasonable suggestions as:

a) Bulimba is far more connected to the inner south than the outer east.

b) Creek Road and Old Cleveland Roads are very clearly identifiable boundaries. Using Muir Street, Barrack Road and Richmond Roads in Cannon Hill as boundaries, while some of these align with local ward boundaries, unnecessarily split very close neighbourhoods.

Bowman

I don't understand the desire of so many submissions to make additions to Bowman. It is in an isolated corner of Greater Brisbane and is wholly contained to Redland City. Suggestions to move along the north bank of the Logan River, or even worse, cross it where there is no direct crossing to connect the two parts are just odd, as is the need to move Capalaba into Bonner. It is perfect just the way it is.

Brisbane

It appears that there are two general suggestions to Brisbane – stay as is (like I suggested) or adjust the western suburbs to allow Ryan to keep more in the Brisbane City Council. I tend to agree with both options. Moving the boundary along Metroad 5 does make a lot of sense as it is clearly identified and suburbs like Bardon and the Enoggera Army Barracks are well connected to the suburbs already in Ryan. This would necessitate a shift northward into Lilley which, in turn, help make Petrie an exclusively Moreton Bay City electorate. One suggestion I noted was that Brisbane cross the Brisbane River, likewise of Brisbane including the Airport. While there is precedence of these occurring, it is not really a suitable option.

Capricornia

There is a broad unity ticket across the suggestions that Capricornia moves south. It makes sense for it to lose its coverage of the Collinsville area as the community connections are with Bowen to the north. Disagreement surrounds how the western and southwestern boundary aligns with Maranoa. Extending fully west out to Longreach would be perfect for communities of interest given the links to Rockhampton, but this will put additional pressure on where Maranoa pushes into communities not aligning with Maranoa's demographics. It does seem that the big decision is: where does Emerald go?

Dawson

Suggestions here are rock solid. Take Dawson out of Townsville: the numbers can facilitate it. Keeping Burdekin Shire and Whitsunday Regional Councils in their entirety in Dawson is a no-brainer to bring elector numbers back to quota. I did find it interesting that there were options to keep Sarina in Dawson as well. These should be actively considered and, if enrolments allow, would keep Mackay Regional Council in one electorate.

Dickson

There appears to be consensus that Dickson needs to move north to allow Lilley and Ryan to be brought up to quota. There are a variety of suggestions that have merit here. Like Petrie, given the likelihood of Dickson of being a Moreton Bay City electorate, all efforts should be made to remove as many Brisbane City Council electors as possible.

Fadden

There were many things I disagreed with in the suggestions provided for Fadden. I do not see a case where Fadden will continue to stretch towards Brisbane. Given the growth in Fadden and Forde, it would make more sense to consolidate Fadden closer to the Gold Coast around Helensvale and Oxenford. While the Pacific Motorway would make an excellent boundary, the fact is that the suburbs around the Coomera River are well connected on both sides of the motorway. This is the reason why my suggestion had Fadden reorientating to be east-west rather than north-south.

Fairfax

Fairfax is probably the electorate that has the most variety of suggestions, the majority of which are all sound. Its move south appears inevitable and, as some suggestions have indicated with the two main Sunshine Coast electorates, one will be an urban core electorate and the other more mixed urban/rural. I agree that the suggestions of making Fairfax the more urban of the two is the better option. How it extends will make interesting reading.

Fisher

Like Fairfax, Fisher has a range of suggestions. Based on the suggestions, it makes good sense that Fisher is the more mixed electorate that orientates to sweep the areas behind Beerwah and through the Stanley River catchment. This would allow Longman to be more focused on Caboolture and Bribie Island.

Flynn

Poor Flynn. It feels like the electorate is on a hiding to nothing. With changes north and west of Rockhampton, Flynn effectively ceases to exist. Some suggestions have tried to keep Flynn loosely where it is, albeit moving south, but the need to increase Maranoa puts additional pressure on its current footprint. There is the additional issue with keeping new Flynn in the area that it will inevitably move to take over Bundaberg, removing the name Hinkler from the hometown of the namesake. If this happens, just wait for the flood of objections. Not including Bundaberg puts Burnett communities into an electorate based on unrelated Gladstone. There is also the flow on effects down the coast where it is likely that Wide Bay will have a significant Sunshine Coast enrolment and then risks the name of a Federation electorate moving out of a namesake area. As much as it pains me to say this, it is probably better to retire the name Flynn and ‘create’ a new electorate on Gympie and the northern Sunshine Coast to preserve the relative placements of Hinkler and Wide Bay. This will also allow some space to consider what happens to Maranoa in an area that is more demographically similar in nature to it than communities closer to Brisbane.

Forde

Northern Gold Coast and maybe into Beenleigh. Some have suggested Yarrabilba should be included however I cannot see how this would be a good fit as it is a little too disconnected from the Pimpama and Ormeau areas. Like Fadden, it should straddle the Pacific Motorway given the connectedness of the suburbs it bisects. Beenleigh would be a decent northern anchor community and Pimpama a decent southern anchor community.

Griffith

Following on from comments made about Bonner, I think a reasonable boundary would be Creek Road, Old Cleveland Road, Boundary Road, Holland Road and Marshall Road to the Pacific Motorway. West of the motorway, it should generally follow suburb boundaries to the Brisbane River. This would maintain a tight inner south electorate.

Groom

Suggestions are divided about Groom. Some of them appear to ignore the reality involving changes to Maranoa that are on the way. In my suggestion, I made note that the rural areas of the Toowoomba Regional Council are more aligned in community of interest with Maranoa as many of these communities lie in the southern portion of the state, receive much of their media from Toowoomba and Brisbane and rely on the Warrego Highway as the primary means of community connectedness. With the loss of these communities from Groom to Maranoa, Groom has no choice but to go into the Lockyer Valley. I am favourable of keeping communities between Highfields and Crows Nest in Groom, but keeping the entire Lockyer Valley Regional Council in one electorate should be the priority.

Herbert

Everyone appears to agree to remove Dawson from Townsville, the extent however varies. Suggestions to separate Dawson and Herbert with Kennedy are misguided as these communities would still need to cross either into Herbert or Dawson to get into Kennedy proper. To suggest Stuart Drive as an electorate boundary also treats people in Stuart, Julago, Nome and Alligator Creek with contempt as I am sure they would prefer to be represented by someone in their own city. The fact that Herbert, Kennedy and Leichhardt can increase their enrolments through the addition of the electors in the rural eastern communities in Townsville City Council is an opportunity too good to not take up. The offset would be made on the northern beaches where there is already an established presence in Kennedy. The suggestion of the removal of Palm Island to Kennedy ignores the reality of the connectedness of the Palm Island community to Townsville. Just because it is geographically closer to Ingham in Kennedy does not mean it has the same community of interest.

Hinkler

The abolition of the name Flynn from the electoral landscape will allow Gladstone and Bundaberg to be reunited into Hinkler. The suggestions made by some to separate Bargara from Bundaberg ignores the reality of how entwined they are as a community of interest. Given the size of both Gladstone and Bundaberg and their associated satellite suburbs of Calliope, Tannum Sands and Bargara, serious consideration needs to be made as to how much of the rural districts that surround the two cities are included beyond those that lie on the Bruce Highway. It may end up that the Burnett region centred on the Burnett Highway is divided up between Hinkler, Wide Bay and Maranoa.

Kennedy

Consensus is that Kennedy loses Bentley Park and gains the northern beaches of Townsville.

Leichhardt

The one suggestion that turns Leichhardt into a Cairns only electorate, while highly desirable, is very misguided given all connections on Cape York Peninsula go through Cairns and no where else. The addition of Bentley Park as part of the flow-on of additional electors from Townsville's eastern rural areas appears to be the main agreed upon suggestion.

Lilley

There are a variety of suggestions for Lilley and many of them are underwhelming. The priority should be given to areas currently in Petrie to be absorbed into Lilley to enable Petrie to be focused on areas north of the Pine River. If Brisbane is to move its northern boundary to accommodate more of Ryan in the western edge of Brisbane City Council, this would be a good outcome. In this scenario, there will be a need to give serious consideration to how the electors around McDowall and Bridgeman Downs are accommodated. Will they move to Lilley, Ryan or remain in Dickson? I do agree with most suggestions that those Dickson voters in Brisbane City Council should be united into an electorate based on Brisbane City Council. Lilley would be the ideal one, but Ryan does need to increase its enrolment as well.

Longman

Suggestions indicate Longman will reduce in size and be focused on Caboolture, Bribie Island and Morayfield. There were no suggestions that I did not support. Option 1 from S14 would be the option I support with this submission.

Maranoa

It is unfortunate that the latest determination could not accommodate a 31st electorate (or that the Federal Government refused to support a much-needed expansion of the House of Representatives) because Maranoa would be the biggest beneficiary of this increase. Unfortunately for the member for Maranoa, their area needs to expand further. The suggestions of moving Maranoa into the Lockyer or Brisbane Valleys indicate an extreme lack of understanding of Queensland geography. Why would communities so much closer to Brisbane, Ipswich or Toowoomba want to be represented by someone whose focus is Dalby, Warwick, Charleville or Longreach? It ignores all logic when there are so many more appropriate changes that can be made. The single biggest and most appropriate one is the transfer of the rural parts of Toowoomba Regional Council to Maranoa. This has the biggest number of electors that will not significantly increase the already massive geographic size of the electorate. The next biggest density is around Emerald which should be the second move. I have noted some have suggested Clermont move into Maranoa. While I did muse this idea, it is probably in the same basket as moving the Lockyer Valley in, especially if Emerald is not moved into Maranoa.

McPherson

There were many suggestions that mirror my own with McPherson. While there is no real need to increase electors, the ability to remove Wright from southern inland portions of Gold Coast City Council is something that should be actively pursued.

Moncrieff

I was not very supportive of some of the suggestions involving Moncrieff. While most deal with tinkering with the edges to balance changes elsewhere, the fact it is more or less right on target and changes can be made elsewhere, I think Moncrieff, like Bowman, does not need to change at all.

Moreton

Many of the suggestions on Moreton are well considered. There is agreement that Moreton needs to shift south, especially if Griffith is going to absorb suburbs like Annerley and Fairfield. It makes sense that Moreton should move into the part of Brisbane City Council that is currently in Rankin. These suburbs have community of interest with Sunnybank which will probably be the focal centre of new Moreton. The border with Oxley, the electorate, and its proximity of the suburb of Oxley, in Moreton, is unlikely to be resolved. Some of the suggestions have created some awkward boundaries around the Centenary suburbs to put all of the suburb Oxley into the electorate of Oxley. These should be avoided. Utilisation of the Brisbane City Council boundary would be beneficial in defining the southern limits of new Moreton.

Oxley

Several submissions have made comment about the confusing nature of Oxley as a suburb not being in Oxley the electorate. I would tend to agree with this. Consideration should be given to retiring the name Oxley as was also suggested. While Oxley was used as a Federation electorate, it was originally in NSW and was abolished. It was reinstated later in Queensland. Retiring the name would also remove the confusion with Oxley the suburb which is likely to be not in the electorate. A neat boundary to consider would be the Centenary Motorway, certainly south of the Ipswich railway line. Some submissions seem determined to have Oxley maintain some kind of foothold in Brisbane City Council. I have no issues for Oxley to move out of Brisbane as much as possible. Several submissions, mine included, indicate that Oxley should be focused on the Springfield and Redbank Plains area. One submission utilised Bundamba Creek as a well-defined boundary between Oxley and Blair. Ideally, given Ripley's proximity and similar demographics to Springfield, it too should be included in Oxley however, if it needs to stay with central Ipswich in Blair, so be it.

Petrie

There is general support amongst the detailed suggestions for Petrie to be removed from Brisbane City Council. East of the Bruce Highway between the Pine and Caboolture Rivers would be a very neat boundary. If this isn't enough, the Bruce Highway can be crossed to include Kallangur and Murrumba Downs. Unfortunately, this will bring the boundary very close to the suburb of Petrie and then risk another Oxley dilemma.

Rankin

Suggestions largely agree that Rankin needs to shift south and remove its portion of Brisbane City Council to Moreton. Forde's move south necessitates Rankin moving likewise. Several suggestions called for Boronia Heights to move into Rankin, and this should be considered. Based on most suggestions, Rankin will be the urban Logan City Council electorate.

Ryan

Reading the suggestions on Ryan has made me reconsider what I had suggested in my own contribution. The adjusting of the Brisbane/Ryan boundary to Metroad 5 and continuing along South Pine Road and Old Northern Road makes so much more sense than moving Ryan into the Samford Valley. The addition of the "Hills district" around Arana, Ferny and Everton Hills makes a lot of sense given the proximity of similar suburbs in Ryan. The key concern with this arrangement though is how the movement around McDowall and Bridgeman Downs will affect elector numbers in Ryan, Lilley and Dickson.

Wide Bay

Should the name Flynn disappear from the electoral map, Wide Bay will take up the general footprint of the current Hinkler. This move would better align with the geographical nature of the name of this Federation electorate. There is close to total agreement in suggestions that Hervey Bay and Maryborough can be reunited into the one electorate. This would also allow a logical inclusion of the Burnett region not included in Hinkler or Maranoa. There would also be a potential to unite Kingaroy, Wondai and Murgon into the same electorate.

Wright

Suggestions for Wright are highly varied. The more considered suggestions (mine included) say that Wright needs to be removed from the Lockyer Valley Regional and Gold Coast City Council areas. Suggestions of moving Wright into the Brisbane Valley while still holding onto Gold Coast City suburbs is absurd, and others splitting Lockyer Valley in various ways between Groom, Wright and Blair ignores community of interest. The fact that Wright is centred on Scenic Rim Regional Council should indicate that any shortfalls in enrolment should be made from the rural growth areas of Logan City Council like Jimboomba, Yarrabilba and Flagstone. These areas are all connected through the Mount Lindsay and Cunningham Highways and Beaudesert-Boonah and Camp Cable Roads.

New electorate

This assumes the abolition of Flynn from the electoral map. The 'new' electorate is effectively the current electorate of Wide Bay that has moved south into the Sunshine Coast. While the northern Sunshine Coast has historically been part of the Wide Bay district, it does not necessarily reflect geographically now. Areas from Gympie through the Mary Valley and onto the Sunshine Coast as far as Coolum seem to be inevitably part of this electorate based on the suggestions. While essentially two different parts, these areas are pretty connected as Gympie Regional Council does participate with Sunshine Coast media and marketing. As far as name goes, transplanting the name Flynn here could work but likely to confuse constituents. The suggestion of Irwin could be appropriate however, given the high profile of Terri, Bindi and Robert Irwin, it might not be the best option. The suggestion of Adermann is appropriate given the historical connection the Adermann family has with the area. I am not wedded to new names, and I await to see what the committee proposes.

I look forward to the draft proposal.

Andrew Kamler