



Submission CS15

The Hon David Littleproud MP

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FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MARANOA

The Australian Electoral Commission
1 Stuart Street
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Dear Chair

I write as the Member for Maranoa to comment on the Australian Labor Party's suggestion (S60) that the Somerset Region be transferred to Maranoa.

Since federation the electorate of Maranoa has historically been defined by its communities of interest of broad scale agriculture and more recently mining and apart from a small period when Emerald in Central Queensland was included as a community of interest Maranoa has been contained by the Great Dividing Range as a physical barrier.

The Great Dividing Range has not only shaped our industries by physically shaping our rivers, our landscape and the physical connection and reliance that has evolved across communities in Maranoa it makes the region of Sommerset completely foreign to Maranoa because it has never had any connection to those communities west of the divide.

Sommerset Region lies at the bottom of the Great Dividing Range that runs to the Brisbane River and comes less than 40km from Brisbane with communities that have no industrial or physical connection to the South Burnett or Maranoa. The South Burnett communities traditionally gravitate to the coast to the east and north of them because they have similar communities of interest while communities in the Sommerset Region have no need to go west over the range because the communities in the South Burnett don't have the services to support them so they gravitate to larger South East Queensland communities.

This is re-enforced by the developed alliances of local governments advocating with communities of interest, the South Burnett Regional Council is part of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organization of Councils while Sommerset is part South East Queensland Council of Mayors which actively plays a role in the planning of South East Qld.

Returning the largest population center's of the South Burnett of Kingaroy and Nanango to Flynn in The LNPs' submission (S62) with Murgon, Wondai and Goomeri also makes a better alignment of communities of interest and local government advocacy. For consistency, The LNP's submission (S62) adds Boulia to Maranoa as it is the only council region that is part of Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) group of councils that sits outside of Maranoa.

The case to add Boulia to Maranoa is further supported by the construction of "The Outback Way" which is a new highway from Laverton in Western Australia to Winton in Queensland and running through Boulia as a major arterial across our continent linking our east and west coasts.

Maranoa already includes parts of Toowoomba Regional Council, and the LNP's submission (S62) adds further parts to the west of Toowoomba which is consistent in maintaining connection with Toowoomba which services people right across Maranoa. Adding Lockyer Valley to Groom also aligns with this principle as the Warrego Highway draws people from the Lockyer Valley up the range for work and services.

Finally, the ability to affectively service the people of Maranoa with Sommerset Region would be physically challenging with limited connection points of accessibility and representing communities like Kilcoy that have no connection with communities like Winton some 1,300km away because their concerns are completely foreign to one and other.

Yours sincerely,

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THE HON DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP
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