



QUEENSLAND

# **QUEENSLAND REDISTRIBUTION COMMISSION**

## **2007 QUEENSLAND REDISTRIBUTION OF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS**

### **PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS**

**NOVEMBER 2007**

**Level 6  
Forestry House  
160 Mary Street  
BRISBANE Q 4000**

**Telephone: 1300 881 665**

**Locked Bag 3304  
BRISBANE Q 4001**

**Facsimile: (07) 3229 7391**

**Website: [www.ecq.qld.gov.au](http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au)**

## **PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS FOR ELECTORAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND INVITATION FOR COMMENTS IN RESPONSE**

On 12 October 2007 the Redistribution Commission invited public suggestions on the redistribution of the State's 89 Electoral Districts. Twenty-four suggestions have been received.

The Commission invites comments in response to these suggestions. Comments are welcome on some or all of the submissions received to date, or any part of a particular submission. The Commission will take all submissions and comments into account in developing a set of electoral district boundary proposals. The Commission's proposed redistribution will then be made available for a further stage of public comment.

Copies of Public Suggestions received to date can be viewed at the Commission's office, Level 6, Forestry House, 160 Mary Street, Brisbane between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm (Monday to Friday). Copies are also available at major Public Libraries and selected Council offices throughout Queensland. The Suggestions are also available on the Commission's website – [www.ecq.qld.gov.au](http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au)

All public comments should be made in writing, marked "QRC/C" and forwarded to:

The Secretary  
Queensland Redistribution Commission  
Locked Bag 3304  
BRISBANE Q 4001

Alternatively, comments can be delivered to the Commission's office during normal office hours.

Comments on the suggestions must be lodged with the Commission by **5.00 pm on Monday, 17 December 2007.**

It would assist the Commission if anyone intending to submit maps with written comments could do so on maps of the present Electoral Districts. Copies of relevant maps and current electoral enrolment statistics can be obtained by calling the Commission on 1300 881 665 or downloading maps and enrolment statistics from [www.ecq.qld.gov.au](http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au)

The Electoral Act requires that all comments be made available for public perusal. Copies will be available at the Commission's Office, in major Public Libraries and selected Council offices, as soon as possible after the closing time for public comment.

## The Redistribution Process

In preparing its proposed redistribution the Commission is required to calculate a quota (*“the average number of enrolled electors”*) for each electoral district. For the assistance of people lodging suggestions, the Commission has calculated an initial quota of 29,081 electors based on current enrolment data. (This figure will be updated before the Commission publishes its proposed determination.) The *Electoral Act 1992* allows a maximum 10% variation above or below the quota.

A further consideration is that some parts of Queensland are remote and electoral districts can be quite large. Under the Electoral Act, where districts exceed 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> in area, provision exists to add to the number of actual electors a notional sum of electors equal to 2% of the total area of the district. This is best illustrated through the following example. Assume that the State quota is 25,000 electors. Applying the 10% (+ or -) margin of tolerance would result in a minimum of 22,500 and maximum 27,500 electors. However, in an electoral district (say) 250,000 square kilometres in area, a figure of 5,000 (i.e. 2% of 250,000), can be added to the number of actual electors to arrive at a figure that falls within the permitted range of 22,500 to 27,500 electors.

The Commission is also required to give consideration to:

- community of interest;
- ways of communication and travel;
- the physical features of each proposed electoral district;
- the boundaries of existing districts; and
- projected population growth or decline in particular areas.

Taking into account the above criteria and up-to-date enrolment figures, and after careful consideration of all suggestions and comments it receives, the Commission will develop a set of electoral district boundary proposals. These will be published in the Queensland Government Gazette and newspapers circulating throughout the State, with an invitation for public comment. Maps showing the names and boundaries of the proposed electoral districts will also be made available. A period of 30 days will be allowed to lodge objections, and a further 10 day period for public comment on objections received. The Commission may, if it so chooses, conduct public hearings at any stage of the redistribution process.

The Commission's final determination takes effect upon publication in the Queensland Government Gazette.

## Inquiries

Further information on the redistribution process is available on request, or visit the Electoral Commission of Queensland's website [www.ecq.qld.gov.au](http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au)

## LIST OF PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS

<b>Suggestion No. (QRC/S....)</b>	<b>Name/Organisation</b>	<b>Address</b>
1	Ms Dorothy Pratt MP	Member for Nanango Shop 2/ 34 A Alford Street KINGAROY Q 4610
2	Mr Mark Freeman	PO Box 777 KURANDA Q 4881
3	Ms Kathy Yeo	16 Forbes Street HAWTHORNE Q 4171
4	Mr John McKinlay	4 Nicol Court ANNANDALE Q 4814
5	Mr K V McElligott	11 Yale Close DOUGLAS Q 4814
6	Mr Peter Blakey	5/80 Stevenson Street ASCOT Q 4007
7	Mr Harold W Westaway	164 Hillview Crescent WHITFIELD Q 4870
8	Ms Ainslie Barron	3/40 Miles Street CLAYFIELD Q 4011
9	Mr Lance T Royce	66 Walsh Street EDGE HILL Q 4870
10	Mr Bob Richardson	45 Riverstone Road GORDONVALE Q 4865
11	Mr Russell Beer Chairman Advance Cairns	Level 1 51 The Esplanade CAIRNS Q 4870
12	Mr Ian Rickuss MP Member for Lockyer	Shop 1 47 North Street GATTON Q 4343
13	Mrs M Yarrow	419 Kents Lagoon Road KENTS LAGOON Q 4309



## LIST OF PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS

<b>Suggestion No. (QRC/S....)</b>	<b>Name/Organisation</b>	<b>Address</b>
14	Mr Ray Hawley	4 Church Street FOREST HILL Q 4342
15	Dr Darren Delaney Medical Director Cairns Private Clinics	PO Box 142N NORTH CAIRNS Q 4870
16	Mr Steve Dickson MP Member for Kawana	Sunshine Central 4B/3 Nicklin Way MINYAMA Q 4575
17	Michael Taylor Honorary Secretary Sunshine Coast Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc	PO Box 1324 MOOLOOLABA Q 4557
18	Mr Ray Stevens MP Shadow Minister for Housing Affordability and Public Works Member for Robina	PO Box 1056 BROADBEACH QLD 4218
19	Mr Milton Dick State Secretary Australian Labor Party	PO Box 5032 WEST END Q 4101
20	Mr Geoffrey Greene State Director Liberal Party of Australia – Queensland Division	PO Box 8167 WOOLLOONGABBA Q 4102
21	Mr Paul Blackman	C/- 15 Austral Avenue WESTMEAD NSW 2145
22	Mr Michael O'Dwyer State Director National Party of Australia (Queensland)	PO Box 5940 WEST END Q 4101
23	Ms Wendy J Richardson	21 East Park Ridge Drive BRINSMEAD Q 4870
24	Mr David William John Beard	1 Francesca Court UNDERWOOD Q 4119



**Dorothy Pratt MLA**  
Independent Member for Nanango

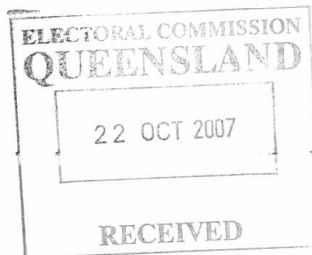
QRC/S 1

Shop 2/34 A Alford Street  
KINGAROY QLD 4610  
Phone (07) 4162 1381  
Fax (07) 4162 4774  
Freecall: 1800 816 261  
(in electorate only)

Our Ref: trt

October 17, 2007

QRC/S  
The Secretary  
Queensland Redistribution Commission  
Locked Bag 3304  
Brisbane Qld 4001



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the invitation for submissions to redistribute electoral districts.

I would like to suggest the *Nanango Electorate* boundaries be realigned in accordance with the new *South Burnett Regional Council* boundaries. This new electorate would include Kingaroy, Murgon, Nanango, Wondai and Blackbutt.

The South Burnett incorporates towns of similar interests being mainly agricultural, with an emerging wine and grape industry and an increasing mines and energy sector.

They also have a close geographic location with an estimated area of approximately 8,500km<sup>2</sup> enabling improved representation as all towns are within 60 minutes travel from the major population centre of Kingaroy.

I feel that electorate divisions should facilitate quality representation by maintaining common geographic characteristics, industry and local interest within the divisions. The redistribution of the *Nanango Electorate* to align with the *South Burnett Regional Council* boundaries factors these considerations and I believe would assure a quality regional electorate.

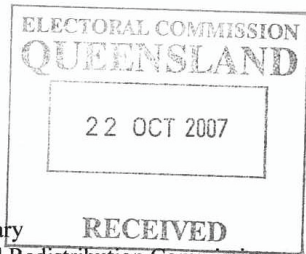
Yours truly,

**Dorothy Pratt MLA**  
Independent Member for Nanango

E-mail  
nanango@parliament.qld.gov.au

QRC/S 2

QRC/S



The Secretary  
Queensland Redistribution Commission  
Locked Bag 3304  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

P O Box 777  
KURANDA QLD 4881

Telephone 07 4093 8827

Mobile 0421 170 599

Email [voiceofkuranda@bigpond.com](mailto:voiceofkuranda@bigpond.com)

Monday, October 15, 2007

Dear Sir,

**Re: Submission in respect of Kuranda regional community.**

The purpose of this submission is to demonstrate to the Redistribution Commission that the Kuranda community is a unified and unitary entity and its segmentation at present and in the past contravenes the Commission's first four redistribution criteria. Kuranda should be included in its entirety in one state electorate.

For many decades, the Kuranda community has been treated by the Electoral Commission as a small set of tokens to "balance the scales" during redistributions. On many occasions, this has meant disadvantage to our community and often zero representation. Indeed, some of our representatives have not even known that parts of the Kuranda community were in their electorates prior to being told by residents. I recall a time when the township was divided along the then main street. This would have made sense in suburban Brisbane (say Sandgate Road at Nundah), but was bizarre in a small rural township.

I have not seen the member for Tablelands or Cook in the Kuranda region ever in the past three years. They may have dropped by from time to time but virtually all constituent submissions go to the Barron River Electorate Office.

This submission will follow the following format –

1. Overview of Kuranda community and relationship to redistribution criteria
2. Detail of the six (and a half) specific parts of Kuranda sundered from the community in the last redistribution
3. Suggestions as to inclusion into State electorates.
4. Synopsis.

## 1. Overview of Kuranda community.

The Kuranda community is an enclosed enclave serviced by only one highway (two ends), a railway and Skyrail and surrounded by obvious geographic and environmental barriers. This has engendered a sense of community.

**Boundaries of Kuranda region.** All of the Kuranda region is part of the Mareeba Shire Council area and is easily defined. It is all of the areas between the Kuranda Range and Lamb Range National Park. More on this under communication and physical features.

**Economic.** The primary industries of Kuranda are tourism and small farming. Increasingly, there is a tendency to a rural retreat residential style with the majority of residents living on very small acreage allotments. Many of the larger land parcels are owned on a tenants in common basis with, essentially, a small acreage lifestyle and several or numerous families. The economic conditions that apply in Cook and Tablelands are rural town residential and broad acre farming. The economic conditions in Barron River are suburban. Kuranda is not similar to either and this is recognized both by Kuranda's residents and also by the residents of those electorates.

**Social.** Whilst there is considerable communication between Kuranda and the Northern Beaches in Barron River and Mareeba in Tablelands, this is predominately for shopping. There is virtually no intercourse between Kuranda and the rest of the Cook electorate. The entire Kuranda region is serviced by Australia Post in Kuranda. The local paper only comes from Kuranda with no deliveries of any other paper. Local telephone calls are limited to the Kuranda region with the exception being the eastern part of Kuranda because Telstra measures distance by crow, not by road. We have our own High School, Primary School, medical centre, ambulance, churches, theatre and arts complex (Kuranda Amphitheatre), Scouts, sporting and recreation associations and clubs. For example, our football, cricket, bowls and eight-ball teams draw on the Kuranda community and not from elsewhere. Our several performing arts groups draw on the Kuranda region and not from elsewhere. It is not because we are choosy, but because communication and transportation outside our community are too difficult make it worthwhile for outside potential participants.

**Regional and other interests.** In any community of thousands of people, there are always many people who differ from the mainstream majority on some facet of importance. However, generally speaking the Kuranda community is somewhat left leaning on a social and political basis, with an ardent awareness of environmental issues. We also have very high levels of community involvement in over 50 Kuranda organizations and clubs. Partly because of our small acreage allotment size for the majority of our residents, we are accepting of social and cultural difference. We are a community of minorities. We have little racial or religious problems because we have a sufficiently large minority of Aborigines, Africans, West Indians, Asians and Europeans of various variety's, Muslims, Baha'is, Dutch Reformed, Buddhists, Hindus, etc so that everybody has a friend or acquaintance who belongs to that minority. The majority are European and possibly Christian, but only just. The Kuranda region is also an old Hippy



community and that has affected our attitudes. This would certainly not be said of the surrounding communities of Mareeba and Northern Beaches.

**Communication and geographic features.** Telephone services, as previously stated, are local only within the Kuranda region with the exception of the eastern part of Kuranda. There is only one paper delivered, the Kuranda Paper, and no others. To get an out of town paper, and many do, you go to a news agency or shop. There are essentially two roads out of the Kuranda regional community. They are the Kennedy Highway to the east to Smithfield and Cairns and west to Mareeba. To the east you travel through the World Heritage listed Kuranda Range (on your map the Macalister Range). You also go through 94 bends in 14 kilometers and drop some 1000 feet. It is an obvious and indisputable communication barrier and geographic "fence". To the west you go through Lamb Range National Park (not shown on your map) which is the bit of green crossing the Kennedy Highway north of Dinden State Forest. It in reality connects in a heavily forested band with the Bilwon State Forest, is uninhabited, and by law, uninhabitable. It covers a range of large hills that you could walk over – if you were very fit. It is an obvious and indisputable geographic barrier. Essentially the boundary between the rest of the Tablelands and Kuranda is where Davies Creek crosses the Kennedy Highway. There are no residents for several kilometers, and some fairly rough country protected by legislation. In theory there are seven other roads that exit Kuranda. None are trafficable. They are –

*Black Mountain Road.* This is a State Forestry road and past Mona Mona (part of Kuranda) is only trafficable with a permit.

*Oak Forest Road.* This is a public road and is not trafficable. You could get through it (maybe) with a half track. It also stops at Mona Mona and is non-existent for most of its shown mapped length.

*Koah Road.* This is trafficable up to rural number 1227. It then becomes a farm driveway, and then a railway service track. You could drive to Bilwon along this track, but you wouldn't want to if you owned the vehicle.

*Clohesy River Road.* This runs into State Forest after rural number 280 when it crosses the Clohesy River. A permit is required to travel this road and it really doesn't go anywhere.

*Speewah Road.* This stops on private property at rural number 719. In theory it continues on to Cairns but in reality, the road has overgrown so long ago that it has disappeared.

*Douglas Track.* This used to be a bullock team track. It now ends in a 100 meter drop into the Barron River gorge. Suitable only for Para gliders.

*Wrights Lookout Road.* This is actually the steepest gazetted road in Queensland. It descends 280 meters at a grade of 1 : 2.7 for about half a kilometer and ends in a fenced enclosure inside the Barron River hydro electric plant. It is suitable only for the young foolhardy who don't want to come back.

In addition, there are Skyrail and Railway services. To the west, passenger service is not provided by Queensland Rail. To the east, over a million passengers are transported annually – none locals. At \$38- a trip it is purely a tourist journey. There are two bus services, Kuranda Buses and Whitecar Coaches. They charge between \$5- and \$7- a journey.

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It just goes to show that lines on a map aren't always what they seem to be. The Kuranda community has two, and only two, access roads and no other utilized transportation corridors.

**Physical Features.** This has largely been covered previously. Kuranda shows up as several communities when you look at a map but is in reality an enclosed community. Kuranda, Myola, Kowrowa, Russet Park, Mona Mona, Top of the Range, Specwah, Koah, Grove's Creek and Clohesy are all part of Kuranda, and merge into each other. The residents of all consider that they live in part of Kuranda. They are enclosed north, south, east and west by uninhabited and uninhabitable areas, all mountainous and heavily timbered and covered by various legislation as un-developmentable. They share social, communication, employment, and collective psychics. All of the Kuranda regional community is part of the Mareeba Shire Council area and are deemed to form part of the proposed Tablelands Shire.

## **2. Detail of the six specific parts of Kuranda sundered from the community in the last redistribution**

Individual areas.

Please refer to the enclosed maps for locations.

**Top of the Range.** Marked 1 -

This is presently part of Cook. It is impossible to get from Top of the Range to the broader area of Cook without traversing Barron River electorate. However residents walk to the Kuranda village in Barron River electorate. It has zero economic, social, regional, geographic, communication, and travel interests with any location within the electorate of Cook.

**Mona Mona.** Marked 1A -

This is the old Kuranda Aboriginal Mission. You cannot get from Mona Mona to anywhere in Cook electorate without at least 2 hours traveling by four wheel drive. It is populated by Dgabugai and Bulwai Aboriginals who have little in common with the Kukulu and Kukujungan Aboriginals who are the nearest Aboriginals resident in Cook electorate.

**Russet Park.** Marked 2 -

This is the same as Top of the Range. It is impossible to get from Russet Park to the broader area of Cook without traversing Barron River electorate. It has zero economic, social, regional, geographic, communication, and travel interests with any location within the electorate of Cook. Indeed, as the bus services do not travel to it, you would need a cut lunch and a change of underpants and a day and a half to get from here to anywhere in the electorate of Cook by Shank's pony and public transport.

**Oak Forest.** Marked 3 -

It just gets worse as we go along. It is impossible to get from Oak Forest to any location in Cook without traversing Barron River electorate. It has zero economic, social, regional, geographic, communication, and travel interests with any location within the electorate of Cook. I know of two residents who traveled from Oak Forest to Cooktown for a holiday this year. Maybe somebody will next year too.



**Mount Haren** (at the end of the road). Marked 4. This area has maybe half a dozen voters. It is effectively only one residential property which is a tourist venue and gains all of its business from the Kuranda destination. Zero similarity with any part of the Cook electorate.

**Koah.** Marked 5 –

This is a rural residential and small acre farming area. It has a small, if limited, association with Tablelands electorate in the farming areas north across the Clohesy River. However, because of climatic and soil differences and the demise of tobacco farming, cropping even in these areas is now divergent from the norms around Mareeba. Small scale vegetable farming and aquaculture are predominate and most sales are direct to Cairns and southern capitals. Koah village also has a resident segment of the Kuranda Dgabugai Aboriginal community. No similarities to Cook and mild similarities to Tablelands.

**Koah (along part of Kanervo Road).** Marked 6 –

I cannot envisage any rationale for exclusion of this small area from Barron River and Cook and inclusion into Tablelands. Total voter numbers are probably less than 30. The majority work in Kuranda. Residents would need a map to even find Cook electorate if they had ever heard of it. Davies Creek along here is about one meter wide and less than 100mm deep. When compared with Lamb Range National Park, it is hardly a geographic feature. Sort of like Breakfast Creek in comparison with Moreton Bay. However, the paper, mail service and light shopping all centre on Kuranda. Quite simply a silly inclusion in Tablelands guaranteed to negate representation.

### 3. Suggestions as to inclusion into electorate.

I well understand that you have to “balance the books” and take cognizance as to demographic trends. There is no doubt that the population of Kuranda (as a regional cohesive community) will increase. The FNQ 2010 study, together with its subsequent supplementaries, clearly identifies strong population growth in the Kuranda community. By the time you get around to the next redistribution in six or more years, there will be considerable change. It is expected that Kuranda’s Myola area alone will have a population of 11,000 by 2015. One single development in Myola by the Anglican Church presently being bulldozed will provide for 1,100 retiree and aged care accommodations. These developments will push Kuranda close to 30,000 within fifteen years or so. It is unavoidable if you look at the available developmentable land on the swamps that make up Cairns and the Northern Beaches. Climate change will have a slow, but certain, influence on preferred investment based residence. Also under the Mareeba Strategic Plan, broad acre rural zonings in the entire Kuranda region have been set aside for pure residential development – not rural residential. It will make a slow and certain difference.

It really doesn’t matter which electorate the Kuranda community is placed into, Cook, Barron River or Tablelands. I would suggest that the electorate with the smallest expected population growth would be the way to go as then the projected demographic growth in Kuranda will go to offset growth in the others.

QRC/S 2

Because Kuranda has an essentially unitary community nature due primarily to geomorphologic and transport considerations, and will unavoidably continue to do so, there are other areas where small scale adjustments can be made where geographic, communication, community, employment, social and transportation considerations are not cast aside just to "balance the books". For example, the Mt Molloy / Julatten area has similarities and social cohesion with both the Mareeba area and the Port Douglas / Mossman area. It fits together with either. The differences between Clifton Beach, Kewarra Beach and Trinity Beach are minimal and electoral segmentation has more in common with a city suburban environment where a roadway can easily be considered a boundary. In a suburban environment, which the Northern Beaches certainly are, locational loyalty is minimized by easy transportation, centralized shopping and schooling, and short commuting times to a resident's social destinations.

Not so for Kuranda!

#### **4. Synopsis.**

I can well understand that a belief could be formulated in your office that this submission is based purely on a local isolationist and insular espousal. You would be wrong.

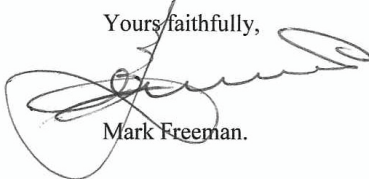
The primary reasons that the broader Kuranda community considers itself segmented from surrounding communities are related to geomorphologic, environmental and social considerations. Whilst the social considerations will, and are, changing – they are changing slower than would be expected due to population growth. This is because Kuranda has a regionally recognized ethos and culture and naturally attracts those who have sympathies with that ilk. The social considerations will minimize within foreseeable time but the geographic and environmental considerations of mountains and thick swaths of forest will take a lot longer. Longer than you or I will need to concern ourselves with.

Essentially, it is time that your office re-unified the Kuranda community as bounded by those geographic and environmental (not to mention employment, social, transport, etc) considerations and sought alternative locations where small adjustments "balance the books".

The entire Kuranda community should be in one, and only one, State Electorate.

I make this submission based on considerable geographic and historical studies and should you wish further information or clarification, I ask that you do not hesitate to contact me.

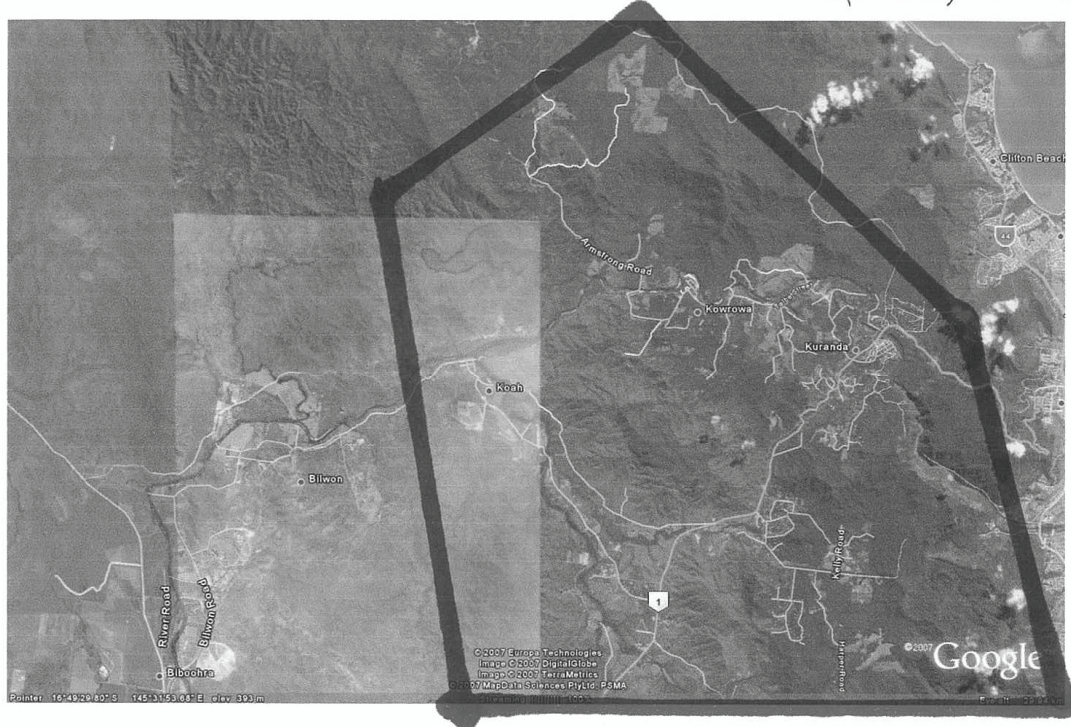
Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Freeman', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Mark Freeman.



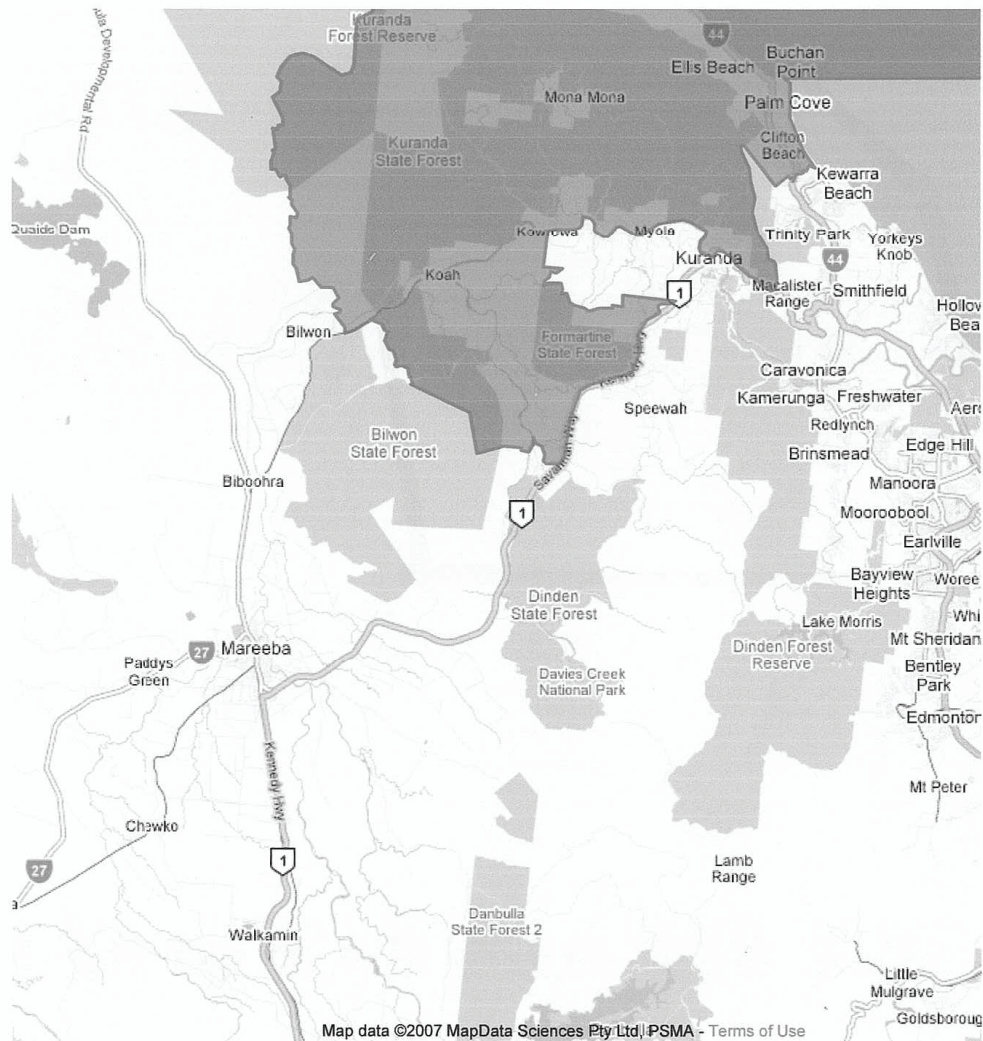
ORC/S 2



**This is Kuranda – totally enclosed by mountainous terrain and forest.**

*PRC/S 2*

## State Redistribution - COOK

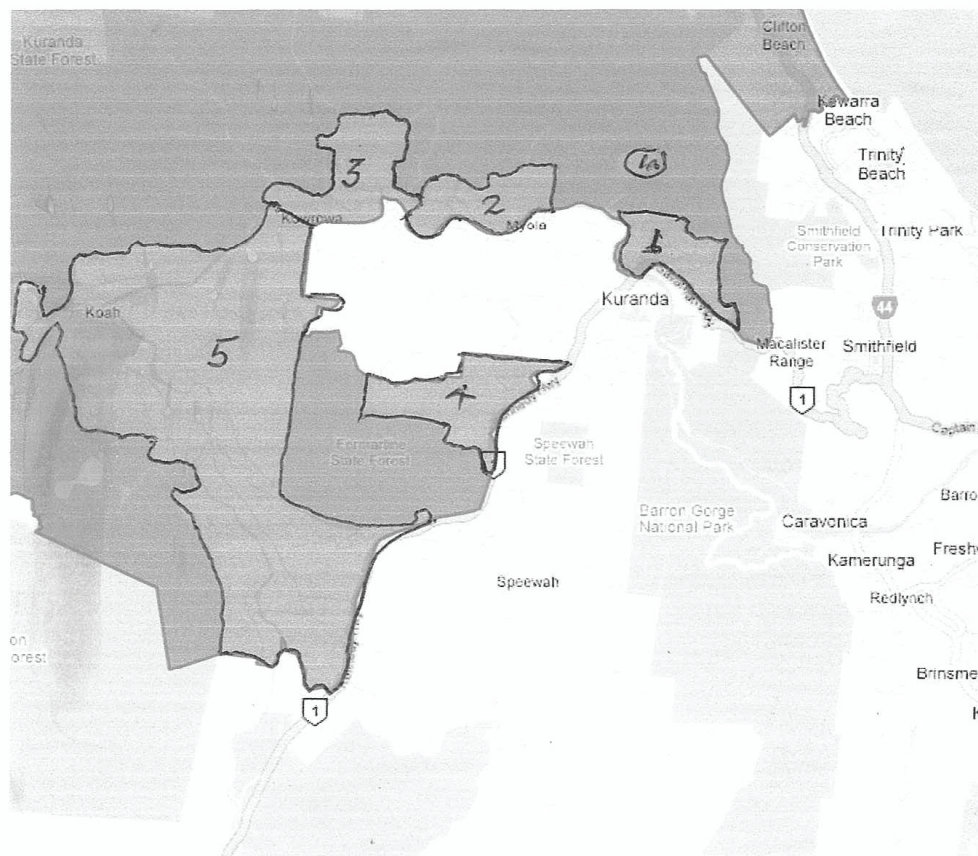


### Related Information

- Map of COOK
- Census Collection District Map of COOK
- Enrolment Statistics for COOK

ORC/S 2

## State Redistribution - COOK



Map data ©2007 MapData Sciences Pty Ltd, PSMA - Terms of Use

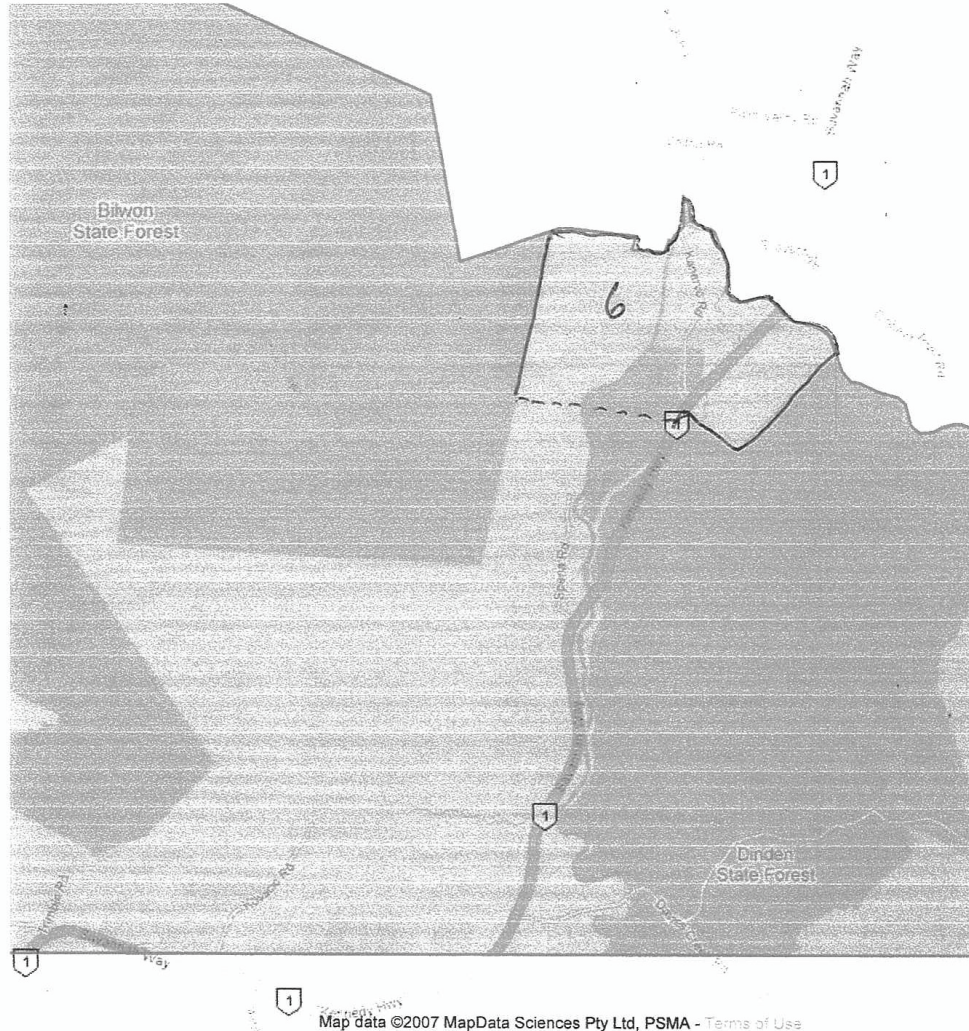
### Related Information

- Map of COOK
- Census Collection District Map of COOK
- Enrolment Statistics for COOK



QRC/S 2

## State Redistribution - TABLELANDS



Map data ©2007 MapData Sciences Pty Ltd, PSMA - Terms of Use

### Related information

- Map of TABLELANDS
- Census Collection District Map of TABLELANDS
- Enrolment Statistics for TABLELANDS

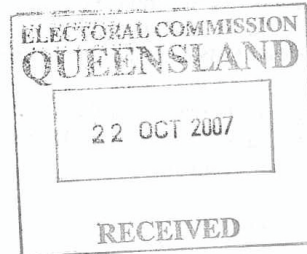
DRC/S 3

16 Forbes St  
Hawthorne  
QLD 4171

The Secretary  
Queensland Redistribution Commission  
Locked Bag 3304  
Brisbane QLD 4001

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2007

To whoever it may concern,



**RE: Council amalgamations, especially the former Beaudesert Shire**

I wish to voice my concern about the recently passed forced council amalgamations, particularly with regard to the former Beaudesert Shire. I wish to draw your attention to the fact that they have contradicted the South East Queensland Regional Plan, which is not acceptable, and offer an alternative solution for population increase. Council amalgamations were supposedly aimed at producing "stronger councils" as super councils were needed to deal with population growth. The initiative seems to have been more directed at reducing the amount of rural councils in South East Queensland. Despite 70% of residents being apposed to council amalgamations, a contradiction to an approved piece of policy (the South East Queensland Regional Plan) and Australia being a democracy, they have still somehow been approved.

Beaudesert Shire Council used to be classed as a strong council according to government sources, and will turn into a weak council with the amalgamation with Logan City because over half their rate payers will be lost. This is what the government calls "stronger councils"? The amalgamation of Northern Beaudesert Shire with Logan City means some residents of the former Beaudesert Shire will not be able to afford the rates on their land. Amalgamating the former Beaudesert Shire Council with Logan City Council will inevitably result in urbanisation.


This is contradictory to the South East Queensland Regional Plan, which is approved policy that must be adhered to. Much time and effort was put into the South East Queensland Regional Plan and the Mt Lindesay/North Beaudesert Study Area (MLNBSA) Report to plan a future that ensured sustainability, the continuation of rural futures and provision for population increase. The above will not be attained if the plan is ignored. The South East Queensland Regional Plan committed to "rural communities (that) are strong and viable with sustainable economies, contributing to the health, character and liveability of the region". The Regional Plan also committed to "a compact and *sustainable* urban pattern of well-planned communities, supported by a network of accessible and convenient centres close to residential areas, employment locations and transport. Urban sprawl is not sustainable. Urban consolidation is. Council amalgamations between the former Beaudesert Shire and Logan City are further encouraging urban sprawl, which represents an outdated solution. Furthermore, they will be detrimental to rural residential lifestyles. The Regional Plan stated that the MLNBSA would only be developed as a last option after the Western Corridor. This has clearly not been adhered to by the newly forced

ORC/S 3

amalgamations. The preferred development option identified by the MLNBSA Report limited urban development to the following areas: Greenbank Central, Flagstone, Jimboomba, Yarabilba, Logan Village, Bahrs Scrub and Park Ridge/Boronia Heights. The Regional Plan established to maintain rural living areas in the MLNBSA west of Greenbank and south of Jimboomba.

I urge you to reconsider the council amalgamations affecting the former Beaudesert Shire and offer urban consolidation as an alternative solution to accommodate future population growth.

Yours faithfully,

  
Kathy Yeo



QRC/S 4

QUEENSLAND REDISTRIBUTION COMMISSION – A SUBMISSION (QRC/S)

John McKinlay  
4 Nicol Court  
Annandale QLD 4814  
07 4779 2854  
[jmckinlay@bigpond.com](mailto:jmckinlay@bigpond.com)

**Introduction**

I wish to make a Submission to Queensland Redistribution Commission concerning the 2007 redistribution of the Queensland electoral districts.

My area of interest and concern is the Townsville region, where I have lived and voted for over the past 20 years. I am now retired from work. I am not a member of any political party.

**Boundaries**

It hardly needs to be said that there are special challenges in dealing fairly with urban, albeit regional, areas, which are inevitably growing, and which abut rural areas that either are declining or are growing at a much slower rate.

In addition to considering each electoral district on its own, it is constructive to look at the Townsville region as a whole. From March next year, an area roughly equivalent to the three electoral districts will become a single local government area, the “new” Townsville City.

There is no question that the Townsville region has always been a single entity with a shared community of interest. There should be some nexus between the City and the electoral districts.

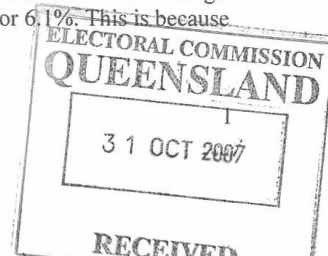
Townsville is a predominately urban area with currently a total of 90,179 electors. It is divided between three electoral districts – Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa.

The three electoral districts are rather different.

The Townsville electoral district has the smallest number of electors at present – 27,274, but well within the tolerated variation level – with a projected growth rate of 4,948 or 18%. This may well be an optimistic figure because the electoral district is land-locked by the Mundingburra and Thuringowa electoral districts, and by the sea.

The growth areas for the Townsville region are to the north and to the south.

The electoral district of Mundingburra has 28,849 electors, very close to the new average for enrolled voters, but with a projected growth rate of only 1762 or 6.1%. This is because



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the southern part of the Townsville electoral district has routinely been used to top up the Burdekin electoral district, which is and is always likely to be under sized.

Thuringowa is by far the largest of the three Townsville region electoral districts, and the fastest growing, with 34,056 electors, outside of the tolerance level, and a projected growth of 10,226 or 30%. This is certainly a realistic projection, because the Thuringowa electoral district, for geographic and other reasons, is less "constrained" by its northern neighbouring electoral district, Hinchinbrook, than Mundingburra is by Burdekin.

However, the Hinchinbrook electoral district is seriously undersized and is likely to become more so in the future. At present, a number of the northern suburbs of the "new" Townsville City are included in the Hinchinbrook electoral district.

### *The Standard Options*

I have lived in Townsville in the same house for over 20 years. In that time I have been in three different State electoral districts, two different federal electorates, and endless local government wards. I am starting to feel like a pawn.

The two processes which have been adopted to keep the necessary balanced electoral districts in this region, and probably others, has been - to chop off the outer suburban areas and give them to the neighbouring rural areas with insufficient electors - and to juggle the internal boundaries of the region's electoral districts to keep them more or less in balance.

I would like to argue that the legitimacy of the use of these devices has passed its use-by date. The anomalies are enormous. At one time my suburb, which is 15 minutes from the centre of Townsville, was part of the Burdekin electoral district, whose geographical centre is Bowen, 2 hours away. My neighbours in Stuart, 5 minutes drive away, are still in this same strange position. Likewise, the electors of Bluewater must worry about being part of the Hinchinbrook electoral district, which has Ingham as its core, and which stretches almost to Innisfail.

The easy solution to the growth in the Townsville region would be to transfer more and more electors to the neighbouring electoral districts. This, I believe, would be a very bad and inappropriate decision.

### *Possible Solutions*

The basic proposition of my submission is that a group of electoral districts should be created which match the boundary of the "new" Townsville City. This would involve moving a number of suburbs, and a number of electors, away from the Burdekin and Hinchinbrook electoral districts and back into a Townsville electoral district.

This would cause minimal harm to the Burdekin and Hinchinbrook electoral districts, which will in any event struggle to operate within the required parameters. There may be



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some opportunities to make minor adjustments with neighbouring electoral districts such as Whitsunday, Charters Towers, Tablelands and Mulgrave which would minimise the size problems.

The potential difficulty, of course, would be with the group of Townsville electoral districts. In 2007, with the addition of the relocated electors, the total would be somewhat over the upper 10% variation limit. The internal boundaries of the three electoral districts could easily be adjusted to equalise numbers, because there is no longer any defensible logic in the location of the boundaries. I believe that there is not a real difficulty, and that the outcome would be acceptable, in the short term, in that it recognises social and political cohesion.

A case could possibly be made to delay the return of the relocated electors, to keep the numbers down, but I think that this would be against the spirit of the proposed redistribution.

The resolution of the potential difficulty, of course, would be achieved at the time of the next redistribution, arguably in 2014. By then, on the stated projections, the total of the three electoral districts would likely be a minimum of 12,000 and more likely 15,000 electors above the upper 10% limit, which would be quite unacceptable. But at that point the solution becomes simple, because it would be possible to divide Townsville City into 4 electoral districts. The total Townsville City electors at this time, even without the electors transferred from the Burdekin and Hinchinbrook electoral districts, would be comfortably within the 10% lower limit if spread over the 4 electoral districts.

Hence, the rules and cohesion would be maintained.

#### *Nomenclature*

For obvious historical reasons, the Townsville region electoral districts have adopted locality names.

This is no longer particularly reasonable or appropriate. The Townsville electoral district covers only about a third of the "new" Townsville City. Most of the Mundingburra electoral district is not in the Townsville suburb of Mundingburra. Thuringowa, as a city name, will disappear in March next year, and the residual suburb of Thuringowa Central occupies only a very small part of the Thuringowa electoral district.

This would be a very good opportunity to start again. A case could be made to ignore locality names and to use instead the names of relevant historical figures, such as Robert Towns and J. M. Black, but unfortunately many of the earlier pioneers have not emerged entirely unscathed from more recent investigations.

Much more prosaically, but with some precedent in Toowoomba and Brisbane, I suggest instead Townsville Central, Townsville South and Townsville North. When a fourth

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electoral district in the region becomes necessary, there will still be the name of  
Townsville West ready and waiting.

*John McKinlay*

John McKinlay  
30 October 2007

QRC/S 5

QRC/S

11 Yale Close,  
DOUGLAS  
19 October 2007-10-19

The Secretary,  
Queensland Redistribution Commission ,  
BRISBANE.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My submission relates to the naming of State Electorates and not to the boundaries of the electoral districts so it could well be outside of the Commissions Terms of Reference.

However the amalgamation of some Local Authorities could well serve as the catalyst

There are anomalies that exist across Queensland in regard to the naming of State Electorates. These anomalies exist because of the preferred option of naming State Electorates in line with Local Government cities and suburbs.

When I was elected as the Member for Townsville in 1983 my electorate included all of what was then the Shire of Thuringowa. The redistribution which occurred in 1986 created the electorate of Thuringowa which included, ironically, parts of the City of Townsville.

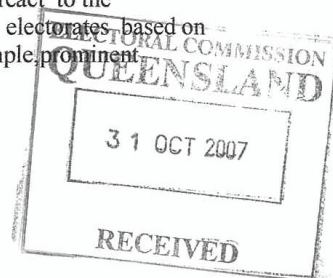
Currently, the electorate of Thuringowa includes virtually all of the City of Thuringowa which, of course, will disappear at 15 March 2008. Where I reside is within the electorate of Mundingburra which is a suburb of Townsville and which is some distance from where I live and shares little community of interest. The electorate of Burdekin includes suburbs of Townsville – even more bizarre.

My point is of course that persons are elected to State Parliament to represent people who reside in electoral districts and not to represent particular cities or towns much less suburbs. As far as I am aware no Federal electorates, other than inner city State capitals are so named.

My submission which I hope the Commission can consider is to react to the amalgamation of local authorities by ceasing the naming of State electorates based on local government boundaries naming them instead after, for example, prominent Queenslanders in the fields of politics, sport, science or whatever.

Thank you for your consideration,

  
K.V. MCELLIGOTT



QRC/S 6

**The Secretary  
QLD Redistribution Commission  
Locked Bag 3304  
Brisbane QLD 4001**

8<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

**Subject:** Electoral Distribution – Clayfield.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to comment on this matter, as part of the public response to the review of electoral boundaries for the State electoral process. The present electorate has 27,500 voters, which is within the 10% bandwidth set down for state electorates in Queensland, as I believe. Therefore to alter the electorate would be counter to the parameters set down for electorate size within this state.

The electorate is a very homogenous community and one that would be adversely affected if, for argument's sake, there was a proposed expansion which would include the suburbs of Newmarket and Newstead. These suburbs have little in common with the Clayfield communities, as they are physically separated by the Kingsford Smith Drive and the river.

The electorate should be left in tact, as its present socio-geographical presence gains nothing from increase in population, particularly from outside its southern boundaries.



Peter Blakey

5/80 Stevenson Street Ascot 4007







164 Hillview Crescent  
Whitfield  
Qld 4870  
Telephone (07) 40531088  
Facsimile (07) 40542982  
e-mail [hwestawa@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hwestawa@bigpond.net.au)

HAROLD W WESTAWAY

QRC/S 7

9 November, 2007

The Secretary  
Queensland Redistribution Commission  
Locked Bag 3304  
Brisbane  
Qld 4001

#### REDISTRIBUTION SUGGESTIONS -QRC/S

I make this submission as a private citizen . The suggestions made in the submission are based on the assumption that population growth in south-east Queensland requires the creation of one or two new seats in that region and that the number of electoral districts will be reduced as a consequence . The suggestions relate only to the electoral districts of Cook , Barron River , Cairns , Mulgrave , Hinchinbrook and Tablelands .

The suggestions have particular regard to the distribution criteria including demographic trends in Far North Queensland and to apparent anomalies with the criteria in the existing electoral districts .

The main population centre in the region is the city of Cairns , which has had over many years consistent growth in population . The city covers the electorates of Cairns and Barron River and parts of Cook and Mulgrave .

**The District of Cook** extends from the islands in the Torres Strait and the Cape York Peninsula down to the Cairns suburbs of Palm Cove and Clifton . The main communities in the district are Thursday Island , Cooktown and Mossman with a number of indigenous communities and other small populated areas spread throughout . The principal industries are cattle raising , mining ,and agriculture with tourism based at Port Douglas and the Daintree River Valley . The Cairns suburbs of Palm Cove and Clifton Beach have very limited community of regional , economic social or other interests with the remainder of the District . They are also growing rapidly due to the economic development of Cairns ; and are separated geographically from the rest of the electorate .

**The District of Barron River** extends from the southern boundary of the District of Cook to Ellie Point , then extends roughly south - west encompassing a number of suburbs of Cairns to the south Western boundary of the District of Tablelands . and west to Kuranda and Koah . Its boundary with the District Of Cairns is the Whitfield Range and Isley Hills . It is mainly residential and commercial , with farming in the Barron River delta and around Kuranda .

**The District of Cairns** extends from Ellie Point in the north to the boundary of the District of Mulgrave in the south and is bounded on the West by the Districts of Barron River and Tablelands . Cairns is the hub of commercial mining and tourism industries in Far North Queensland .

**The District of Mulgrave** extends from the southern boundary of the District of Cairns to Innisfail and westerly to the boundaries of the Districts of Barron River and the Tablelands . The main commercial centre is at Innisfail but the District encompasses several suburbs of Cairns which are referred to as the “ southern corridor “, an area in which increasing population growth is anticipated . The area south of the Mulgrave River is virtually wholly farming and agriculture . –

**The District of Hinchinbrook** extends from just south of Innisfail southerly to the Alice River and is bounded on the West by the Great Dividing Range . Its industries are principally farming , agriculture and some cattle fattening with growing tourism based at Mission Beach and Cardwell

**The District of Tablelands** extends roughly from the southern boundary of the present Shire of Cook southerly to the southern boundary of the present Shire of Herberton , and with the eastern boundary being roughly the Great Dividing Range and the western boundary being the boundaries of the Shire of Cook and the Etheridge Rail Line . To the south-east , the District includes the locality of Mena Creek , which is close to Innisfail and which is a farming and cattle fattening area. The industries of the District are principally cattle breeding , dairying , agriculture , and mining with some tourism based activities .

**The road from Cairns to Cooktown through Mareeba is now sealed , bringing Mareeba and Cooktown closer as a regional and economic community . My first suggestion is that the Electoral District of Cook include the northern part of the Tablelands District on a rough line between Tolga and Dimbulah . This will require the suburbs of Palm Cove and Clifton Beach being excised from Cook and returned to the District of Barron River , with which these suburbs are more properly aligned .**

**I also suggest that with the inclusion of Palm Cove and Clifton Beach in Barron River , adjustments be made to the Districts of Barron River , Cairns and Mulgrave so that the average number of electors in each of these electorates be within the range of 29,081 .**

**I further suggest that that part of Mulgrave District south of the Mulgrave River and the balance of the District of Tablelands be combined to form a new electorate District . The two areas have similar industries and Innisfail is the centre for communication and travel within the proposed District , thus satisfying the redistribution criteria ,**

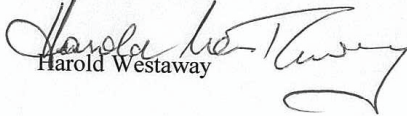
**These suggestions would possibly require some relatively minor alterations to the boundaries of the District of Hinchinbrook for the purpose of the number of enrolled electors in the Districts .**

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**I believe that these suggestions will achieve any required reduction of Districts in Far North Queensland and will also meet the redistribution requirements .**

I reserve the right to make a more detailed submission at a later date .

Yours faithfully

  
Harold Westaway

QRC/S 8

3/40 Miles St  
CLAYFIELD QLD 4011

9 November 2007

QRC/S  
The Secretary  
Queensland Redistribution Commission  
Locked Bag 3304  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Sir / Madam

I am registered to vote in the electorate of Clayfield and would like to suggest a number of reasons to retain its current boundaries.

I understand Clayfield is within the proposed target range for the number of electors. With the developments at that are occurring at Northshore (on the Hamilton reach of the Brisbane River) there will be significant natural population growth within the electorate over the next few years. Retaining the current boundaries will allow for the accommodation of these new voters.

Also, the electorate comprises middle suburban ring suburbs in Brisbane's inner north and contains a number of natural boundaries (ie the Brisbane River, Breakfast Creek, Brisbane Airport / Moreton Bay). With the greatest growth in Clayfield's population likely to occur in the electorate's south eastern corner the current physical distribution remains sensible.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed redistribution.

Yours sincerely

*Ainslie Barron*

**AINSLIE BARRON**





DRC/S 9

## Lance T. Royce

66 Walsh Street

Edge Hill Qld 4870

07-4053-1881

The Chairperson  
Queensland Redistribution Commission

Dear Mr. Chairperson:

Cairns is a growing regional centre for Far North Queensland which comprises of the central city CBD, inner suburbs, northern beaches and northern suburbs as well as an ever expanding southern access corridor. In representing the needs, views, and social mores of the growing local Cairns population there is a necessity for realignment of the State electoral boundaries to provide a sensible and functional representation to the community who live in this region. The Cairns and Barron River electorates are growing at a rapid rate and represent the majority of the population who live in the wider Cairns region. However, a disparity to electoral borders exists and a rethink as to the northern, western, and southern borders is necessary to reflect the community and economic trends within this region of interest.

As an elector in Cairns I make the following general broad points for consideration by the Queensland Redistribution Commission:

- As the centre of economic focus for the region Cairns should be defined into two electorates that sensibly represent the economic, social mores, and regional interests of the electors who live there.
- The present Cairns and Barron electorates do not broadly characterize the rational delineation of Cairns Region electors who reside in the zone of interest.
- The Barron electorate currently excludes the regionally important Cairns beach suburbs of Ellis Beach, Buchan Point, Palm Cove, Clifton and Kewarra Beaches.
- Clifton Beach and Kewarra Beach remain primarily as areas for conventional residential living under the Cairns City Council "Cairns Plan".
- The local Cairns public bus system incorporates routes connecting Ellis Beach, Buchans Point, Palm Cove, Clifton and Kewarra Beaches to the Cairns CBD.
- The distance and separation of the next centre of economic, social, and regional interest from the northern Cairns beaches is some 35 minute drive or 40 km away.
- The regional interests of Barron extend to the base of the ranges of Cairns. A review of the current electoral boundary reveals this anomaly between the Tablelands and Barron borders.
- Cook electorate incorporates regions of Myola, Kowrowa, Koah, and Formatine State Forest but excludes the important central contribution that Kuranda provides to this component of the Cook electorate.
- Kuranda is managed and incorporated into the Tableland shire of Mareeba which supports its natural integration into an extended Cook or Tableland electorate.
- The adjacent area of Myola is one of a number of areas proposed under the Far North Queensland Regional Plan to become centres of regional growth within the proposed Tableland

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Regional Council. This council would include the Kuranda – Myola region supporting its inclusion in the State boundary across the eastern ranges separating a Barron River/Cairns electorate.

- A sensible review of the electoral border in this region would be to absorb Kuranda, which contributes to the region as a major centre for the above named listed suburbs of Cook.
- The dominant physical features of Barron River include the wetlands adjacent to the coastline and waterways, the floodplain of the Barron delta with surrounding cane fields, as well as the local flood plains to the Barron Gorge and lower hill slopes of the forested range.
- Residential living of the Barron-Smithfield region of the Cairns City Council "Cairns Plan" is limited to the foot hills of the Kuranda range. This further supports redefinition of the electoral border of Cook to absorb the elevated Kuranda community.
- The Smithfield Commercial Centre at the foot of the ranges is intended to become an important node of the local Barron-Cairns community incorporating the major transport and tourist routes to the northern beaches of Cairns and makes the sensible border for the Barron River electorate.
- The southern border of the Cairns electorate is confusing, diffuse, and discordant due to the changing residential landscape of the southern access corridor. Furthermore, the Mulgrave electorate is growing and encompasses a greater proportion of the urbanising southern suburbs outside of Cairns. A clean division of the Mulgrave electorate from Cairns in the vicinity of Foster Road to the escarpment provides a natural feature solution consistent with the growing south. This change would improve the currently perplexing concertina border of the Cairns and Mulgrave electorates.

A further detailed submission to the commission will be forthcoming by the deadline outlining, providing supporting researched evidence, and arguing for a sensible redistribution of the State borders of the Cairns and Barron River and electorates.

Thank you in advance!

Regards,



Lance Royce