



THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
QUEENSLAND

# Objection Number 12

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5 pages

# 2017 Redistribution of Queensland into Electoral Divisions

## Objection to the Redistribution Proposal

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### *Overview*

The Redistribution Committee of Queensland report, released on 29 September 2017, proposed minimal alterations to existing electoral division boundaries, with an estimated 1.09 per cent of Queensland electors being transferred to another division. This objection to the redistribution proposal generally supports the strategy adopted by the Redistribution Committee. However, in a few instances, it appears that the Committee has unduly prioritised the minimal movement of electors at the expense of the other guiding principles it carefully articulated in paragraph 82 (page 30) of their report.

Rather than suggest wholesale changes to the proposed redistribution, this objection makes a series of small amendments, consistent with the numerical requirements of the Electoral Act, to improve communities of interest by providing stronger boundaries and/or better aligning divisional boundaries with locality or local government area boundaries. If all changes were adopted by the Augmented Electoral Commission, the boundaries of 12 electoral divisions would be amended in minor ways and not be significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's proposal. In net terms, approximately 5 135 more people would change divisions, implying around 38 739 electors (1.25 per cent of the current Queensland electoral roll) in total would switch division if all the minor changes suggested here are adopted by the augmented Electoral Commission.

### *The proposed Fadden/Moncrieff boundary*

While the bulk of the locality of Southport is contained within the Division of Moncrieff, a small section of the suburb north of Stevens Street (comprising one SA1 coded 126628) remains in the Division of Fadden. In keeping with the Redistribution Committee's guiding principles, this objection recommends uniting the locality Southport within the Division of Moncrieff by using Loders Creek as the divisional boundary to the east of where Musgrave Avenue crosses the creek. This small change results in a transfer of 243 current and 249 projected electors from the Division of Fadden to the Division of Moncrieff.

### *The proposed Blair/Oxley/Moreton boundaries*

The Redistribution Committee proposed that the Division of Oxley's deficit of electors could be addressed by transferring part of the locality of Oxley from the Division of Moreton to the Division of Oxley. However, this objection argues there is a better way to improve communities of interest within the Division of Oxley without splitting the locality of Oxley between two divisions.

The Division of Blair's proposed gain of Karana Downs and surrounding areas from the Division of Ryan enables the entire Springfield community to be united in the Division of Oxley. This means transferring the part of the Springfield Lakes SA2,<sup>1</sup> comprising the locality of Springfield Central and part of the locality of Springfield Lakes, currently in the Division of Blair to the Division of Oxley. This transfer involves 2 708 current and 2 924 projected electors and unites the Springfield Lakes SA2 within the Division of Oxley.

The localities of Springfield Central and Springfield Lakes are much better connected with suburbs to the north and northwest in the Division of Oxley, such as Brookwater and Springfield, than to areas further to the west on the Centenary Highway, such as Ripley. The suburban railway corridor connecting Springfield Central to Darra, constructed since the 2009 federal redistribution, also provide a strong transport connection within the Division of Oxley between the communities of Springfield and the western suburbs of Brisbane included in this division.

This proposed transfer between the Divisions of Blair and Oxley can proceed either with or without the partial transfer of the locality of Oxley into the Division of Oxley proposed by the Redistribution Committee. This reflects that the proposed Division of Oxley remains slightly below the average enrolment at projection time. An alternative smaller transfer from the Division of Moreton could also be considered by the Augmented Electoral Commission, such as only transferring the portion of the locality of Oxley south of the Ipswich Motorway (involving 711 current and 770 proposed electors). However, this objection advocates that any transfers of this nature are unnecessary and that it is preferable to retain the entire locality of Oxley within the Division of Moreton. In doing so, this saves the transfer of 2 408 current and 2 591 proposed electors from the Division of Moreton and allows the Division of Moreton to be slightly above the average enrolment at projection time.

### *The proposed Blair/Ryan boundary*

This objection supports the transfer of the localities of Karana Downs, Mount Crosby and Kholo and part of the locality of Chuwar from the Division of Ryan to the Division of Blair. These areas have a strong historical connection with Ipswich, though they have been part of Brisbane City Council since the late 1990s.

To complement this transfer, this objection recommends that the Division of Blair receive the Lake Manchester-England Creek SA2 from the Division of Ryan (involving 3 electors currently and at the projection time from the SA1 code 127901). This is suggested to unite the rural localities of Lake Manchester, Banks Creek and England Creek within the Division of Blair. All three localities are split between Brisbane City and Somerset Regional Councils for local government administration purposes, though their rural nature makes them a better fit in the Division of Blair than in the more urbanised Division of Ryan. For the Division of Ryan, this would mean its northwestern boundary would be aligned with the locality boundaries for Upper Brookfield and Enoggera Reservoir.

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<sup>1</sup> Consisting of SA1 codes 130403 to 130405 inclusive and 130417, all from the Springfield Lakes SA2.

### *The proposed Brisbane/Ryan boundary*

This objection endorses the Redistribution Committee's approach to using a significant portion of Wardell Street as a clearer western boundary for the Division of Brisbane. However, the deviation at Frasers Road is less in keeping with the Redistribution Committee's principle of "strong boundaries". Instead, this objection argues that using Stewart Road – effectively the continuation of Wardell Street – and Waterworks Road/Glory Street until the intersection with Coopers Camp Road<sup>2</sup> forms a much more readily identifiable boundary for the Division of Brisbane with the Division of Ryan. This variation would result in 2 061 current and 2 162 projected electors<sup>3</sup> from the locality of Ashgrove from the Division of Brisbane to the Division of Ryan.

### *The proposed Lilley/Petrie boundary*

The Redistribution Committee has advocated using Cabbage Tree Creek for most of the Division of Lilley's northwestern boundary. This objection supports such a proposal, though it is unclear why the Committee's proposed boundary deviates from the creek around the locality of Aspley, other than minimising elector movements. This results in a rather awkward boundary and needlessly splits the locality of Aspley between the Divisions of Lilley and Petrie. A more compelling use of Cabbage Tree Creek as a divisional boundary would be to use it continuously from its intersection with Lemke Road, Taigum in the north until Hamilton Road, McDowall in the southwest. This would result in 2 095 current and 2 236 projected electors being transferred from the Division of Petrie to the Division of Lilley,<sup>4</sup> enabling the locality of Aspley to be united in the Division of Lilley.

### *The proposed Dawson/Kennedy boundary*

The transfer of additional southern suburbs of Cairns to the Division of Kennedy allows some small transfers to neighbouring divisions on communities of interest grounds.

In the 2009 redistribution of Queensland's federal electoral divisions, the augmented Electoral Commission noted that the Shire of Burdekin could not be wholly contained within the Division of Dawson because projected enrolments at that time would have exceeded the upper 3.5 per cent margin at projection time.<sup>5</sup> This resulted in a small section of the Shire of Burdekin being transferred to the Division of Kennedy. Given current and projected enrolments can now accommodate the return of this territory, this objection recommends reuniting the Shire of Burdekin within the Division of Dawson, in keeping with the Redistribution Committee's guiding principles of uniting localities and local government areas where possible.

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<sup>2</sup> Public Suggestion 22 from the Australian Labor Party also suggested this approach.

<sup>3</sup> Consisting of SA1 codes 113208 to 113213 inclusive, 113214B and 113214C, all from the Ashgrove SA2.

<sup>4</sup> Consisting of SA1 codes 102707 to 102712 inclusive and 102719B, all from the Aspley SA2.

<sup>5</sup> See paragraphs 74 and 75, page 17 of the 2009 Final Redistribution Report.

The transfer involves the re-splitting of an already divided SA1 region,<sup>6</sup> so the exact number of electors to be transferred is unclear. Based on the 2009 Final Redistribution Report by the augmented Electoral Commission, it is estimated that around 170 current and projected electors will be returned from the Division of Kennedy to the Division of Dawson.

### *The proposed Dawson/Maranoa boundary*

With respect to the Division of Maranoa, this objection recommends that the entire Shire of Boulia<sup>7</sup> be transferred from the Division of Kennedy to the Division of Maranoa. This reflects community of interest concerns as highlighted by the Shire of Boulia<sup>8</sup> in the recent redistribution of Queensland's state electoral districts. This recommended transfer, involving 263 current and 298 projected electors, would unify all the local government areas forming the Remote Area Planning and Development Board. Furthermore, the Shire of Boulia's health and education services are administered and delivered from Longreach – a community already within the Division of Maranoa. By completing this small movement of electors, this objection argues that the revised boundaries would better address the Electoral Act's community of interest criterion.

### *Summary of new electoral divisions incorporating objections*

The table on the next page provides a new version of Table I (page 33) of the Redistribution Committee's report incorporating changes suggested in this objection. Bolded rows indicate divisions where current and projected elector numbers have changed as recommended in this objection.

Note that the current and projected enrolments for the Divisions of Dawson and Kennedy are estimates because a different split of the SA1 code 148903 is required to align with the Shire of Burdekin boundary. In keeping with the 2009 Final Redistribution Report, the table below has been constructed assuming that 170 current and projected electors will be transferred from the Division of Kennedy to the Division of Dawson. The "true" number of electors transferred is likely to be of this order of magnitude and the resulting electorate populations will continue to meet the numerical requirements of the Electoral Act.

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<sup>6</sup> The transfer would consist of the SA1 codes 146114A, 146115B and 146115D from the Burdekin SA2, plus part of the SA1 code 148903 from the Townsville – South SA2; however, based on the information from the 2009 Final Redistribution Report, it appears that the split of this SA1 will differ from its current place by aligning the boundary with the local government area boundary.

<sup>7</sup> Consisting of SA1 codes 141003, 141004 and 141006B, all from the Far West Central SA2.

<sup>8</sup> See Public Comment on Objection 40 by the Mayor of the Shire of Boulia, available at: [https://ecq.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/69271/Public-Comments-on-the-Objections-Report.pdf](https://ecq.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/69271/Public-Comments-on-the-Objections-Report.pdf).

### Proposed electoral divisions incorporating minor modifications from this objection

Division	Actual Enrolment (6 January 2017)	Variation from Current Enrolment Quota (%)	Projected Enrolment (27 September 2021)	Variation from Projected Enrolment Quota (%)
<b>Blair</b>	<b>101,501</b>	<b>-1.65</b>	<b>109,027</b>	<b>-1.00</b>
Bonner	100,770	-2.36	107,808	-2.10
Bowman	104,241	1.01	109,932	-0.17
<b>Brisbane</b>	<b>103,378</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>110,338</b>	<b>0.19</b>
Capricornia	99,939	-3.16	106,572	-3.23
<b>Dawson</b>	<b>102,988</b>	<b>-0.21</b>	<b>109,647</b>	<b>-0.43</b>
Dickson	104,847	1.59	113,392	2.97
<b>Fadden</b>	<b>102,810</b>	<b>-0.38</b>	<b>109,876</b>	<b>-0.23</b>
Fairfax	104,944	1.69	110,917	0.72
Fisher	103,736	0.52	108,839	-1.17
Flynn	100,236	-2.87	107,483	-2.40
Forde	100,120	-2.99	108,502	-1.47
Griffith	101,827	-1.33	109,442	-0.62
Groom	102,009	-1.16	108,463	-1.51
Herbert	105,077	1.82	113,235	2.82
Hinkler	102,525	-0.66	106,930	-2.90
<b>Kennedy</b>	<b>104,779</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>111,223</b>	<b>1.00</b>
Leichhardt	105,105	1.84	112,943	2.56
<b>Lilley</b>	<b>105,387</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>112,773</b>	<b>2.41</b>
Longman	106,098	2.81	112,971	2.59
<b>Maranoa</b>	<b>103,414</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>109,486</b>	<b>-0.58</b>
McPherson	104,405	1.16	110,478	0.32
<b>Moncrieff</b>	<b>107,588</b>	<b>4.25</b>	<b>113,277</b>	<b>2.86</b>
<b>Moreton</b>	<b>102,490</b>	<b>-0.69</b>	<b>111,106</b>	<b>0.89</b>
<b>Oxley</b>	<b>98,856</b>	<b>-4.21</b>	<b>107,867</b>	<b>-2.05</b>
<b>Petrie</b>	<b>104,662</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>111,104</b>	<b>0.89</b>
Rankin	102,349	-0.83	111,658	1.39
<b>Ryan</b>	<b>105,052</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>111,730</b>	<b>1.46</b>
Wide Bay	102,737	-0.45	107,139	-2.71
Wright	102,234	-0.94	109,551	-0.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,096,104</b>		<b>3,303,733</b>	