



Senator the Hon. Ian Macdonald - Liberal - Queensland - LNP
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Northern and Remote Australia
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for the Defence Force and Defence Support

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SUBMISSION 8

Mr Daryl Melham MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
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Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Mr Melham, *Daryl,*

Thank you for your letter of 30th November, 2010 regarding an enquiry by the Joint Standing Committee into the conduct of the 2010 Federal Election.

There are three matters which I would like to raise for the Committee's consideration.

1. Whilst I acknowledge that it is the Electoral Commission that draws boundaries, there must be a limit to the stupidity of the boundaries particularly as evidenced by boundaries in North Queensland.

The Electorate of Flynn, based on the city of Gladstone was extended north to incorporate the Rockhampton suburb of Gracemere, a suburb which has little community of interest with Gladstone. It is part of the Rockhampton community and would have seemed to have been obvious to be included in the Electorate of which Rockhampton is part.

The Electorate of Capricornia, based on Rockhampton was extended north to take in the Pioneer Valley settlements to the immediate west of Mackay. These areas have little in common with Rockhampton and are essentially part of the Mackay District community.

The Electorate of Dawson, based on Mackay was extended further north into what is practically the inner suburbs of Townsville taking in the suburb of Annandale. This part of Townsville is clearly a part of the whole Townsville community and has little in common with an Electorate based on Mackay.

2. On the Monday immediately following the announcement of the Election, voters in the Electorate of Herbert were receiving electoral visitor voting material which appeared to have been posted in Brisbane a couple of days

before the Election was announced. I would be interested on the Committee's view on whether this demonstrates an open electoral process?

3. At any number of voting booths in the Herbert electorate, on polling day, young people were handing out a bogus Greens how to vote card when the Greens Political Party had made it clear that in Herbert it would not be issuing a how to vote card or recommending preferences. When the young people handing out these cards were questioned, they readily admitted to having answered an internet ad offering employment at \$25.00 per hour to hand out how to vote cards. All of the young people reported that they had been interviewed by a Job Placement Agency and were led to believe that they were handing out voting material for the Greens Political Party. All confirmed that they were being paid \$25.00 an hour for their work on polling day. Does this course of conduct breach any Electoral Laws or does it constitute misleading conduct?

The Committee might be interested in considering these three matters.

Thank you for alerting me to the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Macdonald', written in a cursive style.

Ian Macdonald
16th December, 2010