THE FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION QUEENSLAND

Objection Number 19

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9 pages

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Redistribution Committee for Queensland
7th floor, 488 Queen Street, Brisbane
By email: Fedredistribution-QLD@aec.gov.au

Dear Redistribution Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on your proposed redistribution for Queensland.

The draft redistribution is a truly commendable proposal.

The approach to formulating division boundaries – outlined in paragraph 82 – is excellent and should be strongly endorsed and followed in your final redistribution report, in future redistributions and, indeed, in the redistribution process in other jurisdictions.

The proposal manages to achieve excellence with respect to key principles: it maximises the "one vote, one value" principle because all divisions except one will be within 3% of the population quota at the projection date, better than the 3.5% threshold allowed. It also very successfully minimises the number of electors transferred between divisions. Furthermore, the minimal changes made to existing divisions means that the community interests identified as the basis for divisions in past redistributions are maintained.

For these reasons, the committee should avoid making significant changes to its draft redistribution proposal.

The committee will no doubt receive some objections suggesting more significant changes than has been proposed. However, given that the draft proposal meets and exceeds its objectives through its simplicity, it can be fairly safely assumed that suggestions for more radical changes are driven by partisan political interests.

Below are a small number of suggestions for improvement for the committee's consideration. These suggestions:

- are minor and straightforward;
- reduce, even further, the number of electors to be transferred between divisions; and
- are intended to tidy up some potential issues, by reducing the number of suburbs being split between divisions, and reducing some "dog-legs" created by some proposed boundaries, notably in the division of Ryan.

It is hoped that the Redistribution Committee is able to take advantage of these comments as a genuine alternative to the submissions lodged by the major political parties and other partisan submissions.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Townsend

[redacted]

Ryan, Blair, Brisbane and Lilley

The most notable issue arising from the proposed boundaries is probably the appearance of the proposed division of Ryan.

The transfer of the Karana Downs SA2 to Blair is broadly agreed to be a change in the right direction, and for the right reasons, given the community interests in that area and the proximity of these residents to Ipswich and Blair. It is broadly agreed that the enhancement of community interests in this area, on balance, outweigh any concerns about the reliance on the LGA boundary between Brisbane and Ipswich. Put simply, these residents are closer to Ipswich CBD than to Brisbane and many do use the Ipswich motorway as their main transportation corridor. The transfer of some neighbouring areas in North Ipswich being made at the same time from Ryan to Blair, highlights the sense in this reasoning clear.

However, the execution of these changes creates a set of boundaries for Ryan which have the appearance of "dog-legs" sticking out from the body of the division. It fairly strongly breaches the committee's aspiration to "keep electoral divisions contiguous, to the extent possible". The most obvious "dog-leg" is in the north-west corner of the division, being the Lake Manchester - England Creek SA2. The other "dog-legs" to the south are more understandable, given they are created by loops in the Brisbane River, which is universally accepted by the Committee and it seems almost all stakeholders to be a strong, wide and clear boundary to be used between all divisions from Ryan out to the Moreton Bay.

To substantially resolve this issue, the following tweaks are recommended:

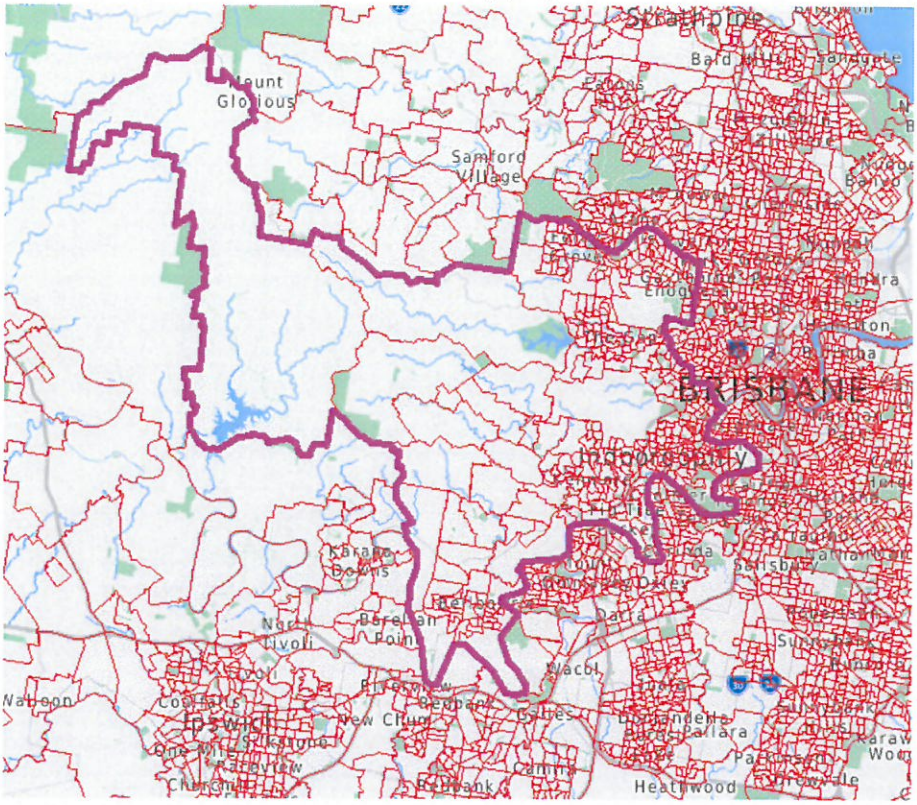
1. As a higher priority than Karana Downs, first transfer Lake Manchester - England Creek SA2 from Ryan to Blair. This area contains very few electors (3 electors). The community interest reasons for this are even stronger than the reasons that apply for transferring Karana Downs. The residents of this SA2 are situated on the other side of the mountain range to the rest of Ryan. Their road access, community links, property characteristics and lifestyle connect more naturally with Somerset Valley residents in the electorate of Blair. The mountain range and national parks there are a clear, wide natural geographic feature that can be used as a better boundary. Furthermore, the removal of Karana Downs SA2 means that the residents of Lake Manchester - England Creek cannot access the Ryan electorate by any main roads without going through Blair. Put simply, this SA2 should be transferred into Blair before the Karana Downs SA2 is considered.

2. Consider transferring only part of the Karana Downs SA2 from Ryan to Blair. Given that the proposed Blair is over-quota and the proposed Ryan is under-quota, reversing some of this proposed transfer does not come at the expense of meeting population quotas. Furthermore, reducing this proposed transfer will significantly decrease the total number of electors being transferred across divisions in this redistribution. Specifically, the localities of Kholo and Karana Downs should be transferred to Blair as the committee proposes, while the locality of Mount Crosby should be retained in Ryan. This involves retaining in Ryan the SA1s of 31003129004, 31003129006, 31003129015 and the part of 31003129010 that is east of Lake Manchester Road.

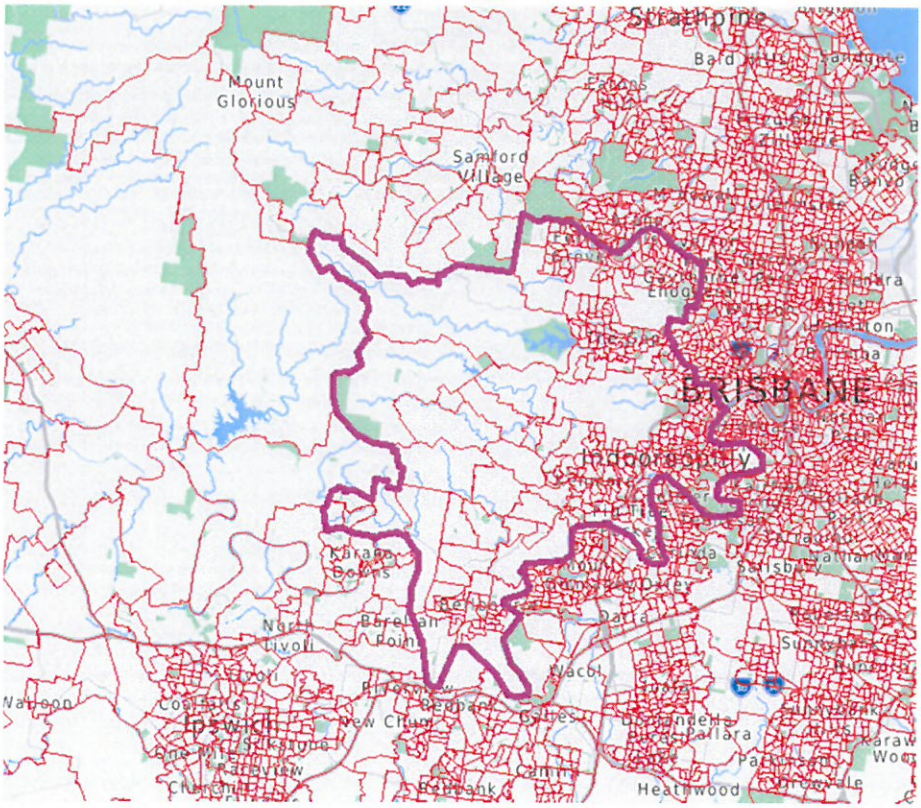
Note from the maps below how these suggestions have the benefit of creating a much more contiguous division of Ryan that reduces the "dog-leg" appearance on the western edge. It utilises locality boundaries along that western edge and has readily identifiable boundaries in Mount Crosby Road and Lake Manchester Road. The Brisbane River is utilised more as the southern boundary.

Broadly, these changes create a Ryan that is tighter in shape and is comprised of more contiguous areas which reinforces and improves the communities of interest represented in Ryan.

Ryan – currently proposed



Ryan – suggested



Furthermore, these tweaks mean that approximately 1,100 fewer electors need to be transferred from Ryan to Blair.

The following tweak is then suggested to reduce the proposed transfer of electors from Brisbane to Ryan:

3. The transfer into Ryan of all Enoggera SA1s west of Wardell Street is strongly supported and should not be reversed in the final decision. However, to minimise the unnecessary transfer of electors, it is not statistically necessary for that small part of Ashgrove to also be transferred into Ryan from Brisbane. Furthermore, community interest considerations would be strengthened by reversing the proposed transfer of these two SA1s. This part of Ashgrove clustered around the Oakleigh State School, known to locals as 'Dorrington', is a small residential enclave effectively cut off from the rest of Ryan by the Enoggera Barracks. Note how local residents there cannot travel into Ryan, except by moving through the Brisbane electorate to the south, or all the way around the Enoggera Barracks to the north, or unless they have an Enoggera base pass. These residents have been part of Brisbane division for decades and are better retained in Brisbane along with the rest of Dorrington and most of the remainder of Ashgrove. It is agreed that Wardell Street is a good boundary north of Dorrington, and so it should be utilised from where the Enoggera locality begins at Lone Pine Street. It might be possible to consider the intersection of Lloyd St north as an alternative to that, if the transfer of electors is to be minimised even further. However, given the stated importance of trying to utilise locality boundaries where possible, using Wardell Street from the Ashgrove locality boundary seems a better outcome. Most importantly, splitting the Dorrington community is objected to, given their transport links, and especially their community interest links.

This further reduces the number of electors being transferred between divisions by 762.

The following tweak is then suggested for a proposed transfer of electors from Brisbane to Lilley:

4. Consider transferring that tiny remaining part of Everton Park into Lilley. Given the committee's clearly stated preference for keeping localities together in a single division, where possible, it seems very sensible to make this small tweak to reunite the last 3 electors in Everton Park together with other Everton Park residents. This is a very similar line of reasoning to that used by the Committee in its proposed transfer of 3 Ferny Hills residents from Ryan into Dickson. While this is a very minor change, it is strongly supported by the committee's proposed approach for formulating boundaries when it stated at paragraph 82 "align to existing administrative boundaries, such as locality boundaries, to the extent possible."

5. Consider transferring the remainder of Stafford into Lilley. Again, given the committee's clearly stated preference for keeping localities together in a single division, where possible, it seems very sensible to make this tweak to the proposed redistribution. This tweak places a higher emphasis on utilising administrative / locality boundaries, further to the committee's approach to formulating boundaries in paragraph 82. This suggestion would reunite all of Stafford and Stafford Heights in a single division, enhancing existing community interests. It also makes the Kedron Brook a more consistent boundary between Brisbane and Lilley. This is a far neater boundary because the Kedron Brook is already the boundary from Eagle Farm to Lutwyche, and again around Enoggera.

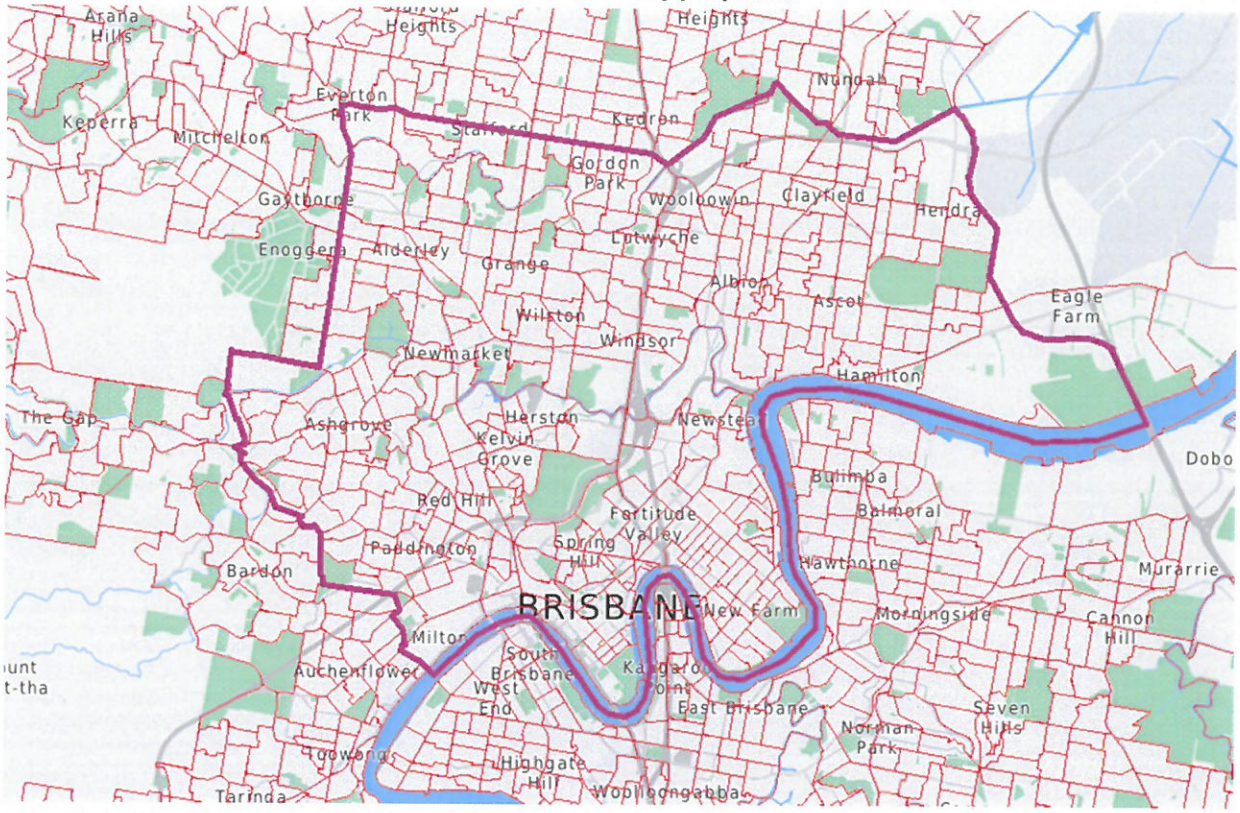
Note how these proposed tweaks also assist to create a more contiguous area for Lilley along its south western edge, now utilising the Kedron Brook more consistently, and utilising locality boundaries the entire way along:

Lilley – currently proposed

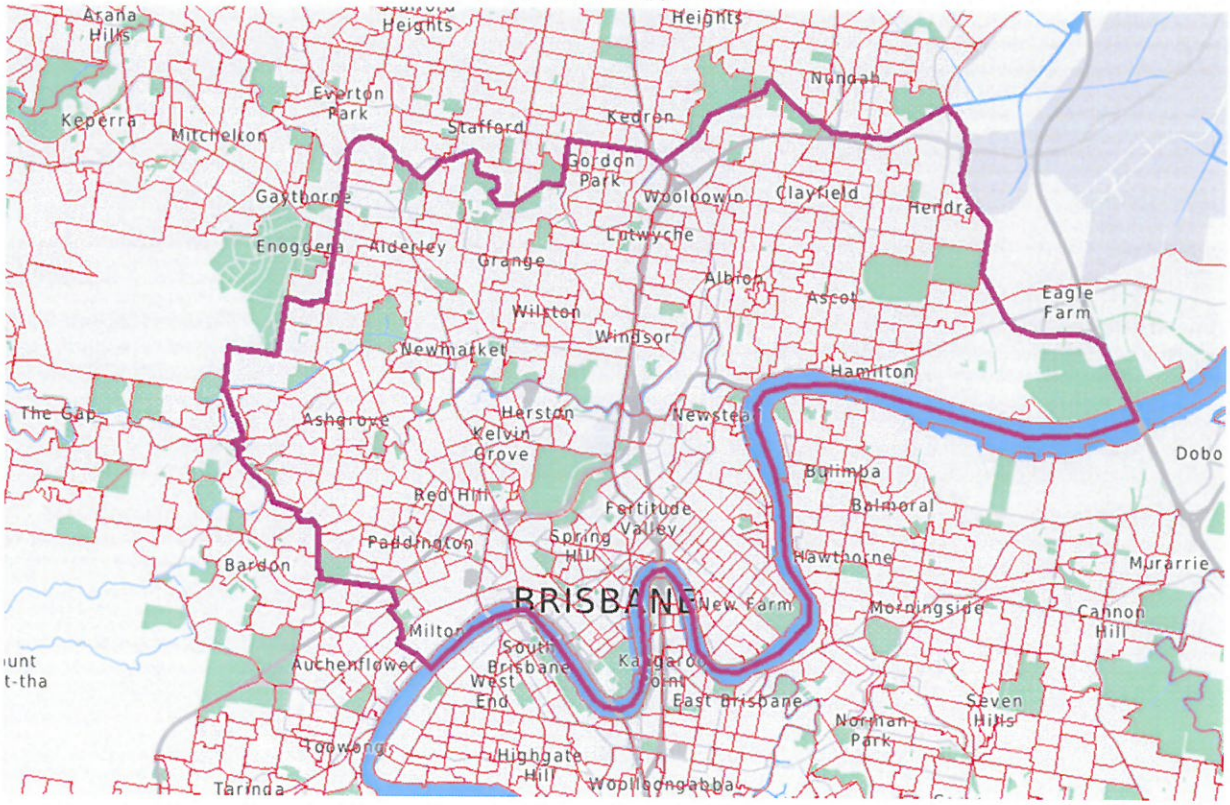
Lilley – suggested

Note how these proposed tweaks also assist to create a more contiguous area for Brisbane along its north western edge, now utilising the Kedron Brook more consistently, and utilising locality boundaries the entire way along the northern boundary:

Brisbane – currently proposed

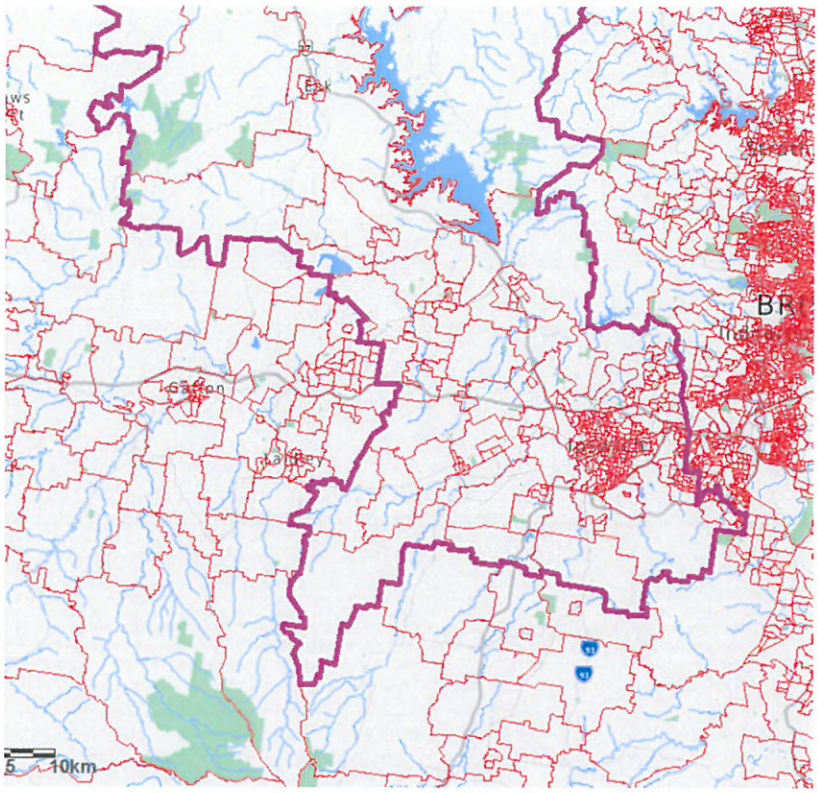


Brisbane – suggested

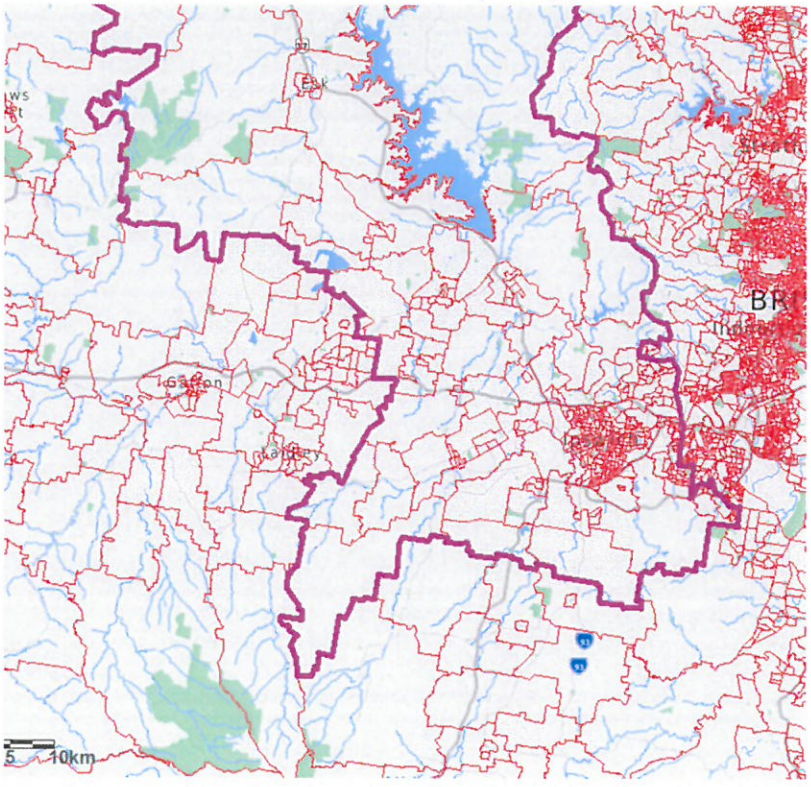


Note how these proposed tweaks also assist to create a more contiguous area for Blair through the neck area that currently exists between Ipswich and the Somerset Valley:

Blair – southern boundary – currently proposed



Blair – southern boundary – suggested



Achievements of these tweaks:

- **700 fewer electors transferred between divisions** (approximately -1,100 between Blair and Ryan, -762 between Ryan and Brisbane, and +1,159 between Brisbane and Lilley)

- **More localities kept intact** (Everton Park reunited in one division, Stafford reunited in one division along with Stafford Heights, and avoid splitting Dorrington)

- **"One vote, one value"** (divisions become closer to quota at the projection date: Blair from 1.66% to 0.64%, Ryan from -0.50% to 0.06%, Brisbane from 2.16% to 1.86% and Lilley from 0.38% to 1.73. Three of the four divisions are closer to quota in their own right, and taken tother, on average, the four go from 1.175% away from quota on average to 1.073% away from quota on average.

- **Stronger boundaries** (Brisbane River is utilised more between Ryan and other divisions, the natural feature of the D'Aguilar mountain range is used more as a boundary between Ryan and Blair, Mount Crosby and Lake Manchester Roads are utilised more too, and Kedron Brook is utilised more as a boundary between Lilley and other divisions.

- **More contiguous divisions** (for all of Ryan, Blair, Brisbane and Lilley, as can be seen from the above diagrams)

- **Fewer "dog-legs" in the boundaries** (especially regarding the boundaries for Ryan)