

Beat: News

AUSTRALIAN REGION SHARES ITS NAME WITH TERROR GROUP ISIS

RURAL COMMUNITY REFUSES TO CHANGE NAME

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USPA NEWS - Residents of Queensland's Isis district have vowed not to change the area's name and reiterated that there are no links between the fertile region known for its macadamia and avocado crops and the terrorist organisation of the same name....

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In Syria and Iraq, the acronym ISIS stands for Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. The group has since been renamed Islamic State, but the coincidental association to the Isis region of Queensland lingers.

Many businesses, including the pharmacy, hardware store, high school, Golf Club and even the high school, all have the name Isis displayed out front, former mayor Bill Trevor told the Daily Mail. 'Once you start giving in or changing your ways because of those terrorist type activities, then they win and you lose and that's the aim of the game with those people,' Mr Trevor said.

A Bundaberg regional councillor, Tony Ricciardi, a former deputy mayor of the Isis shire council, appeared on the Seven Network's Sunrise program last week to defend the region's name from links to Islamic State.

Tony Ricciardi told Guardian Australia there had been no calls for a change since his appearance on the program. 'In fact, I've had a lot of people congratulating me for taking the stance that I did. I knew that would be the case in that part of the world. The Isis has always been that, back to the 1870s.'

The Isis Division was established in 1887, which then became the Isis Shire Council in 1903. In 2008 Isis merged with three other shires to form the Bundaberg Regional Council. The Isis name is used around Childers at schools, clubs, rivers, roads, and the sugar mill. Mr Trevor says while the origin of the name is unclear, there is no way it will be changed. (ABC)

Isis Shire, an area of 1701 sq km, and generally 60 km west of Hervey Bay, was amalgamated with Bundaberg City and two other shires in 2008 to form Bundaberg Regional Council. It was named after the Isis River which has headwaters in the south-west of the shire and enters the Burrum Inlet on the west side of Hervey Bay. The river was named by its European discoverers, two colonial surveyors who likened it to the Isis River in Oxfordshire, England. (Queensland Places)

Ruby BIRD

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