

# **OBJECTION**

The Federal Redistribution 2009  
NSW



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## **Objection Number 10**

**by**

**Effie Mats**

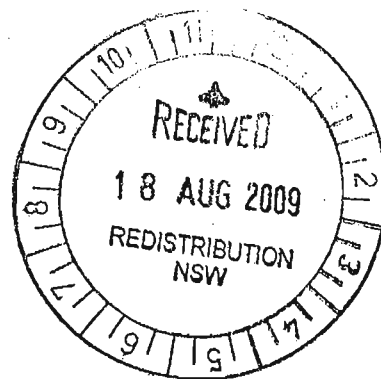
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**From:** Harris Park Journo [harrisparkjourno@yahoo.com.au]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 16 August 2009 10:37 PM  
**To:** NSW Redistribution  
**Subject:** Re Reid Electorate redistribution 2009

For the Attention of the Australian Electoral Commission

Level 3, Roden Cutler House, 24 Campbell Street, Haymarket, NSW 2000;

Re Reid Electorate  
Objections to the redistribution proposal 2009



Dear Sirs,

The electorate of Reid, has an important historic and symbolic meaning for the people of our area . They take personal pride in the fact that very significant political figures served under this particular electorate. The electorate is named after George Reid who served as Australia's fourth Prime Minister and founder of our Constitution. Since 1922 when Reid became an electorate, political iconic figures such as Tom Uren, Jack Lang to name a few.

The electorate of Reid continues to be represented by Laurie Ferguson, who is reputed to be a rare political phenomenon by the people from this area who hold him in high esteem. He is the only politician, of any party ,in our vicinity, to receive the highest percentage of total votes of his electorate. He is also by far the most popular and his record of twenty five years verifies his significant political contribution and popularity . At the age of 56 years, his active political participation in matters concerning his electorate is stronger than ever.

It would be considered an insult for the history of our area and to the peoples political contributions and achievements, to abolish the historic and symbolic Reid electorate.

A significant political figure to the people of this region, with an outstanding history of contribution to the political affairs, Laurie Ferguson is left without an electorate.

It would be a blow to our democracy sending confusing messages for the political operations of our system. Most people of our area are not aware of the criteria for abolishing an electorate but they do know that common sense should prevail for reaching a just solution. Leaving Laurie Ferguson without an electorate has astounded even his political opponents.

The position I hold, as editor of a local newspaper "Harris Park Journo", allows me to have contact with many of our community members in the suburbs of Reid electorate and have an insight to the "unique" accumulation of people in need. I have written many articles on a wide range of problems challenging our local multicultural community. The area population is overrepresented by a mixture of welfare dependant, immigrants, refugees, students or otherwise needy (ex-prisoners, mental health, substance abused etc). It also an area known for the residents involvement in high crime incidents and poverty related behavior.

I am very concerned that a situation will be created, where the population accrued in this area will no longer be overlooked by a single experienced MP, consequently the three representatives of other areas will have a partial feedback of activities and incidents concerning their electorate. The problems will be viewed as marginal incidents and easily underestimated.

The population's needs in the suburbs of Sydney are increasingly serious in nature, especially in our region. Abolishing Reid electorate will unburden the problems of our prevailing unique mixture of the population to other border electorates Parliament Representatives. Inter-related problems within the community can easily be neglected and lead to severe social disruption.

Our electrate has traits which can easily create National and International issues. Such problems became severe cases in Melbourne and Cronulla NSW, whereas in the electorate of Reid (Laurie Ferguson's electorate) similar sensitive issues were already detected and familiar to him therefore swiftly deterred and restricted. The safety and well being of the population is not only the State Governments concern.

Abolishing the electorate of Reid solves a serious problem for the Australian Electorate Commission but creates many significant ones for the people of our region. The people of our area cannot accept that they are being deprived of a historically significant symbol of their political history "the electorate of Reid", they are being denied representation

in Parliament by their current and most significant political figure for the people of our region, Federal Member Laurie Ferguson and they are denied a single representative who can give the extra attention required to a society with "special" needs.

In bringing these matters to your attention, I strongly object to abolishing the electorate of Reid and request you to find another solution.

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