

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 37

by

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2 Pages

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Australian Electoral Commission
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Reasons to Oppose the Abolishment of Reid Electorate

To whom it concerns,

It is with great concern that I, as a representative of the *Middle East Times International*, write to you regarding the abolishment of the Reid Electorate. Personally I oppose such a move but I would also like to present the following facts.

- Reid is named after a former Prime Minister Sir George Houston Reid, he was elected to represent East Sydney in Australia's first election in 1901. He was also the Leader of the Free Trade Faction in the first Parliament. He was to become the fourth Prime Minister of Australia from 1904 – 1905. He was later to become opposition leader, a position he held until 1909. After Federal Parliament he held the position of High Commissioner to London where he founded Australia House. He supervised the construction of the Australian fleet during the First World War. In 1916, he was elected to the British House of Commons.
- Most former Prime Minister's have an electorate named after them
- He was and is the only member of Parliament to serve on all three forms of Government, Local, State, and Federal, and then served in the House of Commons.
- The proposed splitting up of Granville and Auburn. The two suburbs have not been split since early last century. Both Auburn and Granville share a very similar Middle East community with similar concerns.
- Transport issues with public transport. Part of the Reid Electorate will now belong to Blaxland. It is unfair for the people of South Granville, Guildford and Merrylands to be expected to travel to Bankstown to seek representation from their Federal Member of Parliament as proposed. Also the public transport by train from Granville to Bankstown will require boarding a train at Granville Station and then getting off at Lidcombe and catching another train to Bankstown. This is a very time consuming process.
- The Reid Electorate Office is like a landmark for the people of the electorate. It has been in the same location for nearly half a century first occupied by the Hon: Tom Uren, 1958 – 1990 and then by the Hon: Laurie Ferguson 1990 – current. The majority of the Electorate knows where the Office is located and

considers it as a place where genuine assistance can be obtained especially with the issues facing the electorate which consists of a vastly diverse Diaspora. So many local people of Middle Eastern background share a common identity within the Reid Electorate.

- The Electorate of Reid was above quota in terms of enrolment numbers, but other electorates were below. Such as Fowler, Lowe, and Berowra, to name a few. Under previous redistributions usually an electorate that was under quota had been abolished. This time the commission has done the opposite. We feel that this decision is inconsistent in regards to previous redistributions. With these facts I would ask for serious consideration with this decision, the abolishment of Reid does not benefit the local community members.

Yours sincerely



Eva Abouchaaya
Director