

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 62

by

Mr Travis Holland

1 Pages

From: Travis Holland [tah727@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, 27 August 2009 7:14 PM
To: NSW Redistribution
Subject: Objection to NSW redistribution

To whom it may concern,

I write as a concerned resident of the village of Hill Top in the Wingecarribee Local Government Area and the Federal Electoral Division of Hume. Hill Top is a small village adjoined by (other small villages) Balmoral, Colo Vale and Yerrinbool. The residents of all of the villages of Hill Top, Balmoral, Colo Vale and Yerrinbool rely heavily upon the nearby towns of Mittagong and Bowral for our daily life, including work, shopping and services. In your recent proposed redistribution of NSW Electoral Divisions, it is proposed to transfer Bowral and Mittagong and surrounds (but not Hill Top, Balmoral, Colo Vale or Yerrinbool) into the division of Throsby. In this letter, I will set out reasons why Hill Top and its surrounds should be kept within the same Electoral Division as nearby towns and suggest how the present proposal can be best adjusted to suit the needs of residents of these villages.

I note the following issues with your present proposal:

1. Travel and communication routes: the Electoral Act states that consideration must be given to travel and communication routes within proposed electoral divisions. In this regard, Hill Top and the nearby villages must remain in the same electoral division as our nearest towns (Bowral and Mittagong). Under your proposed divisions, it would be impossible to travel south from Hill Top (and indeed also from Picton and other Wollondilly towns to be included in Hume) to other parts of the Hume electorate without passing through Throsby unless by foot through or flight over rugged and dense bushland. The Hume Highway is the only passable route south from these towns and it forms the boundary of the electoral division. The main southern railway becomes wholly within Throsby from south of Yerrinbool onwards. The communication provision of this section of the act is also contravened by the present proposal. The primary media outlets for the Wingecarribee LGA are 2ST radio and the Southern Highlands News, both of which take the entire LGA as their audience. Additionally, postal services for Hill Top, Yerrinbool and Colo Vale are directed from the regional centre at Bowral. These villages also share a postcode with Mittagong. Clearly, the communication and travel provision of the act has been ignored in the present proposal.

2. Communities of interest: Wingecarribee LGA consists of a diverse population, but it is one that is united in a settlement pattern of a cluster of towns surrounded by small villages. These communities are clearly a consistent community of interest, as per the Electoral Act. In this regard, the present proposal is inadequate. The proposal is correct in assuming a community of interest and significant travel routes between the Wingecarribee LGA and parts of the Wollongong LGA (or Throsby). However, the majority of travel is via Picton Road and the Hume Highway to Wollongong rather than via the Illawarra Highway. Wollongong LGA is extremely significant to the communities of Picton, Tahmoor, Thirlmere, Bargo and surrounds from within the Wollondilly LGA. The majority of tertiary students from within both Wingecarribee and Wollondilly attend the University of Wollongong and have significant connections with communities within Throsby as a result. The community of interest provisions within the Electoral Act clearly provide for the relationship between Wollondilly and Wingecarribee LGAs and the communities presently within the electoral division of Throsby as I have described.

I propose the following alterations to your present proposal:

1. Inclusion of the whole of Wingecarribee and Wollondilly LGA into the Division of Throsby, a move which would unite all communities of interest and assist to further strengthen ties between these communities. In addition, it should not overburden Throsby with too many electors, though if needed a suitable compromise could be found by removing some electors from within the Wollongong LGA and Throsby to nearby Cunningham or Gilmore. These areas are nearly all urban and have their own shopping/entertainment and social districts and as such do not require to be included with nearby centres to the same degree as necessary of the smaller towns in Wingecarribee and Wollondilly.

2. Inclusion into the Hume electoral division of the entire Gundagai LGA. This would reduce the number of electors in the Riverina division to a number closer to the state average. It would also include enough electors into Hume to cater for the loss of the small communities within the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly LGAs. Furthermore, such a change would unite the town of Gundagai and its surrounds with the nearby town of Yass.

Thankyou for your consideration of my comments.

Regards

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