

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number **72**

by

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1 Pages

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The Electoral Commissioner Canberra NSW

Re : The electoral seat bearing the name of George Reid, Premier of the Colonial Parliament of NSW, fourth Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, which it is apparently intended to abolished.

As a fifth generation Australian I wish to register my objection to this idea. Sir George Reid served in the Colonial Parliament and in the Commonwealth Parliament with distinction. He was characterised by qualities that mark him as one who held the interests of his country above personal gain or shallow self-aggrandisement.

He came into the NSW Parliament as an independent , and supported initiatives that promoted the welfare of the general population and not the privileged few. He supported the resolution for the eight hour day, holding the portfolio for Public Instruction, he promoted technical education and improved teaching standards by increasing student teachers in teachers colleges and also improved the conditions for country schools where children were often housed in tents rather than properly constructed accommodation. When he became Premier he introduced the Crown Lands Act which removed advantages for the rich land owners and enabled homestead selection for those with little capital.

He made important contributions to the various constitutional conventions drawing attention to the need for the supremacy of the people's house, particularly with respect to the initiation of money bills. The crisis of 1975, where the Senate delayed the passage of Supply Bills, may well have been avoided if Reid's views had prevailed.

As Prime Minister he contributed to the controversial Arbitration and Conciliation Act, over which much fluidity of tenure prevailed. He recognised the significant presence of Labor Parliamentarians and the constituency they represented.

He distinguished himself as the first High Commissioner to England and concerned himself with the welfare of Australian troops at the time of World War 1.

His name should never be erased from our historical records, particularly those such as an electoral seat that remind the Australian people of all that he has done to civilise and refine our society.

Kathleen Styles

