

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 93

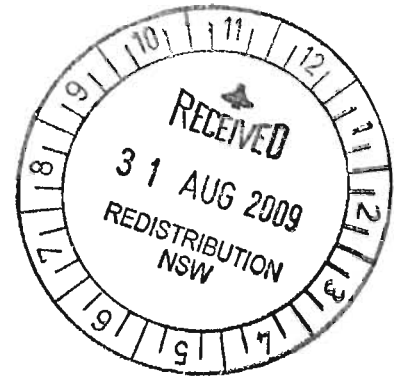
by

Janice King

2 Pages

34 Brightmore Street
CREMORNE 2090

30 August 2009



Mr E Killesteyn
Electoral Commissioner
Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
Level 3, Roden Cutler House
24 Campbell Street
HAYMARKET 2000

Dear Sir

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FEDERAL NORTH SYDNEY ELECTORATE

I have read the Committee's report where it affects the North Sydney and surrounding electorates, and object to the decision made to shift 14416 voters of Neutral Bay and Cremorne to Warringah.

While I understand the need for the electorates to have near-parity in voter numbers to achieve a tolerance in quota, both North Sydney and the neighbouring Warringah electorates have done this and will also meet the requirements for 2012. There seems little point in disturbing this arrangement and confusing the voters.

Neutral Bay and Cremorne are integral parts of the North Sydney local government area and bear very limited community interest with the bulk of Warringah voters who reside on the northern side of The Spit. Mosman is but a small part of that electorate and apparently doesn't object to being in it. I assure you that the many Cremorne and Neutral Bay locals I have spoken to do object to the change. I am proud to live in the 142-year old municipality and the electorate which has been going since Federation. My house is 80 years old and I have lived most of my 73 years in North Sydney municipality and this Federal electorate, so my sense of place and space is not less than that felt by voters in the Riverina or Chatswood and its fellow suburbs. My affiliation with this district is very strong from volunteer work, shopping locally and attending local events. I find very unfair in the proposal that even a local government ward - Tunks - is to be split, with the Cremorne part intended for Warringah and the Cammeray part to stay in North Sydney.

You are proposing that the Willoughby local government area be fully united in one electorate, but ours be separated. Our need for unity and sense of place is just as great as theirs or any of the correspondents listed in the Report.

Outside the "community interest" submissions, the suggestions of Dr Mark Mulcair of Melbourne and Dr Charles Richardson (no given address) seem remarkably close to the proposals for redistribution adopted by the Commission, but I believe neither has given adequate consideration to "the communities of interest", and I discredit their findings because they are both outside the Neutral Bay and Cremorne area and clearly don't know it: they agree almost to a word that Cremorne fits well with Mosman.

The National Party has sided with the above two gentlemen and in stating that Middle Harbour be a divisional boundary ignores the fact that Willoughby Bay is part of Long Bay and of western Middle Harbour. Cremorne is a foreshore of Willoughby Bay. This is an example of outside ignorance of geography with scant knowledge of community interest.

As well as acquiescing to Willoughby Council's understandable wish that its parts exist in the same electorate, the proposal intends to split the suburb of Forestville just to get up the numbers for Bradfield. This is more inconsistency when compared to the demands of Willoughby being met.

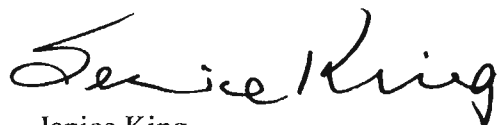
In paragraph 287 of your Report you recognise the Spit Bridge as a link in Warringah and use it as a reason for transferring "14,416 electors from the suburbs of Cremorne and Neutral Bay, to achieve numerical tolerance." I argue that the Spit Bridge is not a link, but a boundary, and as such is recognised by all who cross it - not like the Roseville Bridge which is hardly distinguishable from the road on either side, nor yet the Gladesville Bridge which allows Gladesville and Hunters Hill to connect easily with Drummoyne for perhaps a greater community interest than with other parts of North Sydney.

Successive governments, both State and Federal, have over 70 or 80 years failed to provide adequate crossing between the "northern beaches" and the "lower north shore" and have made indelible The Spit as a clearly identifiable community boundary despite discrete Federal Warringah members' attempts to fit both sides into a whole.

Both the Liberal Party and the Australian Labor Party advise that the North Sydney electorate remains as it is; Willoughby Council requests no more than its suburbs be united in a Federal electorate. My own municipal council has not responded to your notice to make a submission, but perhaps it saw no threat to its citizens' being tossed out of their home space. I don't believe such an omission sufficient reason for the proposed change to the North Sydney electorate boundaries. Nor do I believe that any influence the two doctors mentioned may have brought to bear on the proposed redistribution for North Sydney and Warringah is creditable.

Please reconsider the proposal in your report to excise Neutral Bay and Cremorne from their local government area in the North Sydney Federal Electorate. We do care, and I hope that your commission will agree to this request for us to remain in North Sydney.

Yours sincerely



Janice King