

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 142

by

**Selby Thomas Green, President, Millers Forest Progress
Association Incorporated**

2 Pages

Millers Forest Progress Association Incorporated.

Established since 1881



Postal Address
879 Raymond Terrace Road
Millers Forest NSW 2324
Telephone (02) 4987 2878

President: S.Green
Secretary: G.Green
Treasurer: W.Munton

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to submit our objections to the proposed redistribution electoral boundary changes for the seat of Paterson.

This area was the first port established outside of Sydney and was a free settlement, unlike Newcastle, being a penal settlement.

Farming families originated here in Millers Forest and this area was known as the food bowl for Sydney.

Here in Millers Forest/Duckenfield there are families, some fourth and fifth generations who are still farming. Their ancestors were some of the first settlers.

In this area the land is used primarily for agriculture e.g dairy farming, raising beef, chickens, horses including stock horses and turf farming which is basically the same as surrounding rural areas of Morpeth, Wallalong, Paterson Maitland etc. and has nothing at all in common with the metropolitan seat of Newcastle.

Most residents use the neighbouring Raymond Terrace, Thornton or Maitland areas for their shopping, both personal and for stock and farming supplies, where most are well known to the business owners who stock our particular needs for our farming enterprise.

There is no common link with the Newcastle area.

Without being political, for the last Federal election, the residents living on the southern side of Raymond Terrace Road were instructed to vote in the Newcastle electorate when they arrived at the local polling booth. I personally know of three households only who were notified previously by mail that they were no longer in the Paterson electorate. They then had difficulty knowing which candidate to vote for as they had not received any political propaganda from any candidate.

The average person in the community gets confused with elections generally, be it local, state or federal as the boundaries are adjusted to suit the population so we feel that the boundary should be returned to the one which existed prior to the last federal election and not be devisive as it now. The residents on the southern side of Raymond Terrace Road should be included in the Paterson electorate.

I was informed by the East Maitland electoral office that the changes are advertised in the newspapers. That is fine, if you live in suburbia and have a delivery or can stroll to the shop to make your purchase but very few households have a paper delivery as it is not a viable option for newsagents to travel approximately 18 km's round trip to deliver a paper. For anyone wishing to purchase a daily paper, they have to jump in their car, travel the distance for a \$1.30 unless they are already on the road to shop or perhaps for their off farm workplace.

Access to government bodies such as Centrelink and Department of Housing, the closest being Raymond Terrace, ambulance, fire, police etc. usually are from Raymond Terrace or Maitland.

Public transport is non existent in this area. However, the school buses run in school term of course and in school hours. The nearest railway station is either Thornton or Beresfield with the nearest bus to Newcastle running from Raymond Terrace.

The local primary school feeds either to Maitland or Raymond Terrace High Schools.

Again no link to Newcastle!!

We urge you to take into account these points raised when you are making your decision.

Yours sincerely,



Selby Thomas Green.
President.