

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 155

by

Peter Crawford

1 Pages

From: Peter Crawford [petercrawford@fastmail.fm]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2009 5:19 AM
To: NSW Redistribution
Subject: Urgent Submission before deadline on 4 September 2009 re Seat of Reid and Redistribution

For the urgent attention of the Australian Electoral Commission

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: SEAT OF REID AND THE PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION

I am concerned that the Australian Electoral Commission is proposing to abolish the western Sydney seat of Reid in a redistribution. My submission protests any attempt to rename the seat of "Reid" to the name of "McMahon".

As a person who grew up in the suburb of Burwood in the 1950s I was always proud to live in a Street close to the former residence of George Reid, an early Prime Minister of Australia. Through my childhood, adolescence and University years the name "Reid" was legendary in the inner west area of Sydney and in Australian politics generally.

George Reid was one of the great characters of Australian Federation. He added colour and style to the whole debate in the 1890s leading up to Federation and was a larger than life character in our history. All of Reid's life was spent in the inner west of Sydney living in several fine homes in the area. By contrast, Sir William McMahon lived in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. Although he represented the seat of Lowe for many years, he in no way reflected the history of the area in the manner of George Reid. Further, Sir William McMahon was an unelected Prime Minister.

George Reid was an immense figure in the State and Federal politics of the area.

I sincerely hope that for the sake of Australia's past and history, the principal set of the inner west retains the name "Reid" rather than "McMahon".

I thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Crawford
(Member for Balmain 1984-1988)

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