

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 174

by

Wagih Hawshar, President, El-Dunnieh Sons Charity Association

1 Pages

El-Dunnieh Sons Charity Association

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جمعية أبناء الضنية الخيرية

The Commissioner
 Australian Electoral Commission
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Dear Commissioner,

Re: Abolition of Electorate of Reid

The El Dunnieh Sons Charity Association is a not for profit association serving thousands of residents in the Electorate of Reid. The Association is a group of community-minded people who volunteer their time to deliver social welfare services which cater to the very diverse needs of the community. We have more than 1,000 active members. We are a key pillar of the community in the electorate of Reid.

The Association is greatly concerned at the proposal to abolish the electorate of Reid and divide its parts into numerous other electorates which have little by way of demographic, cultural and social continuity.

Our understanding is that much of Auburn will form part of the newly proposed seat of McMahon which also covers parts of the highly affluent Canada Bay and Inner West regions. We fear that this will obscure the difficult social conditions that the Auburn LGA has historically experienced – including but not limited to high levels of unemployment and numerous waves of new migration with the many associated issues this raises for the community, such as language barriers, inadequate education and employment opportunities. With resources allocated to the neediest electorates, our inclusion in McMahon will make our ability to attract resources significantly more difficult.

We also note that the abolition of a seat named after a former Premier and Prime Minister is unprecedented.

Granville which forms part of our service area will be spilt between two electorates. We note that this will create significant problems for us as we rely heavily on the Reid Electorate Office being based in Granville where it has been located for more than 50 years. Our community know it well and are able to access their local member with relative ease – we have a solid relationship, based on mutual respect and understanding of the long standing issues faced by members of our community.

The El Dunnieh Sons Charity Association is completely opposed to the abolition of the electorate of Reid. Our strong preference is to maintain the current boundaries which have evolved over the years to form established communities that are attuned to each others needs. Your recommendations have the potential to undermine civil societies that have taken many generations to build.

Yours sincerely

Wagih Hawshar
 President