

PUBLIC SUGGESTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Public Suggestion Number 35

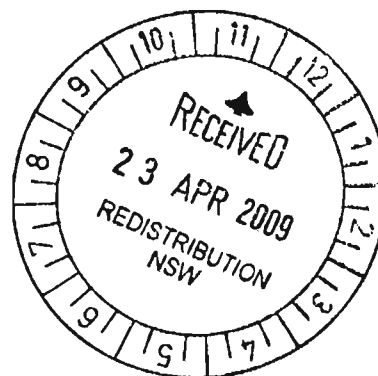
by

Mr Pom Auimatagi

3 Pages

Mr Pom Auimatagi
9 Boulder Crescent,
NARARA NSW 2250.

Electoral Commissioner,
Australian Electoral Commission
PO Box K406
24 Campbell Street,
HAYMARKET NSW 1240.



April 16th 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

The community that I live in see themselves as part of the community of which Gosford is the centre. We go to Gosford for the provision of government services and to registered clubs and sporting groups. We access essential federal services such as Centrelink and Medicare at Gosford. The residents of these suburbs are more likely to contact the office of the Federal Member for Robertson, who even those who live in Dobell believe is their Federal Member.

It's very inconvenient to have separate local government representation to the Federal Member.

Considering that Narara, North Gosford, Niagara Park, and Wyoming's postcodes are all 2250 – the same as Gosford, it makes sense that the suburbs would all be in the same Federal electorate. To split them will only create confusion and uncertainty when voting, especially if we are all in the same local government area.

I don't know why suburbs such as Erina, Erina Heights, Terrigal and North Avoca all with the postcode of 2260 are considered to be in Robertson when they are more likely to use services up north than Gosford CBD.

To travel to the centre of Gosford takes about 5 or 10 minutes by car or train, but to get to the centre of Wyong takes about 35 minutes and even longer by train. This means it's much better for most people with or without cars to locate services and recreation in Gosford. Why when we are so close to the centre of Gosford would we go to Wyong for services or even to do the shopping? We can't even get a bus to Wyong.

When people who live in Narara and the surrounding suburbs are sick, we go to Gosford Hospital, in fact that's where the ambulance automatically takes us. But it's the services we access after being discharged from hospital that are important, such as community health programs and drug and alcohol services. These services all come out of Gosford Hospital. If we have a problem at the hospital or with the other local services we would go to our local member. Considering the hospital and its services are located in Gosford we would logically assume that our local member is the member for Robertson as that's where the hospital is.

The same goes for the police; we use the station at Brisbane Water. The services we use are all in the Federal seat of Robertson, so that's who we need representing our interests.

To create a sense of identity and community it is important to feel connected to where your kids go to school. If your kids have a special interest, like sport or dance you will send them to the best schools for those subjects, such as Brisbane Waters Secondary College or Narara Valley High, which are in Robertson.

I am worried that if the Education Department use boundaries to determine whether your child is 'in area' for a school that if we live in Dobell we won't be able to send our kids to schools in Robertson even though it's closer and the school might better suit the special interests of our children.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Auimatagi', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Pom Auimatagi.