

PUBLIC SUGGESTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Public Suggestion Number 121

by

Robert Oakeshott MP

11 Pages

0265525222

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30 April 2009

Electoral Commissioner
Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
Australian Electoral Commission
PO Box K406
HAYMARKET NSW 1240

BY FACSIMILE: (02) 9375 6328

Dear Sir

BOUNDARY REDISTRIBUTION

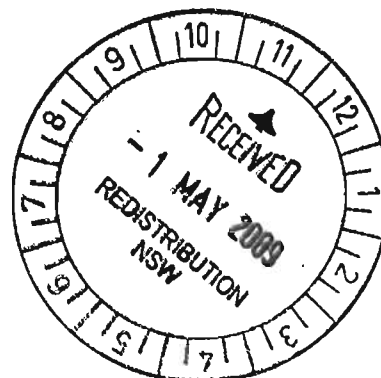
I write with respect to the redistribution of federal electoral boundaries in New South Wales and in particular regarding the federal electoral division of Lyne on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales.

No changes can be made to the east of the division of Lyne due to the division's coastal boundary except for the possible and obvious consideration of Lord Howe Island which is situated 400 km due east of Port Macquarie. Lord Howe Island has a range of common interests with the Mid North Coast Region.

Changes to the west would be problematic due to loss of community interest if the electoral division were to be extended into and over the mountains. The Great Dividing Range is a natural geographical and physical barrier to communities and those living within those communities.

Any changes to the north of the electoral division of Lyne would include the township of Kempsey and the Macleay Valley. Consideration should be given so that the township of Kempsey - and as far as possible the Macleay Valley - are not split between electoral divisions, which could in turn lead to loss of community interest.

I attach a copy of a recent Mayoral Minute (marked "A") by Mayor John Bowell of Kempsey Shire Council expressing the council's preference that the whole of the shire be contained within one electoral division.



The same principles would apply to the south into the Great Lakes region. Consideration should be given to the townships of Forster and Tuncurry being retained within the same electoral division.

CHANGE OF NAME

Consideration could also be given to the future name of the division of Lyne.

From research it appears that Sir William Lyne has no historical significance to the area. Sir William Lyne also represents a point of conflict in our history in what is known as "The Hopetoun Blunder". Sir William Lyne was a political adversary of Sir Edmund Barton, who was the member for Hastings-Macleay in 1898-1899 and went on to serve as Australia's first Prime Minister. Sir Edmund Barton's significance to the area is represented on the Town Green in Port Macquarie where a life sized bronze sculpture stands. I attach an extract from the Hansard of my maiden speech referring to Sir William Lyne (marked "B") and an internal research document in regard to Sir William Lyne and "The Hopetoun Blunder" (marked "C").

Apart from the historical point of conflict, the name 'Lyne' which has been given to this region seems deficient in capturing the spirit and value of the Mid North Coast. The committee could consider an all-encompassing name that would be of greater value to the spirit and direction of the future of the Mid North Coast region.

Consideration could also be given to the future name of the electoral division for practical reasons, as the name 'Lyne' causes confusion due to the Parliament also having a Member for 'Lyons'. Please see attached a copy of Hansard from 24 February 2009 (marked "D") illustrating a recent example where such confusion and potentially an inaccurate recording of parliamentary procedure occurred. The 'Member for Lyons' was suspended from the House of Representatives but this suspension was incorrectly recorded against the 'Member for Lyne'.

Following an online poll and local media attention on the issue of a change of name, several suggestions have been put forward by the community including the following proposed names for the area:

- 'Pacific Coast' - for obvious geographical reasons.
- 'Innes' - after Major Archibald Clunes Innes (1800-1857) who was commandant of the penal settlement at Port Macquarie and later became the town's police magistrate. Attached is an extract from the Australian Dictionary of Biography (marked "E") highlighting the achievements of Major Innes.
- 'Many Rivers' - this name was suggested as reflecting the geographical nature of the area. The landscape of the Mid North Coast is rivers, valleys and beaches which encompass the regional and coastal communities. The name 'Many Rivers' also captures the wealth of water in the region. Water is of great importance to all Australians and the wealth of water in the region contributes to the success of many industries including farming and tourism. The name 'Many Rivers' also has ties to the area including the indigenous community and a number of organisations use the name such as 'Many Rivers Aboriginal Language Centre' and 'The Many Rivers Family Violence Prevention Legal Service'.

- 'Biripai' - the Biripai people are the traditional custodians of the Manning and Hastings valleys and retain a strong cultural presence in the area.

I ask you to deliberate on the issues and any other possibilities in regard to keeping or changing the name.

Finally, on the broader issue of the redistribution in New South Wales I note some commentary on the question of the location of the seat to be lost in New South Wales and as a Member of Parliament representing a regional location preference for any reduction would be in a metropolitan location. The reason for this preference is that the geographic size of some country based electorates is already large and any further reduction in a completely rural seat would see the size and the associated difficulties in representation become even greater.

I trust the committee will consider the above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Oakeshott', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

**ROBERT OAKESHOTT MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LYNE**

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'A'

2009. 227 RESOLVED: Moved: Cl. *Bowell*

That the Australian Electoral Commission be advised that the preferred option is for the whole of the Shire to be within one Electorate, e.g. combined with Port Macquarie Hastings Council area with a total population of 94,353.

Member for Scullin, Mr Speaker, I acknowledge the traditional owners past and present, the Ngunawal people, and I also acknowledge those visiting from the Biripai and Dhunghutti communities of my home region, and I ask you to revisit this question of a daily acknowledgement within this chamber for traditional owners, a simple, symbolic but respectful act that will assist in building a better Australia.

Colleagues, like all in this chamber I am sure, I love my home. While I am not here to be a postcard nor a historian of life on the mid-North Coast, it would be remiss of me not to put on record in this first speech a snapshot of life in my electorate. My home is strong in natural beauty. We have beaches that most Australians have at some time surfed or swum at, rivers that most Australians should at some point travel on or drop a line into and surrounding bush that is in so many ways the hidden jewellery of living within our area. It is, for many of us, one of Australia's great natural playgrounds.

I also live in a place with an understated but incredibly rich history, a place where we start to see the term 'Australia' first used, as was first recorded in the diaries of Matthew Flinders off my home, Tacking Point. It is a place where Australia's first mass sea rescue was performed by local Aboriginals because no white man would go into the rough water and a place that has recently been revealed as home to two iconic pieces of surf lifesaving equipment—the surf ski and the surfboat, both of which are now used world wide.

Politically it is a place that has had some great local MPs, people like John Kenny Sr from the Kendall area and Bruce Cowan from the Manning area, from both sides of the political fence. It is a place that 109 years ago was home to a state MP for Hastings-Macleay who, despite some sins, was still courageous enough to help encourage the concept of a Commonwealth and then, through good luck and some good management, went on to become celebrated as Australia's first Prime Minister. Somewhat ironically one of Barton's mentioned sins was to resist the efforts of another man in his ambition to become Australia's first Prime Minister, that other man being Sir William Lyne, of whom the federal seat is now currently named.

Colleagues, on 6 September the communities of the mid-North Coast of New South Wales chose to enter a new era of representation—an era that places local people and local issues very much front and centre of representation, an era that already relies heavily on an ongoing dialogue between 90,000 electors and their local MP about the many issues of the day. Through this ongoing commitment to the process of dialogue and community engagement, we can now have the combined shoulders to the wheel, we can now have combined investment in each other and we now have a greater chance of getting outcomes on local and na-

tional issues to work for us as a region. It is, simply put, a new era of representation that puts local people before political parties and that puts community interests before vested interests. For us, this is a new era of place based thinking, an alliance shaped entirely around the common care for our place and the Commonwealth of our country.

Colleagues, it would be folly to write this off as mere local parish pump parochialism. Rather, our community has so much else going on. Having learnt my trade of representation after 12 years in public life in another place, I consider representation to be the difficult and challenging balancing act between a range of interests—some local, some national and, increasingly, some international. On the international front, I enter this parliament at a time of great global financial uncertainty—an uncertainty that has a clear national impact, with last week's spend of \$10.4 billion, and an uncertainty that is rippling through to have local impacts, with three local mortgage funds entering voluntary administration within the past six months and one local council exposed to up to \$25 million of their investments from certain CDO purchases as just two recent examples.

This global uncertainty and the responses at both a national and local level re-emphasise the obligations and duties we have as representatives in this place. We do have a role of participating in debate about the global village that we now, like it or not, are living in, where the sovereignty of nations such as ours is increasingly secondary to this very loose, very fluid and very informal anarchical society of world affairs. We are obliged to participate because if we do not then anarchy across borders reigns. On the flip side, like Tennyson's prophetic words in *Locksley Hall* about the parliament of man, if we do participate in international debate, we then fulfil our obligation to our electors to care and protect and build a better place, and that should be a commitment to electors that is a borderless commitment.

And this is not something to be feared but something to be embraced. I am a long-term believer in global citizenry and see it as a challenge that this island nation needs to overcome in the way we play our 'cringe politics' whenever we engage with the world. I think the United Nations, for example, is an important and valued institution and our involvement at the highest levels should be encouraged, as should our participation, understanding and commitment to various international treaties, agreements and obligations. These are good, positive exercises, not negative ones, and the benefits to us through global participation far outweigh the alternative of isolation of thought and isolation of actions.

In a similar vein, the concept of international human rights has been given some rough trade within Austra-

Date: 16 February

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File:

Re: Lyne and Lord Hopetoun

Michael –

It is documented that Lord Hopetoun initially did commission Sir William Lyne to be the first Prime Minister of Australia, but Lyne was unable to form a government.

John Adrian Louis Hope, Earl of Hopetoun arrived in Sydney on 15 December as Governor-General Designate, two weeks before he was to be sworn in and the Commonwealth inaugurated. Hopetoun had some experience of Australian politics, having previously served as Governor of Victoria from 1889 to 1895. However his decision to commission Lyne as the first Prime Minister has been described as the 'Hopetoun Blunder'.

Lyne had been Premier of New South Wales since September 1899, just over a year, and on a number of occasions had expressed his opposition to Federation. By contrast, Edmund Barton, also a NSW State MP, was one of the founders of the Australian Federation League, and was more influential and widely known outside his home state. Barton had been Speaker and Attorney-General in the NSW State Parliament, but never Premier.

On 19 December 1900 Hopetoun commissioned William Lyne to form a Ministry. It is thought that his decision was based on consultation with a number of prominent figures in NSW, including George Reid and the acting NSW Governor, Sir Fredrick Darley. The rationale was that Lyne was Premier of the most populous state. The commission was announced by telephone messages from Government House to various newspapers that same day.

Lyne's attempts to enlist the influential Barton into the Ministry were unsuccessful. Barton's reaction was: 'It would be a contradiction of my whole career in relation to Federation if I served under a Prime Minister

J.A. la Nauze, *The Hopetoun Blunder*, Melbourne University Press, 1957.

who had throughout opposed the adoption by the people of the measure of which he is now asked to be the first constitutional guardian."

For Lyne to succeed, it was critical to have support from Victorian colleagues Alfred Deakin and Premier George Turner. They refused to serve under him, and consequently Lyne was not in a position to secure the support of the other State Premiers, or to form a sufficiently representative ministry.

Even the British Colonial Secretary in London, Joseph Chamberlain, expressed surprise at Hopetoun's choice. A telegram to Hopetoun dated 22 December read 'Great surprise expressed at choice of Lyne instead of Barton. Please give reasons.' (see [National Archives website](#))

On 24 December Hopetoun turned to Barton to assemble a ministry. The following day Barton submitted a proposed ministry: Barton was Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs; Deakin was Attorney-General and Minister for Justice; Lyne was Minister for Home Affairs. Also included in the proposed Ministry were Turner (Vic.), Kingston (SA), Dickson (Qld) and Forrest (WA). The Governor-General and the Ministry were sworn in on 1 January 1901.

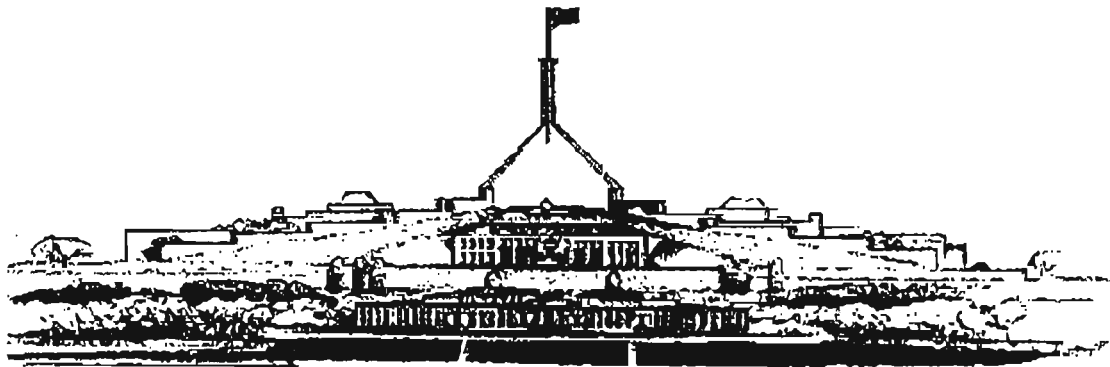
For a detailed account of these events, see JA la Nauze, *The Hopetoun Blunder*, Melbourne University Press, 1957.

If you require further information, please contact me on [REDACTED]



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS TO THE SPEAKER

Warning by Speaker

QUESTION

Tuesday, 24 February 2009

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTION

Date Tuesday, 24 February 2009 Page 1594 Questioner Adams, Dick, MP Speaker	Source House Proof No Responder SPEAKER, The Question No.
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Warning by Speaker

Mr ADAMS (Lyons) (3.43 pm)—Mr Speaker, yesterday you suspended me from the House for an hour. I understand you then made some comments about warnings not necessarily being given. But under the written record of the House in *Hansard* it says that I was warned. I would ask that you rectify the record.

The SPEAKER—On page 35 in the draft *Hansard* it does indicate on the top of the second column:

The Speaker—I warn the member for Lyons.

All I ever said was: 'Member for Lyons!' Regrettably for the member for Lyons, research has found that—and there was a sort of nod and a wink to tell me that this might be brought to my attention—on page 27, again in the second column, the *Hansard* reads:

The Speaker—The member for Dickson will resume his place.

It then goes on italics:

Mr Oakeshott interjecting—

This arises because of a misspeak by myself where I go on to say:

The member for Lyne will be prompted to get up and go somewhere!

That should read 'The member for Lyons'. Both those corrections will be made.

0265525222

" E "

AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY - ONLINE EDITION

Innes, Archibald Clunes (1800 - 1857)

INNES, ARCHIBALD CLUNES (1800-1857), soldier and pastoralist, was born at Thrumster, Scotland, the son of Major James Innes, a distinguished soldier. He was commissioned an ensign in the 3rd Regiment on 23 September 1813 and served in the Peninsular war. He arrived in Sydney as captain of the guard in the convict ship *Eliza* in 1822. From January 1824 to May 1825 he served in Van Diemen's Land where he distinguished himself in recapturing escaped convicts. In December 1825 he was appointed aide-de-camp to the lieutenant-governor of New South Wales and became a magistrate in November 1826. He sought and gained the position of commandant of the penal settlement at Port Macquarie, being appointed in December 1826 in succession to Captain Gilman. About six months later he returned to Sydney as brigade major. In 1828 he resigned his commission and was appointed superintendent of police and magistrate at Parramatta, serving there until his resignation in 1829. In 1829, at one of the most magnificent weddings that the colony had then seen, he married Margaret, daughter of the colonial secretary, Alexander McLeay.

In 1830 Innes became police magistrate at Port Macquarie and was granted 2568 acres (1039 ha) and contracts to supply the convict population with food. This land he worked with convict labour, transforming the wilderness into the fabled Lake Innes, for many years the greatest pastoral property north of Sydney. On this establishment he built, on a typically grand scale, his home, Lake Innes Cottage. As his wealth grew he spread his interests. In his first few years at Lake Innes he produced the first sugar grown in the district. He acquired sheep and cattle stations all over northern New South Wales, among them Yarrows on the Hastings, Brimbine and Innestown on the Manning, Waterloo, Innes Creek, Kentucky and Beards Plains. He bought Furracabad and the township on this station, the present Glen Innes, was named after him. In 1844 he planted thirty acres (12 ha) of vines and constructed large wine cellars; this venture soon failed. He was largely responsible for the building of a road from Port Macquarie to the New England district. An example of his panache at the height of his career was the hiring in 1842 of the steamship *Maitland* to take his wool from Port Macquarie to Sydney. At his apogee one of the wealthiest men in the colony, he became famous for the hospitality he dispensed to all travellers to his regions; a detailed account of a journey through the area by Governor Sir Charles FitzRoy and the vice-regal entourage is given by Colonel Godfrey Mundy in *Our Antipodes* (London, 1852). During the depression in the 1840s Innes's wealth was almost completely wiped out and he became bankrupt in 1852. He was then appointed assistant gold commissioner and magistrate at Nundle and later police magistrate at Newcastle, where he died on 29 August 1857.

Of his five children, two sons died in 1842; the surviving son, Gustavus Archibald Clunes Innes, became a Church of England minister and served in New South Wales and Victoria. The two daughters married and resided in the colony; his niece, Annabella Boswell, kept a journal in 1845-48 at Port Macquarie, which was published in Sydney in 1962. George Innes, a younger brother of Major Innes, received one of the first land grants in Bathurst plains in 1823, to which he gave the name Yarras.

Innes was largely responsible for transforming Port Macquarie from a penal settlement to a flourishing town. His activities led to the opening of the area between Port Macquarie and New England. His early success in his pastoral endeavours at Lake Innes, including his pioneering of the sugar industry, pointed to the future prosperity of this part of New South Wales. In a time and place when much existence was drab and bitter the doings and the mode of Archibald Clunes Innes wore a cheering brightness.

Two portraits in oils and one in crayon are in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

Select Bibliography

Historical Records of Australia, series 1, vols 13-16, 18-21, 24; B. W. Champion, 'Major A. C. Innes, 3rd Regiment of Foot', *Journal and Proceedings* (Royal Australian Historical Society), vol 21, part 2, 1935, pp 103-16; E. S. Lauchland, 'Homes We Visited: "Lake Innes", Port Macquarie', *Monthly Journal* (Newcastle and Hunter District Historical Society), vol 2, part 1, 1947, pp 3-7; W. J. Goold, 'The Tourists: Part 2: Port Macquarie-An Historic Outpost', *Monthly Journal* (Newcastle and Hunter District Historical Society), vol 4, part 11, 1950, pp 161-71; *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 Feb, 10 Sept 1824; *Australian*, 22 Feb 1840; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 24 Jan 1953; *Glen Innes Examiner*, 16 Sept 1953; Innes papers (State Library of New South Wales).
More on the resources

Author: E. Flowers

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