



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Objection 493

Michelle Blicavs

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11 November 2015

The Commissioner  
Australian Electoral Commission  
via Online Submission

Dear Commissioner

I write in objection to the current proposal to rename the Federal seat of Throsby to Whitlam in the Illawarra region of New South Wales.

This matter has been hotly debated in the Wollongong community since the announcement last month. There have been many articles and comments made through our local media, Illawarra Mercury and ABC Radio.

Whilst most agree Prime Minister Whitlam added value to our country, his connection to the Illawarra, and in particular the seat of Throsby, was limited. Throsby so named after Charles Throsby Smith who is clearly understood to be the Father of Wollongong having named many of our streets and founded many of our roadways to and from Sydney and further south through to Goulburn.

I raised this matter at a Council meeting on Monday 9 November 2015 and received support from the Council as per the following minute number 155:

*COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION – RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Blicavs seconded Councillor Takacs that Council write to the Australian Electoral Commission, objecting to the proposed name change of the 'Throsby' electorate to 'Whitlam'.*

*Councillor Blicavs' motion on being PUT to the VOTE was CARRIED.*

*In favour: Councillors Takacs, Merrin, Blicavs, Dorahy, Colacino and Crasnich*

*Against: Councillors Connor, Brown, Martin, Curran and Petty*

As per the vote, the majority were in favour of KEEPING THROSBY. The discussion and debate is available on webinar and I encourage you to listen to the arguments for and against before making your final decision – [www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au).

Whilst I understand and appreciate AEC policy to name seats after former Prime Ministers, the community of Wollongong feel that the seat of Werriwa would be best named after Mr Whitlam. And if not Werriwa, then we encourage the AEC to wait until a new seat is created in NSW and call it Whitlam. With 50,000 homes going into West Dapto in our region alone, we know there will be redistributions in the future and new seats created.

I implore you to consider waiting until a new seat is created to name it Whitlam. Do not sacrifice the history of the Illawarra which has significantly more meaning to our community.

On behalf of the people of Wollongong, which I represent, for our future generations I ask you to strongly reconsider the name change.

Yours faithfully

Cr Michelle Blicavs  
Ward 2 Councillor  
Wollongong City Council