



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Comment Number: 1

Name: Ray O'BRIEN

Page(s): 5



"raybarbara"
<raybarbara@bigpond.com
>
25/03/2006 03:40 PM

To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>
"Current Affair" <currentaffair@nine.com.au>, "Sunday"
cc <sunday@nine.com.au>, "Sunrise"
<sunrise@seven.com.au>, "Today Tonight"

bcc

Subject Submission to Remove the Seat of Bennelong from
NSW

Classification Unclassified

The Electoral Commissioner for NSW,

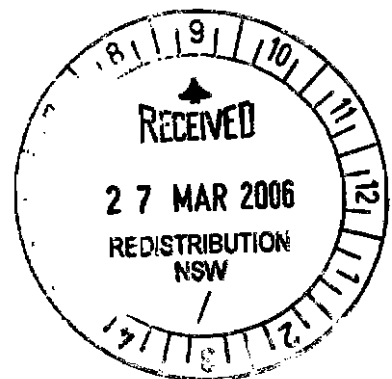
I understand from newspaper advertisements that the Electoral Commission is directed to reduce the number of Federal Electorates by one {from 50 to 49}. I wish to submit that the electorate of Bennelong, currently held by John Winston Howard, be the one to be abolished on the following grounds:-

1. It is surrounded on all sides [except for Lowe in the south] by 'Blue Ribbon' Liberal seats so most voters would not feel any great impact on their current voting preferences.
2. The electors would still be able to make representations to a Liberal representative, but, in future, perhaps one more regularly in attendance at their electoral office to take up their cause.
3. Their representative would most probably reside in their electorate rather than in Canberra/Kirribilli/Washington or "Lords" in London.
- 4 The present member probably [by design or negative reaction to his policies such as Industrial Relations/Workplace changes] will not represent the seat after the next ?[2007] election, and, no doubt, will not be able to recall having done so in the past judging by recent events.

I request that you make careful consideration of my submission before making any recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

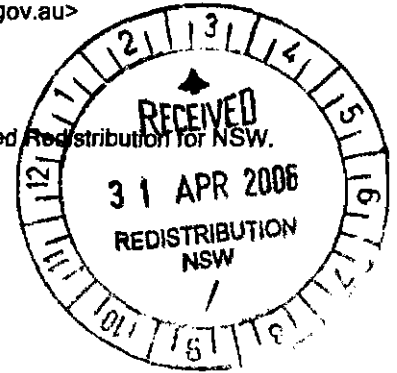
Ray O'Brien
5 Cascade Street
Seven Hills NSW 2147
'phone: [02] 9671 1661





"raybarbara"
 <raybarbara@bigpond.com>
 >
 31/03/2006 02:49 PM

To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>
 cc
 bcc
 Subject Comments on the Proposed Redistribution for NSW.
 Classification Unclassified



Dear Marie Nelson
 Australian Electoral Officer for New South Wales.

As indicated in your letter to me of 28 March 2006, it appears that you are prepared to accept my submission on BENNELONG as a comment, if I choose to designate it as such. Please incorporate it as a comment on the various accepted submissions.

In viewing ALL the posted submissions on your website, I would also request that you take into consideration the attached comments in determining the final outcome of the redistribution. These pertain to both the electorates BENNELONG and HUGHES.

Yours sincerely

Ray O'Brien
 5 Cascade Street
 Seven Hills NSW 2147
 'phone: 9671 1661

COMMENTS:

BENNELONG:

Most of my pertinent comments have been superimposed on the electoral map [attached]. However, I note from the Liberal Party submission, that they want to increase the number of electors by "gaining 8045 electors" from BEROWRA and yet their 'projected enrolment at 31/5/10 expressed in quotas' would still leave BENNELONG with the **lowest number of electors in the Region.**

My contention is that the electorate should be abolished by redistributing its electors to the surrounding electorates, which are ALL, according to their figures, postulated as being ***below quota*** with the exception of MITCHELL, which only has a point boundary with BENNELONG, and LOWE which they want to move south to swallow up some of BLAXLAND, which they want to abolish.

If LOWE were moved north of the river to the East/West line suggested, this would allow some of its southern boundary electors to be transferred to BLAXLAND, WATSON and possibly GRAYNDLER to normalise its [and their] quota closer to 1.0.

The movement of the eastern and northern sections to NORTH SYDNEY and BRADFIELD respectively would allow these to reach quota, or, if they exceed it, allow a 'topping up' of WARRINGAH and MACKELLAR which are also postulated to be below quota as at 31/5/10

/2 PTO

HUGHES:

HUGHES:

Again the electoral map [attached] has a number of pertinent comments superimposed. However, again I note, from the Liberal Party submission, that they suggest **"that the seat to be abolished should come from this region."** I further note that their proposed seat to be abolished i.e. BLAXLAND **does not have the lowest postulated electors in this Region, but is predicted as growing at a higher % rate than HUGHES** . I may be cynical but, at nearly 72 years of age with a University of Sydney Science Degree [hence an ability to think logically and objectively], I consider the Liberal Party submission for this Region to be ***highly flawed and completely 'party political'***, unlike that of the Labor Party's suggestion of abolishing REID and RIVERINA, and creating a new division of WHITLAM based on Liverpool, as well as a substantial redrawing of HUGHES.

By suggesting that 12825 electors from HUGHES to COOK [with 1860 electors being moved from the southern section of COOK to CUNNINGHAM, probably to maintain a more equitable quota between the two], and 4767 electors from HUGHES to CUNNINGHAM, the Liberal Party is attempting to create a need, in HUGHES, to transfer electors from BANKS, with a view to creating a further need to cascade electors away from BLAXLAND and so create a scenario for its abolition.

If, indeed hopefully, the abolition of a seat is to come from this region it should be HUGHES as there is a large proportion of the electorate uninhabited because of national parks and the Holsworthy Artillery Range. By dividing HUGHES as per the attached map those electorates with a common boundary will be enabled to achieve a higher quota than postulated in the Liberal Party submission with most being between 0.89 and 0.92 of a quota [5 out of 8].

It is to be hoped that the Australian Electoral Commission, in its deliberations, can accept these comments in the spirit in which they were given - that of a "FAIR GO".

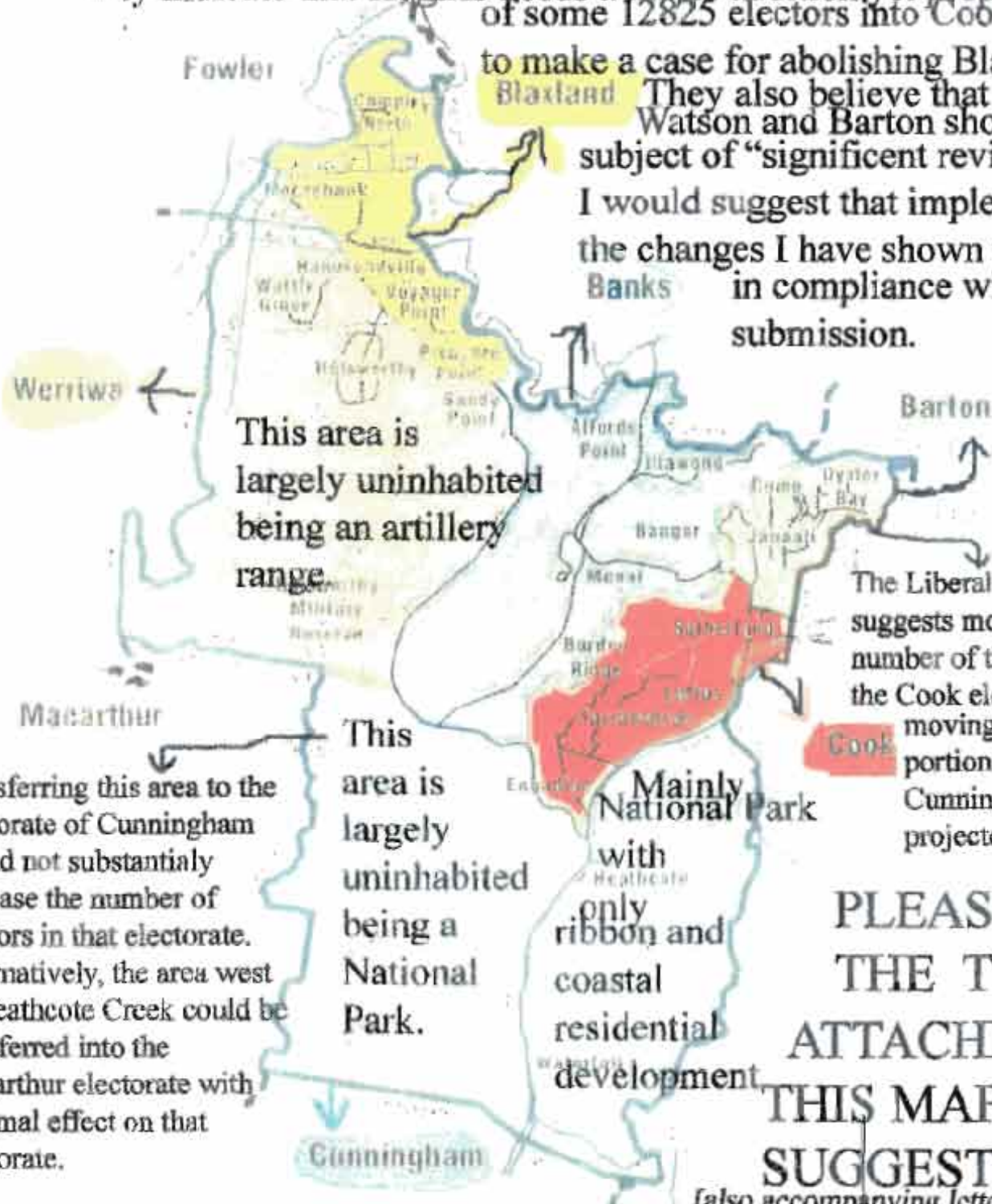
Yours sincerely
Ray O'Brien

HUGHES [ABOLISHED]

The Liberal Party Submission suggests that the seat to be abolished should come from this region [Illawarra/Southern Sydney] but contrary to their submission to abolish BLAXLAND I suggest that it would be more equitable to abolish HUGHES as per this map. They indicate that Hughes needs a major addition, yet propose a move of some 12825 electors into Cook in order

to make a case for abolishing Blaxland. They also believe that Banks, Watson and Barton should be the subject of "significant revision" so I would suggest that implementing the changes I have shown would be in compliance with their submission.

Ray O'Brien



This area is largely uninhabited being an artillery range.

This area is largely uninhabited being a National Park.

Transferring this area to the electorate of Cunningham would not substantially increase the number of electors in that electorate. Alternatively, the area west of Heathcote Creek could be transferred into the Macarthur electorate with minimal effect on that electorate.

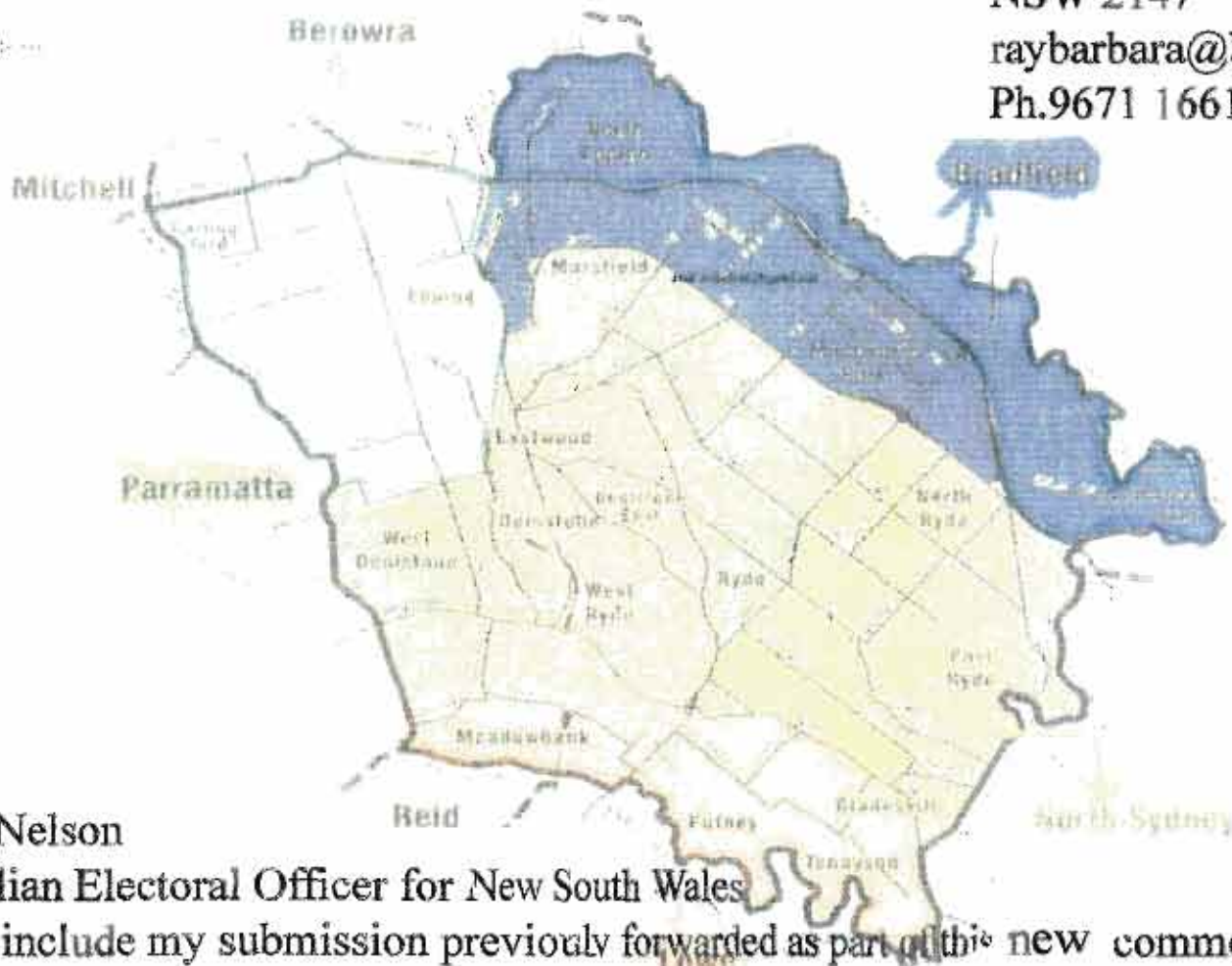
The Liberal's submission suggests moving a large number of this area into the Cook electorate and moving the lower portion of Cook into Cunningham [1860 projected electors]

PLEASE NOTE THE TEXT ATTACHED TO THIS MAP FOR SUGGESTIONS

[also accompanying letter to this map]

BENNELONG

Ray O'Brien
 5 Cascade St.
 Seven Hills
 NSW 2147
 raybarbara@bigpond.
 Ph.9671 1661



Marie Nelson

Australian Electoral Officer for New South Wales

Please include my submission previously forwarded as part of this new comment on the Bennelong electorate. I note, in the Liberal Party's submission that the proposed quota for this seat would be the lowest in the Northern Sydney area & that 0.93 quotas could be fairly evenly divided up between the surrounding electorates. Any over-run to the surrounding electorates could be countered by shifting their boundaries to the north, south, east or west. In their own submission the Liberals have indicated that LOWE would be over quota and suggested movements on its southern boundary to WATSON [GRAYNDLER could also benefit] so they could avail at this suggestion. If LOWE gains from BENNELONG with its northern boundary now being a basically east/west line of Andrew St., Constitution Rd., Church St. and Victoria Road this would allow more of the southern section of LOWE to be redistributed to BLAXLAND, WATSON and GRAYNDLER. It would also allow for the tidying up of their mooted unsatisfactory boundary between NORTH SYDNEY and BRADFIELD by transfers to the eastern electorate.

Thank you for the opportunity to have my comments noted and, hopefully, seriously considered

RAY O'BRIEN