



**The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES**



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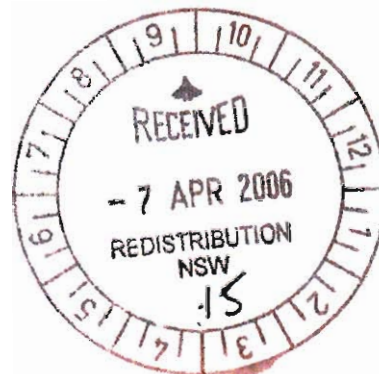
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Federal Member for Sydney  
House of Representatives

04 April, 2006

Redistribution Committee for New South Wales  
Level 4, Roden Cutler House  
24 Campbell Street  
Haymarket NSW 2000



Dear Committee Members,

I am writing, as the Federal Member for Sydney, to formally respond to some incorrect information about Lord Howe Island (LHI) provided in the National Party of Australia's (NSW) submission to the AEC's NSW Redistribution committee.

The National's submission states that:

*"This Redistribution provides the unique opportunity to correct an anomaly with Lyne's boundaries that has existed for some time. That is the inclusion of Lord Howe Island, which lies directly east of Port Macquarie.*

*The Island takes the majority of its services from Port Macquarie and direct flights link the two centres.*

*It is an aberration that Lord Howe Island is part of the Division of Sydney when there is no community of interest between the two centres. The Nationals submit that this Redistribution is an excellent opportunity to rectify this anomaly.*

[National Party of Australia (NSW) 2006 Submission Page 7- 8]

However, the National's claim that Lord Howe Island "takes the majority of its services from Port Macquarie" and that "it is an aberration that Lord Howe Island is part of the Division of Sydney when there is no community of interest between the two centres" is obviously incorrect because:

- ◆ LHI residents are much more likely to go to Sydney for medical treatment, especially veterans, who use Sydney repatriation hospitals
- ◆ LHI's medical services are covered by the South East Sydney Area Health Service
- ◆ Sydney is where islanders obtain their pharmaceutical medicine from the mainland, not Port Macquarie

- ◆ LHI residents often have children in boarding schools on the mainland, most likely to be in Sydney - in the city and inner suburbs of Sydney.
- ◆ All postal mail is delivered to the Island by Australia Post from Sydney
- ◆ LHI island residents who come to mainland for other reasons – eg to do personal or business shopping or for a holiday - stay in Sydney, not Port Macquarie
- ◆ LHI is supplied with Sydney newspapers daily – never, to my knowledge, Port Macquarie papers.
- ◆ Mainland meetings with the LHI Board of Trustees and the NSW Government occur in Sydney, not Port Macquarie.

To my knowledge, the only real link between LHI and Port Macquarie is a postal service boat (that runs once every 3 weeks) carries goods for sale on island and bulky mail (parcels) but never passengers.

The National's submission also incorrectly states that "*direct flights link the two centres*" of Port Macquarie and Lord Howe Island.

In the distant past there was a regional passenger service to the island from Port Macquarie. This is no longer the case. Instead, Qantas/ Sunshine Express are the only passenger service flying to the island and there are no direct flights between Port Macquarie and Lord Howe Island. Indirect travel from Port Macquarie to Lord Howe Island is only possible on weekends and requires passengers to travel via Sydney, Brisbane or both!

I believe that there are many reasons for Lord Howe Island continued inclusion in the Federal Division of Sydney. The Committee, in its deliberations, might note that

- ◆ **Since Federation, Lord Howe Island has only ever been represented by federal Sydney metropolitan electorates.**

This is because the States (as allowed by the Constitution) determined electoral divisions for the House of Representatives in the 1901 federal election. The schedule of electorates included in the NSW *Federal Elections Act 1900* listed Lord Howe Island as part of the electorate of East Sydney. Every subsequent redistribution has given LHI federal representation through a federal Sydney metropolitan electorate: redistributions in 1900, 1906, 1913, 1922, 1934 placed LHI in the federal seat of East Sydney; the 1949 and 1955 redistributions placed LHI in West Sydney (this refers to the western side of the CBD), the 1968 redistribution placed LHI in the (then) new Federal Division of Sydney.

- ◆ **Since its inception in 1968, the Federal Division of Sydney has always represented Lord Howe Island.**

Through all subsequent NSW redistributions, LHI has remained in the federal division of Sydney. Interestingly, a history of Lord Howe Island published in 1967 noted proudly that the Island:

*... has Australian Federal Government representation in the West Sydney electorate and this has given it the label of being Sydney's oddest, remotest, quietest, and most beautiful suburb..*

◆ **Perceived link with Port Macquarie is spurious at best:**

The absence of a direct flight path between LHI and Port Macquarie negates any argument about which centre is closer (Lord Howe Island is located 702 km north east of Sydney and approximately 500km east of Port Macquarie) and demonstrates that these 2 centres (LHI and Port Macquarie) are in fact, not "linked" at all.

◆ **No resident of LHI has requested a change in federal representation in either this redistribution or in the 1999 redistribution:**

To my knowledge, no LHI resident or organisation has queried their divisional representation, nor have they expressed a desire to be linked with Port Macquarie/ the federal Division of Lyne.

The (previous) 1999 AEC Redistribution committee, rejecting the same suggestion from the Nationals regarding Lord Howe Island, noted:

*An objection from the National Party sought to move Lord Howe Island from the proposed Division of Sydney to the proposed Division of Lyne. The augmented Electoral Commission determined not to uphold this objection in the absence of any direct representations from the people of Lord Howe Island.*

In the 8 years that I have been representing Lord Howe Island - visiting annually and corresponding regularly with the LHI Board, organisations and residents – no one has ever expressed a view – formally or informally - that LHI should be removed from the Federal Division of Sydney, nor that the Island be incorporated into the Lyne (the federal division that includes Port Macquarie).

I would urge you to consider these points in your deliberations.

Kind regards,



**TANYA PLIBERSEK MP**  
**Federal Member for Sydney**