



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1001

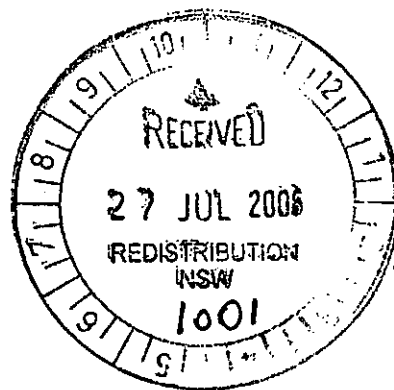
Name: Belinda PALING

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Ms. Belinda Paling
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26/07/07

Redistribution Committee for NSW
Level 4, Roden Cutler House
24 Campbell St
Haymarket NSW 2000



Att: 6

As a third generation resident of the Blue Mountains, I wish to register my objection to the proposed redistribution and associated preliminary boundary changes to the Federal Electoral Division of Macquarie.

Points for consideration are made with reference to Sections 66(3) and 66 (3A) (b) (i), (ii), (iv), (v) of the Electoral Act in the redistribution of boundaries for the Federal Electoral Division of Macquarie.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belinda Paling". A horizontal line is drawn under the signature.

Belinda Paling

Points for consideration relating to Sections 66(3) and 66 (3A) (b) (I), (ii), (iv), (v) of the Electoral Act in the redistribution of boundaries for the Federal Electoral Division of Macquarie.

- 1. Community of interests: Darug history and enduring relevance to the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains areas (I)***
- 2. Physical features (iv) and boundaries of existing State Division (v)***
- 3. Means of communication and travel within. . .(ii)***
- 4. Community of interests: Economic, Social and Regional (I) Means of travel (ii)***
- 5. Community of interests: Economic, Social and Regional: Historical(I)***
- 6. Conclusion.***

1. Community of interests: Darug history and enduring relevance to the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains areas.(I)

The Darug Hinterland tribe have occupied the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury regions, including the Hawkesbury River and part of the Nepean River, for many thousands of years. The Darug share custody of the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury with the Gundangurra, tribe who occupied the adjoining areas to the south including, the Burratorang, Coonamble, Kedumba and Megalong Valleys and beyond to the Wollondilly plateau.

Geographical features such as the sheer western face of the Blue Mountains provide a natural boundary between their neighbours to the west, the Wiradjuri. The Wiradjuri are the traditional owners of the plains spreading as far west as Nyngan and includes, Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo. To the north the Hawkesbury River served as a boundary between the Darug's other neighbours, the Darkinung.

Yarramundi, chief of the Boorooberongal clan at the time of Governor Arthur Phillip's overland expedition, is the ancestral and spiritual bloodline for many indigenous Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury residents. His son, Colebee, together with Nurragingy, chief of the South Creek clan, became the first aborigines to be granted land by white Australia in, 1819. Today's residents can trace their more immediate decedents to the reserves of Sackville and Katoomba (20th century) both populations having been Boorooberongal and Gundangurra clan derived.

Darug and Gundangurra people are still knit by a common culture, lands and language, The Darug and Wiradjuri tribes, however, were and are still ill-disposed to each other. For this reason alone the Electoral Division of Macquarie should not include Wiradjuri lands or its custodians.

2. Physical features (iv) boundaries of existing State Division (v)

The term "mountains" is a misnomer when applied to the Blue Mountains for the area is actually a series of sharp ridges and canyons. The area extends approximately 64kms west, but actually runs north to south. North to the Colo River and south to the Wollondilly plateau. Roughly along the lines of the Boorooberongal and Gundangurra lands.

This system of ridges and canyons, together with the Nepean Ramp and Hornsby Plateau form a semi-circle around the outskirts of Sydney. This feature is exemplified today, as the contiguous outer metropolitan Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury regions are now fringed by high concentrations of residential settlement on their eastern edges.

Along the skyline of the Blue Mountains are a number of residual hills, Mounts Hay, Tomah, Wilson, Banks, Caley and Irvine. The natural ridge line runs in an easterly direction from these hills to Richmond and features the towns of Kurrajong Heights and Bilpin. A shorter natural ridge line connects the Macquarie towns of, Springwood, Richmond and Windsor and is punctuated by the towns of Winmalee, Hawkesbury Heights, Yarramundi and Agnes Banks.

The central ridge line which was followed by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson, through the middle of the Blue Mountains, is well settled on its northern and southern boundaries. However, the ridge line does not continue to western plains where farming and mining are the predominate industries. An almost sheer drop of over 1000m exists on the western face of the Blue Mountains and this feature still provides a physical barrier to social interaction, communication and industry.

This geographical fact is acknowledged in the State Electoral Division of Blue Mountains and should be considered likewise for the Federal Electoral Division of Macquarie.

3. Means of communication and travel (ii).

The Great Western Highway *is* indeed shared by the Blue Mountains, Greater Lithgow and Bathurst districts. However, the distance between the most easterly Blue Mountains town, Lapstone and Bathurst is approximately 200km. Conversely, the Great Western Highway travels almost 50 km east from Lapstone to Parramatta.

The original Bells Line of road which ran from Richmond to the Cox's River was discovered by Archibald Bell in 1823 and surveyed by Robert Hoddle in that same year. It was used extensively during the gold rush of the 1850s and was also a popular stock route from the 1830s, as it bypassed the toll at Mount Victoria. Only two toll booths are still in evidence, those at Mt. Victoria and at Windsor.

Today the Bells Line and Hawkesbury Roads serve the contiguous regions of the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains and adjoining outer metropolitan areas. All modes of transport, including heavy vehicles, use the Bells Line of Road, as it most often times provides an ease of movement and lack of delay not featured on the Great Western Highway. It is a point in fact, that though there is still transportation of goods from Bathurst and Lithgow at the western end of the Great Western Highway, all such travels to an ultimate destination of Sydney, using the Blue Mountains only as a thoroughfare and vice versa.

Tourists, using the Great Western Highway and Bells Line of Road seldom venture past the outer metropolitan areas of the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury. Likewise, the Hawkesbury Road, serves as yet another transportation link between Springwood, Richmond and Windsor. Distance between the three being a mere 25kms.

Once west of the Blue Mountains, Sydney TV and radio transmissions and broadcasts are lost. Folk of the western plains are therefore reliant on insular regional networks for news and information.

4. Community of interests: Economic, Social and Regional (I) **Means of travel (ii)**

The distances and differences between outer metropolitan Blue Mountains, regional Lithgow and rural Bathurst is such that there is virtually no interchange of workforces, or workers. There are no Blue Mountains residents working the land in and around Bathurst, nor working a seam in a regional Lithgow mine, or plying a trade in the now defunct Small Arms factory. Only a handful of Mountains residents, who are employed as drivers by City Rail, work out of Lithgow. Likewise, there are no Lithgow, Portland, Meadow Flat, or Bathurst residents working in the thriving Blue Mountains or Hawkesbury Tourism industries, or participating in our small business economies.

Hawkesbury and Mountains residents commonly work in our contiguous regional tourism industries, within our respective small business economies, or commute east to Sydney and the suburbs for employment.

Those who commute regularly do not use major roadways exclusively. Both our outer metropolitan areas are linked to Sydney and the western suburbs by the Cityrail electric line service. Further west than Lithgow involves either Countrylink, or related bus service. It is also relevant to point out that only one out of every three Cityrail Blue Mountains line services originate from or terminate at Lithgow. Two out of every three instead originate or terminate at either Katoomba, or Mount Victoria.

We also look to the east for nearly all government-operated services ie; Telstra, Sydney Water, Sydney Area Health, and the Australian Tax Office.

Sporting clubs based in the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains regions participate in local and outer metropolitan or western Sydney-based competitions.

5. Community of interests: Economic, Social and Regional: Historical (I)

The arrival in the Hawkesbury valley of Governor Macquarie in 1810, saw the establishment of Richmond and Windsor towns. The breaking of the western frontier through to the fertile western plains via the Blue Mountains was commissioned by Macquarie and pioneered by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson in 1813. Subsequent commissions saw Evans survey the line from Emu Plains to Bathurst and Cox build the road. With the completion of the road in 1815, Governor Macquarie travelled through the Blue Mountains area and set up his first mountains camp at a site which he named, Springwood. In 1816, Springwood, like Windsor and Richmond in 1810, became the sight of barracks to which a small detachment was stationed to patrol the road. The Macquarie towns of, Springwood, Richmond, Windsor should, by virtue of their shared colonial history, be contained within the federal electoral division of Macquarie.

6. Conclusion.

Suffice it to say, the facts presented serve to highlight as, egregious, the boundaries proposed by the Redistribution Committee for NSW in combining in one Electoral Division, outer metropolitan area Blue Mountains, regional Lithgow and rural Bathurst. Superman or Wonderwoman could not adequately represent the divergent interests and needs of such an electorate.

Indisputable are the ties which bind the outer metropolitan areas of the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains; our traditional custodians, common colonial history, indisputable economic, social, transportation and communication links and moreover, our outer metropolitan contiguity. The Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains regions satisfy every consideration pertaining to Sections 66(3) and 66 (3A) (b) (I), (ii), (iv), (v) of the Electoral Act in the redistribution of boundaries for the Federal Electoral Division of Macquarie.