



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1049

Name: PORT STEPHENS COUNCIL

Page(s): 8

*Telephone Inquiries
Ann Edwards
General Manager's Office
Please Quote File No:
PSC2006-1682*

The Office of the Australian Electoral Officer
for New South Wales
Level 1, Roden Cutler House
24 Campbell Street
HAYMARKET NSW 2000

Email: nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au

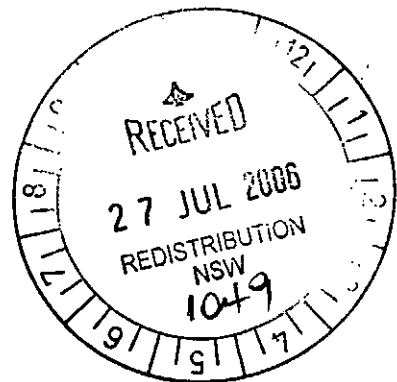
Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Objection to the Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in
New South Wales**

Please find enclosed the Council's objection and supporting submission to the proposed redistribution of the southern boundary of the Paterson federal election division.

Yours faithfully

**PETER GESLING
GENERAL MANAGER
PORT STEPHENS COUNCIL**



Objection by the Port Stephens Council to the Proposed Federal Electoral Division Boundaries of Newcastle and Paterson, New South Wales.

Executive Summary

Currently, the Port Stephens local government area, including its administrative centre, Raymond Terrace, is contained completely within the federal electorate of Paterson. This has been the case at least since the early 1990s.

The current federal member has identified Raymond Terrace as the natural base for their electorate office.

The changes proposed and recently exhibited by the AEC Redistribution Committee for NSW would see the local government area split between the federal electorates of Newcastle and Paterson.

Specifically, the Port Stephens localities of Raymond Terrace, Campvale, Williamtown, Heatherbrae, Tomago, Fullerton Cove and Fern Bay would be moved out of Paterson and into Newcastle.

Such a split would, in the council's opinion, remove from the Paterson electorate its most densely populated town. It would also sever the natural and historical link between the council area's twin population centres of Raymond Terrace and Nelson Bay.

As a consequence, Port Stephens Council by a unanimous, bi partisan, vote of Councillors has adopted a Mayoral Minute objecting to this proposed change.

The Council submits that the above localities can and should remain in Paterson for the reasons and on the grounds set out in the Mayoral Minute (attached). These grounds and reasons are based on the criteria set out in Section 66 (3) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, 1918.

Splitting the Port Stephens local government area to achieve the redistribution is not necessary.

The means by which Raymond Terrace, Campvale, Williamtown, Heatherbrae, Tomago, Fullerton Cove and Fern Bay can be retained in Paterson is by including in the Newcastle electorate a corresponding number of Paterson electors from the Maitland local government area. Maitland local government area is already split between two federal electorates.

Retention of Raymond Terrace, Campvale, Williamtown, Heatherbrae, Tomago, Fullerton Cove and Fern Bay in the Paterson electorate is wholly consistent with Section 66(3), as is the inclusion of the south western portion of the Maitland local government area in the Newcastle electorate.

ENDS



"Ann Edwards"
<ann.edwards@portstephens.nsw.gov.au>
27/07/2006 03:15 PM

To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>
cc
bcc
Subject FW: Submission from Port Stephens Council
Classification Unclassified

Additional information for this submission.

Thank you.

From: Ann Edwards
Sent: Thursday, 27 July 2006 3:02 PM
To: 'nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au'
Subject: Submission from Port Stephens Council
Importance: High

Please find attached Council's submission. Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Thank you.

Ann Edwards

Executive Assistant
General Manager's Office
Port Stephens Council

Ph: 0249800246
Fax: 0249831918

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Electoral Boundary Redistribution Objection.doc Electoral Boundaries.doc

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ENDS

MAYORAL MINUTE

ITEM NO. 2

FILE NO: A2004-0216/PSC2006-1682

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

THAT COUNCIL:

Tender a submission in the terms referred to in the background of this Mayoral Minute, to the Australian Electoral Commission objecting to the proposed redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries.

BACKGROUND

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has exhibited for public comment proposed fresh Federal Electoral Boundaries. If adopted as proposed, the changes would see Raymond Terrace, Williamtown and that part of Port Stephens south to the Hunter River included in the Federal seat of Newcastle. Currently this part of the Port Stephens Local Government Area is wholly part of the Paterson Federal Electorate.

The AEC has invited written objections to the proposal closing 6:00 pm Friday 28th July, 2006.

In making the proposed redistribution the Federal Redistribution Committee is obliged to give consideration to the following:

- 1) community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests
- 2) means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division
- 3) the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division

Analysis of the electoral boundary maps and the census collector district enrolment data, indicates that it would be possible to retain the southern portion of the Port Stephens Local Government Area within the Federal Electorate of Paterson by expanding the Federal Electorate of Newcastle north/west into the Maitland Local Government Area.

That is to say, remove a corresponding number of electors out of the proposed Paterson Electorate into Newcastle and that number of electors out of Newcastle into Paterson.

In terms of the above consideration, reasons for including more of the south east area of the Maitland LGA in the Newcastle Electorate include:

- a) The Hunter River is the natural northern boundary of the Newcastle Electorate from, say, Morpeth downstream to the Newcastle Harbour and Fullerton Cove

b) The identification of Newcastle, after Maitland, as the nearest regional city for this part of the Maitland LGA

c) This is also supported by the apparent premise in the proposed boundaries that there is no particular affinity between this area – on the west of the river - and the next nearest population centre on the east, Raymond Terrace. Conversely, the argument can be strongly put that, as the administrative centre of Port Stephens, Raymond Terrace has a strong affinity with Williamtown and the Tilligerry and Tomaree Peninsula's via Richardson and Nelson Bay Roads

d) The more direct and stronger community of interest of the south east area of Maitland is to Newcastle by multiple continuous connections of the river, the New England Highway and the Great Northern rail line. This appears a stronger case than saying that Raymond Terrace and Williamtown have an affinity with Newcastle. Neither Raymond Terrace nor Williamtown have a rail connection. Both rely on bridges to cross the Hunter to get to Maitland and Newcastle.

Attachment 1

Proposed Electoral Boundary Changes

ATTACHMENT 1

