The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES

Public Objection Number: 1836

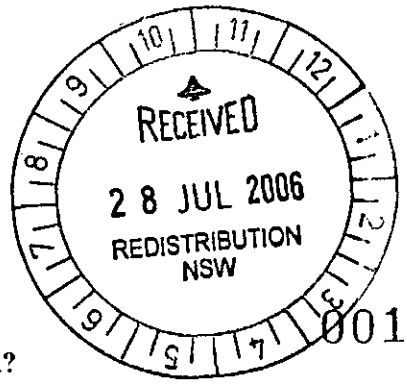
Name: Ms Elizabeth Boesel

Page(s): 6

This Objection consisted of 3 pages of text and 3 pages of newspaper clippings. The pages containing the newspaper clippings may be viewed at the office of the Redistribution Secretariat, Level 4, Roden Cutler House, 24 –28 Campbell Street, Sydney.

74 Honiton Avenue,
Carlingford, 2118

July 25, 2006



001836

Australian Electoral Officer for New South Wales,
Australian Electoral Commission for New South Wales,
Level 1, Roden Cutler House,
24 Campbell Street,
HAYMARKET. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Electoral Officer,

When is Parramatta not Parramatta?

The proposed redistribution of the Federal Seat of Parramatta is just this. As outlined in your newspaper advertisements of July 2, 2006 I must lodge the strongest objections and support the existing boundaries as being logical.

I have lived in the Parramatta Local Government Area since August 1967 in two of the wards, first Granville, then Dundas (now renamed). I have particular interests in planning, transport, the environment, heritage, bushland and the community and indeed, served on the Parramatta City Council. This last, has focused my attention on the difficulties of representation for constituents and co-operation between elected representatives at all levels of government. Obviously, there will be conflicts in priorities for Parramatta to its future development and cohesiveness. So I must ask, what is the purpose of this particular proposed redistribution for Parramatta? Other than 'hate', my thesaurus has failed me.

Numbers of electors
As explained to me over the telephone the maximum/minimum number in urban seats, this may be achieved easily by minor tweaking. Further, with medium density housing rampaging through our local government area those numbers are rapidly out-of-date as are the numbers of electors living in and close to our Parramatta CBD. This focus is seemingly the medium to destroy the city, its cohesiveness, its centrepoint, services and transport hub to its catchment area. For elector numbers a line can be drawn almost anywhere. But . . . . .

Politically
The proposed redistribution is so ludicrous as to inspire further investigation as to its purpose. Surely it is to confuse voters who will be so frustrated next election day as to give up and not be able to vote due to closure of the rolls from the date the election is called and insufficiently informed about absentee voting.

Representation
Where electoral boundaries deny constituents the most obvious access to their representative, dictated by transport and service centres and now the Metropolitan Strategy, there will be less resolution of problems and assistance which can be provided by a Federal Member, as people are more and more time poor. Constituents are being denied.

Inconsistency
There appears to be many boundaries formed by rivers and where there are harbours, both sides are included in the one electorate. Why? Ease of administration and representation. Yet for Parramatta, the boundary lines run up the Parramatta Harbour (it is not a river, it is salt and tidal), up to the westward extension to Bennelong before defying logic.

Community
Losing of the Parramatta CBD is ludicrous. Seven Hills belongs to Blacktown as the focus of most residents (and voters – I had family living there) through transport links and closeness to

some services, are naturally drawn to that centre. Community is more closely aligned with the Local Government boundaries because of the uniqueness of Parramatta historically, the agreed amalgamation (in 1949) of Dundas, Ermington and Granville Municipal Councils.

Heritage
Parramatta losing Parramatta's and the nation's heritage is ludicrous. It is Parramatta! Parramatta Park, Old Government House, Lancer Barracks, Roseneath Cottage, Experiment Farm, Elizabeth Farm, Hambledon Cottage, all the little excavated stone kerbs, drains, walls,

Geographic and population catchments
Topography, water catchments and sub-catchments (where I live we have westerly flowing creeks and rivers). The topography leads toward Parramatta, the creeks lead toward Parramatta, this has defined the transport routes over two centuries and our centre is Parramatta.

Water catchments and our creeks, pollution, erosion, sedimentation, loss of habitat are major issues. These matters have to be dealt with as a whole.

The CBD cannot be divided. How senseless is that for efficient administration, representation, transport and community?

The amalgamation of the three municipal councils with Parramatta in 1949 was a unity of purpose, geographic proximity for services and communications/transport. Nothing has changed.

Where difference is stark it is Reid, and it is topographic. It is very flat as opposed to the northern harbour bank which is hilly and undulating. There are quite different issues to be dealt with on both sides. The exception is having common policies and priorities at the upper harbour where both banks are obviously almost the same height and interaction of habitat, recreation and development must be environmentally sound, sensitive to the other bank, particularly as the width of the water body decreases in the Local Government Area in and east of Parramatta. Bridges are one issue.

Geography and topography are not likely to change other than in geological time, and require unity of purpose, interest, priorities and commitment are essential. Basic business principles?

Icons
CBD, Heritage, Parramatta, UWS, Centrelink, Westmead Hospital, Parramatta Justice Centre, our Library, Heritage Centre and theatre, the upper 'river' and industry. The medical and legal specialists and the Blood Bank.

Servicing the needs of the public – the role of Government and its representatives
Unity of purpose and interest. Your proposed redistribution undermines every aspect of public need I can think of. Easy transport radiating to the hub which contains the non-discretionary public services, administrative, recreational, heritage, business, commerce, health specialities, services, specialists and consultants. How do we electors strike common purpose when we have to deal with several Federal Members, councillors and the State Member? As more and more people are increasingly time poor, ever more difficulties are being contrived to impede rightful contact with the appropriate person. This contrivance is undemocratic and thus unsupportable.

Inter-governmental co-operation/negotiations?
These will be a minefield. Where federal representation is required, this will involve more members, not necessarily with unity of purpose or priorities, to the detriment of Local Government carrying out its functions. It will require Local Government to negotiate with many more players who have no/little interest in Parramatta as it now is. A member with constituents to the north and north-east of the Parramatta CBD has issues from those people who depend upon Parramatta for a multiplicity of purposes, yet who technically (only) has not interest or investment in the Parramatta CBD, its heritage, services and transport.

Your proposal is administratively unsupportable. Non-productive and totally inefficient.

Revenue raising and distribution
Flowing from the previous paragraph, the Local Government raises revenues from its area and has a couple of special levies which apply only to specific geographic areas. Where grants or other assistance is being sought from the Commonwealth Government, there has to be a unity of purpose and priority of that local government area with the federal representative. To have a meeting with the Commonwealth Government over concerns and representations to that government for co-operative spending should the redistribution proceed, will involve a number of federal representatives who may have completely different priorities to that Local Government and the people who use the centre, the facilities, and naturally focus on the Parramatta Centre. This redistribution raises the spectre of major conflicts of interests to the detriment of Parramatta. No facet of this proposed redistribution is acceptable – it borders on the irrational.

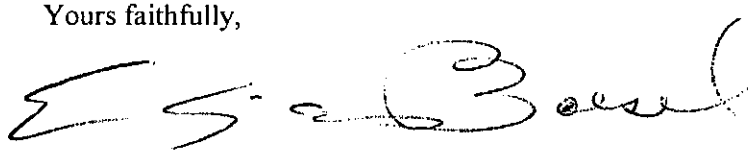
Lack of interest, commitment and my fear
It pains me to say this, but it is only in the interests of Parramatta Centre that I do so. Ever since taking an interest in local politics and being an alderman, the only time I have seen any local government representatives from the Reid area, attending anything in Parramatta Centre or elsewhere in the city, has been when one of them has been Lord Mayor. Then it is only the Lord Mayor in attendance.

This is of major concern and I have observed this over almost 40 years. Representatives out of Reid have changed over that time but the principle still seems to be the same.

I fear for Parramatta, its identity, focus and cohesive move into the future. No proposal can be so destructive of a community as this one you have advertised, and the administrative difficulties and conflicts it foreshadows.

With no alternative proposal, I must the support the existing boundaries.

Yours faithfully,



Elizabeth Boesel

Encl. Some newspaper clippings