



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES

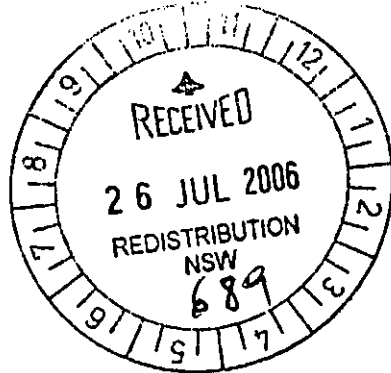


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**Public Objection Number: 689**

**Name: Mr Howard CRAWFORD JP**

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 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2006.

The Redistribution Committee,  
 24 Campbell Street,  
 Haymarket, NSW, 2000.

Re: Proposed Redistribution for the Federal Seat of Macquarie

I wish to lodge an objection to the proposed Redistribution to the Federal Seat of Macquarie under Sections 66(3) & 66(3A) of the Electoral Act, on the basis of community interest, communication and travel and topographic features.

To commence, myself and other interested parties have met and discussed the herein before said Boundary Redistribution as it is the consensus that a number of relevant issues have been overlooked by the Redistribution Committee. Significantly but not exclusively, the Pre-European approximate boundary formed by the Blue Mountains and constituting a prominent topographic feature recognised by both the Daruk Aboriginal people and the Wiradjuri Aboriginal people has been totally disregarded. Effectively this new boundary realignment would divide the incumbent Member's efforts between two very distinctive Aboriginal Tribes that have very specific agendas and requirements unique to their respective Tribe.

Let us examine firstly the efforts by persons the like of Stan Grant Snr and John Elder under the guidance of the Wiradjuri Council of Elders to re-introduce their language to 'their' region and the numerous Court Challenges pertaining to Native Title in the region West of the Great Divide to understand that even modern day Aboriginals still recognise their boundaries both topographically and culturally. Escalating from this point we see numerous Native Title Court Challenges, most notably HIS21 Brennan 1992 with particular reference to the Ngunawal, Wiradjuri and Arrente Nations.

The question I pose is that if the Courts recognise the Native Boundaries (see Map enclosed) as limiting then why should we place an incumbent Member in the position of having to service two very distinctive Aboriginal groups. Understand that the Daruk as Eastern Plains dwellers are far more assimilated (yet still culturally connected) whereas the Wiradjuri as Western Plains dwellers are not as assimilated owing to the later date of European Colonisation and lower numerical European settlement patterns West of the Divide. The poverty and lack of opportunities for these Western Aboriginals have been witnessed first hand by myself when residing and farming West of the Divide and I can assure your Committee that an overlap of these two groups is totally irresponsible and Culturally disadvantageous to both groups, as such I would urge that you consult directly with the Elders of each Tribe before proceeding any further with this Redistribution, as the Aboriginal issues will become a 'blur' and will not be addressed correctly because of their complexity.

(2).

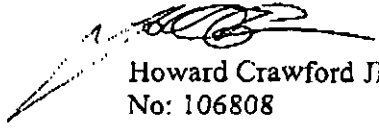
Setting the Aboriginal issues to one side now, we should look at the conflicts and duplication of effort by any incumbent Member of Parliament with regard to the consultation with the various controlling Diocese both East and West of the Blue Mountains. The Member would need to consult with both Bathurst and Sydney Diocese in the case of both the Roman Catholic and Anglican Church Synods alone, not to mention others. Essentially the Member would have to effectively duplicate all activities within the new boundaries and again the community would lose out as the Member fails to deliver as a result of time constraints.

Historically people East of the Blue Mountains have gravitated towards Sydney and the Coast (read the numerous historical accounts with emphasis on the Hawkesbury River Trade) whilst those West of the Blue Mountains have gravitated to the major Western Towns like Bathurst. This is still evident even today with people on the Blue Mountains seeking work locally or travelling East whilst those on the Western side stay West. This issue is so blatantly obvious that only this year the Hon Ian Armstrong MP reignited his push for a Highway through the Blue Mountains to link East with West and one can only wonder if the Electoral Commission via the Redistribution Committee will way into the folly of aiding our Infrastructure decline by inadequate planning of policy.

Whilst on the subject of Infrastructure, perhaps our biggest concern is WATER. I wonder what logic would there be in removing such a significant piece of the Hawkesbury/Nepean Catchment from the Federal Seat of Macquarie? Admittedly some of the Upper Catchment area remains but why divide this huge Infrastructure issue of National significance? This is probably one of the biggest issues facing the Nation and requires a consultative holistic approach over the entire Catchment, as currently defined. This is a Multi-Billion dollar issue and if it means at worst case scenario that we have to keep another Seat then it is a cheap, very cheap price compared with the Billions that must be spent over time on the Water Infrastructure Issue. The price is even cheaper if we get it right and have a Member capable of delivering first time without being divided between these ranges of issues. To be honest, the Member would have to be a total Schizophrenic to be able to come to terms with the issues within this Redistributed Seat. Think about it, Rivers to the East and Dams to the West, Sheep farmers at Bathurst and hippies in the Mountains, Miners around Lithgow and commuters to Sydney at Hazelbrook, a retired Millionaire at Leura and an impoverished Aboriginal child needing all the help the child can get in the Central West

In summary, and please keep in mind that these are far from all the issues, though they are the issues I consider serious. So tell me how only one Member could properly service such a Seat, especially with the Infrastructure degradation in its present form?

Yours faithfully,



Howard Crawford JP NSW  
No: 106808

# "Aboriginal Australia"

This Map defines the original territories enjoyed by Aboriginal Tribes (Language Groups)

Maps 120\*83cm



ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA



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