



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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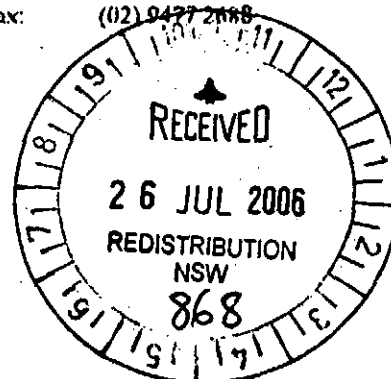
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26 July 2006

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

On fax: 9212 2208

Dear Members of the Committee,



I would like to offer the following comments on the 2006 Proposed Redistribution of New South Wales Federal Divisions.

At the outset, I accept that as happened in 1992, which saw New South Wales lose one seat (when the Divisions of Dundas and Phillip were abolished and Paterson was re-created) it follows that there must be a substantial realignment of electors into the remaining Divisions. However, in the case of this Redistribution, the Committee appears to have taken a "broad brush" approach, with little (if any) consideration for the effect of the outcome. In many instances, one is left with the conclusion that the redrawn boundaries have been achieved by relocation of CCDs and fail to address the guidelines that the Committee was required to take into account, including community of interests, communication and transport links, natural features and existing boundaries.

The abolition of Gwydir and merger of the greater proportion of displaced electors into the expanded Division of Parkes has created a huge flow-on affect across many divisions within the State. Coupled with this has been the need to "prop up" other divisions, such as Mackellar, North Sydney and Reid; this has produced a cascading effect within a number of surrounding divisions, including those adjoining the Division of Berowra, within which I am enrolled.

Berowra was created at the 1968 redistribution, with electors being drawn from the adjoining Divisions of Bradfield and Mitchell, as well as from Robertson (which was shifted to the north of the Hawkesbury River, to become a Central Coast-based seat).

Since creation, Berowra has been based on Hornsby Shire. I am aware that the 1977 and 1984 redistributions saw the seat moved to the south and east (mainly due to the creation of Dundas in 1977), to include parts of the Upper North Shore. However, the 1992 (when Dundas was abolished) and 2000 redistributions reversed this movement, with urban and semi-rural areas being gained from Mitchell. Currently, Berowra has natural boundaries on three sides, namely the Hawkesbury River to the north, Cowan Creek and the Sydney-Newcastle Freeway to the east and O'Hara's Creek to the west.

The Committee's decision (as outlined at paragraph 174 on page 30 of its Report) to move the current Berowra-Bradfield boundary west from the Sydney-Newcastle Freeway to the Pacific

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Highway and north to Ku-ring-gai Chase Road will result in excess of 9,000 electors being shifted into Bradfield, where they have no community of interests, or communication and transport links. In fact, those electors residing in Asquith, parts of Hornsby and Mount Colah are geographically isolated from their proposed new electorate, as there is no crossing over the Freeway between Edgeworth David Avenue and the proposed northern boundary at Ku-ring-gai Chase Road.

This move will also result in the greater part of the Hornsby Central Business District being moved out of the Division within which it is historically based and into a seat that is clearly North Shore-based. It will also split Hornsby in two, as previously existed between 1991 and 1999, when the boundaries of the State Districts of Kuring-gai and Northcott ran along the North Shore Railway line as far as Bridge Road.

In addition, the electoral offices of the Federal and State Members for Berowra and Hornsby will also be located within Bradfield.

Aside from the questionable logic of this decision, there is the matter of Federal and State electoral boundaries being redrawn and again being "out of kilter" with each other. When State electoral districts were redrawn in 2005, the Hornsby's boundary with Ku-ring-gai was altered to run from the Freeway along Edgeworth David Avenue to the Main Northern Railway line, and then follow the railway to Duffy Avenue at Thornleigh (which was the previous southern boundary for Hornsby was where Dartford Road crosses the Main Northern Railway line).

Conversely, the proposed Federal boundary will run down the Pacific Highway from Ku-ring-gai Chase Road, through Asquith and the western side of Hornsby, splitting the TAFE College and the shopping centre in two and then through Waitara and Wahroonga to Pearce's Corner, where it will regain the existing boundary with Bradfield.

So, yet again, we will have the confusing situation of electors being enrolled as follows:

Federal Division	State District
Berowra	Hornsby (Asquith, Hornsby, Mount Colah)
Berowra	Kuring-gai (Normanhurst and Waitara)
Berowra	Epping (Normanhurst and Thornleigh)
Bradfield	Hornsby (Asquith, Hornsby, Mount Colah)

I can assure Committee members that working on a Polling Booth where there is a misalignment of Federal and State electoral boundaries is very trying, for polling officers and electors.

A similar situation to the above will exist if the proposed changes for the Division of Parramatta (which was created at Federation) are allowed to go ahead. Like Hornsby, that city's Central Business District will no longer be located within the division bearing its name, but will be placed within the proposed Division of Reid, which is currently based on Lidcombe, Auburn and Granville. Reid will also cross the natural boundary of the Parramatta River, to take in Rydalmere, Dundas and Rosehill.

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I therefore call upon the Committee to:

- seriously review the decision to transfer electors located in Asquith, Hornsby and Mount Colah into Bradfield; and
- put the Hornsby Central Business District back into Berowra, where it rightly belongs.

If there is still a need to transfer electors into Bradfield, then I suggest that the Committee takes into account the State Electoral District changes and aligns the Federal boundaries with those for Hornsby and Kuring-gai, to run from the Sydney-Newcastle Freeway along Hedgesworth David Avenue to the Main Northern Railway line. This would then logically place Normanhurst and Waitara in both Bradfield and Kuring-gai.

I would also suggest that the Committee review the decision to locate the Parramatta Central Business District within the proposed Division of Reid.

I note that the Redistribution Committee for Queensland received 189 objections to that state's proposed redistribution, where an additional seat has been created. Given the outcome announced on 30 June 2006, I am sure that Redistribution Committee for New South Wales can expect a similar number of objections and comments to be lodged by the end of this week.

Yours sincerely



Col Gilbertson RFD