



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Comments on Public Objections – Comment No: 3

Name: Ms Kerry McFADYEN

Page(s): 6



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Pinetrees

Lord Howe Island

NSW 2898

5th July 2006

Ms. Karen Houston
Senior Project Officer
Redistribution Secretariat
FAX 9212 2208



Dear Ms. Houston,

Thank you for your receipt of submission data 3/8/06. I was surprised you did not receive my comments until 31/7/06. I sent you letter & an identical one to Mr Bob Debus on 11/7/06. He replied on 19/7/06, as per the following fax.

I would be obliged if you would accept my submission as a comment on objections.

Yours sincerely,

Kerry McFadden
(KERRY MCFADDEN, not
Keryn McFadden).

+61 2 6563 2156



NEW SOUTH WALES

ATTORNEY GENERAL

19 July, 2006

Kerry McFadyen
Pinetrees Lodge
Lord Howe Island, NSW 2898

Dear Ms McFadyen,

The NSW Attorney General, the Hon Bob Debus, has asked me to thank you for your recent letter regarding the proposed Federal redistribution and its effect on Lord Howe Island.

As the Australian Electoral Council is an independent body, the Attorney General has no jurisdiction over decisions regarding electoral boundaries. I have forwarded your letter to the Redistribution Committee of NSW, which is handling public comments regarding the proposed boundaries. Please see the attached material for further information.

In addition, you may wish to send a copy of your correspondence to Tanya Plibersek MP, who I'm sure would appreciate your views. Her mailing address is:

422 Crown St
Surry Hills NSW 2010

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Camille Scaysbrook".

Camille Scaysbrook
Assistant Private Secretary



Pinetrees Lodge
Lord Howe Island NSW 2898

11 July 2006

The Electoral Commissioner
Australian Electoral Commission
PO Box 20014
World Square NSW 2002

Dear Sir,

I wish to object to the submission by the National Party of Australia (NSW) to include Lord Howe Island in the Federal seat of Lyne. Many of their assertions as reported in our local paper (the Signal) are totally incorrect.

- 1 Lord Howe residents very rarely use Port Macquarie for medical services. I've lived on the island for over 60 years and have never used the medical facilities there. Sydney or Brisbane are the cities of choice for treatment.
- 2 In the mid 1970s, soon after the airstrip was built, we had an air link via Oxley Airlines, who very kindly did look after the local children. Now, those who board go to Sydney or Brisbane. At present, the only link is an intermittent freight service in a small plane, which is hardly the basis for an electoral change.
- 3 The Island Trader operates from Yamba and, as far as we know, there are no immediate plans to change. Again, it is no basis for changing us to Lyne.
- 4 I (for one) never listen to ABC radio from Port. Despite having the same prefix (02 65), we still have to pay STD rates, if we ring the mainland.
- 5 The 'anomaly' referred to is that we were moved from the Sydney electorate where we had always been, and dumped in Port Macquarie. Many islanders disapproved, but we were not given a chance to object.

In addition, the vast bulk of our tourists (even the ones booked by Oxley Travel in Port Macquarie) come from Sydney. Also, our mail services, newspapers, and the island liquor supply etc.

Pinetrees is the largest guest house on the island. All our dry goods, furniture, kitchen equipment, building materials, cleaning chemicals also come from Sydney. We opened a travel agency in the Sydney CBD 17 years ago. They send us bookings and interview staff for us. Thus our business connections are not in Port Macquarie.

Lastly, I strongly object to losing Tanya Plibersek as our Federal Member. She has been a tower of strength for the Island people in Federal matters. She regularly visits the Island and always holds sessions in the public hall for constituents to consult her. She has been instrumental in improving the postal service and ensuring the continuation of the local pharmacy when it was threatened to close by the NSW government.

I am extremely perturbed by the suggestion we should be moved to Lyne. I request we stay in Sydney, and move our State electorate to Sydney as well. It makes sense to have one's State and Federal members in the same place, namely Sydney, as was traditional.

Yours sincerely,

Kerry McFadyen



Copies to: Dr Tony Fleming, Chairman, Lord Howe Island Board
Mr Barney Nichols, Vice-Chairman, Lord Howe Island Board
The Hon Bob Debus, Minister for the Environment

THE LORD HOWE ISLAND

SIGNAL

Volume 6 Number 11

7 July 2006

Price \$3.00

ELECTORAL CHANGE: PUSH TO MOVE LORD HOWE ISLAND INTO THE FEDERAL SEAT OF LYNE

In 2005, NSW's entitlement of 50 House of Representatives seats was reduced by one division due to population changes, triggering the redrawing of electoral boundaries in the state.

On 30 June 2006, following receipt of submissions and responses thereto by interested parties, the Redistribution Committee for NSW released its report ("the Report") for public scrutiny. The Electoral Commissioner and Chair of the Committee, Mr Ian Campbell, said: "The consultative nature of the redistribution process continues with individuals and organisations now able to lodge objections to the Committee's proposed objections.

The Report contained the following submission by the National Party of Australia (NSW).

"The inclusion of Lord Howe Island in Sydney division has been an anomaly for some time. Under State boundaries Lord Howe Island is part of the Port Macquarie Electorate and the Island maintains strong links with the Port Macquarie community. Lord Howe Island is situated 500km due east of Port Macquarie and 700km northeast from Sydney.

"Lord Howe Island residents use Port Macquarie as their main centre for medical services, education for school students, and general goods and services. A major decision has taken place in recent times to relocate the Lord Howe Island Trading Company [sic] to Port Macquarie and QantasLink is beginning a Port Macquarie-Lord Howe Island service.

"Residents of Lord Howe Island also listen to ABC Radio broadcast from Port Macquarie. Further, Lord Howe Islanders share the same telephone prefix (065) with Port Macquarie.

"Given the increasing links between Lord Howe Island and Port Macquarie it makes sense to unite the communities of interest and ensure they are within the same division."

The Report contained a response from Tanya Pjibersek, MP, Federal Member for Sydney.

Tanya stated: "I am writing ... to formally respond to some incorrect information about Lord Howe Island (LHI) provide by the National Party's submission ..."

Tanya made the following points:

- LHI residents are much more likely to go to Sydney for medical treatment, especially veterans, who use Sydney repatriation hospitals.
- LHI's medical services are covered by the South East Sydney Area health Service.
- Sydney is where Islanders obtain their pharmaceutical medicine from the mainland ...
- LHI residents often have children in boarding schools on the mainland, most likely to be in Sydney – in the city and inner suburbs of Sydney.

(continued next page)

Push to move Lord Howe Island into the federal seat of Lyne

- All postal mail is delivered to the Island by Australia Post from Sydney.
- LHI residents who come to the mainland for other reasons – eg to do personal or business shopping or for a holiday – stay in Sydney, not Port Macquarie.
- LHI is supplied with Sydney newspapers daily – never, to my knowledge, Port Macquarie papers.
- Mainland meetings with the LHI Board of Trustees and the NSW Government occur in Sydney, not Port Macquarie.

Tanya wrote: "To my knowledge, the only real link between LHI and Port Macquarie is a postal service boat (that runs once every 3 weeks), carries goods for sale on the Island and bulky mail (parcels), but never passengers".

"In the distant past there was a regional passenger service to the Island from Port Macquarie. This is no longer the case. Instead, Qantas/Sunshine Express are the only passenger service flying to the Island and there are no direct flights between Port Macquarie and LHI. Indirect travel from Port Macquarie to LHI is only possible on weekends and requires passengers to travel via Sydney, Brisbane or both!

"I believe there are many reasons for LHI's continued inclusion in the Federal Division of Sydney. The Committee, in its deliberation, might note that:

- Since Federation, LHI has only ever been represented by federal Sydney metropolitan electorates.
- Since its inception in 1968, the Federal Division of Sydney has always represented LHI.
- [The] Perceived link with Port Macquarie is spurious at best: the absence of a direct flight path between LHI and Port Macquarie negates any argument about which centre is closer (LHI is located 702 km northeast of Sydney and approximately 500 km east of Port Macquarie) and demonstrates that these two centres are in fact, not "linked" at all.
- No resident of LHI has requested a change in federal representation in either this redistribution or in the 1999 redistribution. (*In 1999, the AEC rejected the same submission regarding incorporating LHI in Lyne from the Nationals – Ed.*)

"In the 8 years that I have been representing LHI – visiting annually and corresponding regularly with the LHI Board, organisations and residents – no one has ever expressed a view – formally or informally – that LHI should be removed from the Federal Division of Sydney, nor that the Island be incorporated into Lyne."

Written objections must be lodged with the Australian Electoral Commission, PO Box 20014, World Square, NSW 2002, by 28 July 2006.

LHI BOARD'S BUDGET 2006-7: REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS

"Expenditure Highlights" were published in the last edition. On the revenue side, gross estimated income is \$7.55 million, derived from:

Fees & Charges: Will raise \$2.01 million from Perpetual Lease and Special Lease rentals, Permissive Occupancy rentals and Visitor levies and charges.

Grant Revenue: These are expected to total \$2.83 million, with major items including \$516,000 from the Environment Trust, \$590,000 from the National heritage Trust, \$1.342 million from the Community Service Obligation from the NSW Treasury, and \$175,000 under the Remote Renewable Power Generation program.

Trading Activities: Gross revenue of \$2.11 million will come from the Liquor Store (\$1.28 million) and the Nursery (\$830,000).

Investments: Will realize approximately another \$388,000.