

COMMENT ON PUBLIC SUGGESTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Comment on Public Suggestion Number 10

by

Councillor David Redmond

2 Pages

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The Redistribution Committee N.S.W
P.O Box K406, Haymarket. 1240

Sir/Madam, I would like to comment on a proposed possible redistribution of the Federal Seat of Hughes. I have represented a large portion of the area at a Local Government area for 14 years including two terms as Mayor of the Sutherland Shire. (Sept. 2006- Sept. 2008)

I do not believe it would be in the best interests of Residents of the Sutherland Shire or those of the Wollongong Shire for the seat of Hughes to be redistributed so that it becomes primarily a Wollongong/Campbelltown seat with a component of the Sutherland Shire.

There is not a strong community commonality of interest between say, Sutherland, Engadine, Heathcote and Wollongong.

Firstly, services and their respective funding are not planned or co-ordinated at a Local Level. Nor is there any need to. The most obvious example of this is the Southern Sydney Region of Council's. (SSROC) This is a group of Councils mainly from the Kogarah/Botany and Sutherland Shire Area which meet regularly to discuss regional planning and policy as well as co-ordinating joint purchasing ventures and the sharing of services. SSROC has an annual operating budget and a number of full time staff.

I am not aware of regional planning at a State level, which deals with housing, employment and business development for instance, being undertaken. A good example of this is the Sydney Regional Metro Strategies initiated by the Minister for Planning. The Southern Regional Metro Strategy closely parallels an area covered by SSROC. Wollongong City has its own separate strategy. (*The Illawarra Regional Strategy.*)

Very few people work and commute between Wollongong and the Sutherland Shire. Only 4.9% of Residents living in Wollongong City commute to the Sutherland Shire. Conversely, so few Residents of

Sutherland Shire work in Wollongong City that statistics are not readily available. For example, it is below the first 10 travel destinations for our Resident workers and whatever the figure may be, below 1.4%.

For a constituent to travel to a future M.H.R's electorate office by public transport, if it were to remain in Sutherland or relocate to Wollongong, it could only be reached by using an infrequent inter-city express.

The large and beautiful tracts of National Park and Crown land that distance the Sutherland Shire from the equally enticing suburbs of the South Coast form a natural boundary. This is greater than and hopefully as permanent as any of the rivers that separate our other communities of Sydney.

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ⁱ Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, journey to work, 2006