

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 3

by

Dennis and Maureen O'Brien

1 Pages

From: Den and Maude O'Brien [dobba.maude@bigpond.com]
Sent: Sunday, 9 August 2009 10:12 PM
To: NSW Redistribution
Subject: OBJECTION TO HEATHCOTE BEING PART OF CUNNINGHAM ELECTORATE

We suggest it would be a gross misrepresentation of voters interests in Heathcote and Wollongong to be combined into a Heathcote and Wollongong electorate (ie Cunningham).

Our reasons are:

- 1) Metropolitan rail services (used by Heathcote residents) finish at Waterfall not Wollongong. Very few Wollongong destined trains stop at Heathcote – the nearest stop from the city is Helensburgh. Heathcote residents cannot catch a train from Wollongong to the city - they do not stop at Heathcote.
- 2) Heathcote residents shop at Engadine, Heathcote and Miranda – not Wollongong and Wollongong residents do not shop at Heathcote.
- 3) residents in Heathcote generally do not send their children to Wollongong schools and visa versa
- 4) Heathcote residents generally play their sport in the Sutherland Shire – not the Wollongong area
- 5) Heathcote is part of the Sutherland Shire culture and mindset. The voters in Wollongong are equally proud of their city and their beautiful coastal area. One of the foundations the AEC gives for proposed changes are 'natural boundaries' but surely it is more important to delineate electorates based on social demographics and being part of a local community with common interests.
- 6) I'm sure if you polled Heathcote residents they will vote against being joined with Wollongong interests and I'm sure Wollongong voters will be equally against joining with Heathcote.
- 7) Heathcote is a stone's throw from Engadine – my daughter lives in Engadine and I can see her house from mine. Engadine is still part of Hughes

We implore the AEC to carefully reconsider the proposal to combine Heathcote with Wollongong into the Cunningham Electorate and leave Heathcote as part of Hughes.

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