

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number **11**

by

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8 Pages

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Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
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Dear Members,

Objection to Redistribution for New South Wales

I wish to make an objection to the redistribution proposals of the Committee.

Introduction

I would like to note the considerable areas of agreement between proposals of mine and those of the committee, in particular:

- The abolition of a Sydney Division;
- Creation of the Division of McMahon in place of the Division of Lowe;
- The reinstatement of the Blue Mountains as a boundary (which existed before the last redistribution and since the early 1980's);
- Changes to Grayndler, consistent with my proposals;
- Lack of changes to Richmond and Wentworth consistent with my proposals;
- Considerable agreement with Page, Cowper, Lyne, New England, Farrer, Robertson, Dobell, Newcastle, Shortland, Charlton, Lindsay, Macquarie; and
- Some similarity with Hume, Calare, Riverina, Hunter, Paterson, Cook, Kingsford-Smith, Sydney, Parkes.

My areas of disagreement with the committee I have grouped together, as the issues are cumulative, as follows:

- Mackellar, Warringah, Bradfield, North Sydney, Bennelong, Berowra, and Bennelong, Greenway, Mitchell, Parramatta;
- Macarthur, Werriwa, Hughes, Cook, Fowler;
- Chifley, Prospect, McMahon, Barton, Watson, Banks, Blaxland, Reid, and
- Eden-Monaro, Gilmore, Riverina, Throsby, Cunningham.

Detail

In my proposal I had suggested the abolition of the Division of Greenway, this was a consequence of a substantial portion of the Division been transferred to Macquarie. I note the committee has arrived at a virtually identical proposal for Macquarie to mine, but has chosen to maintain Greenway but it requires considerable changes to other Divisions to do so.

The 2009 redistribution proposed by the committee substantially reverse the changes of the previous redistribution in relation to Macquarie, Greenway, Parkes, Calare, Eden-Monaro and Hume. In some respects the changes are consequential, changes to one Division necessitating changes in others.

North Coast

I had proposed no change in relation to Richmond and Page, and a small transfer from Cowper to Lyne, with no changes to Paterson. Whilst the committee's changes are quite modest and very much in line with my own, I have some reservations about the solution for Paterson, and had considered whether the townships of Williamstown and Tomago should be placed in Paterson. Both are part of Port Stephens. On balance the committee may have arrived at the best solution, noting that the quota does not permit a better solution by the use of the Hunter River exclusively as a boundary.

Central Coast

I have proposed no changes in relation to any of Hunter, Newcastle, Charlton, Shortland, Dobell and Robertson. The changes proposed are modest, and on balance I have no objections.

Country area

The committee has proposed solutions fairly in line with my proposals and New England, Calare, Parkes, Farrer are virtually identical. I had arrived at different solutions to Riverina, Hume, Eden-Monaro, and Gilmore to warrant comments later in this objection.

Illawarra

The committee noted the issues around the slow growth in the Illawarra. I had proposed different solutions which I will elaborate on later.

Eastern Suburbs

I had proposed no changes to each of Wentworth, Kingsford-Smith and Sydney. The minor change to Kingsford-Smith and Sydney may be unnecessary in time with the higher growth in Sydney relative to Kingsford-Smith.

Northern and north western suburbs

In relation to the northern part of Sydney, I had proposed much more substantial changes than that of the committee; this reflected the slower population growth of the area, plus seeking to make use of natural boundaries, such as the Parramatta River. The table below is the summation of the proposed populations I had proposed for the eight divisions (the percentages represent the proportion of quota).

My Proposal

Berowra	99328	101410	105.27%	102.53%
Warringah	98004	100335	103.87%	101.44%
Mackellar	98188	100731	104.06%	101.84%
North				
Sydney	97946	100799	103.81%	101.91%
Bradfield	94343	97657	99.99%	98.74%
Bennelong	97916	101912	103.78%	103.04%
Parramatta	93206	101699	98.78%	102.82%
Mitchell	93090	101755	98.66%	102.88%
	772021	806298		

Committees Proposal

Bennelong	95492	99139	1.21	0.23
Berowra	95750	98298	1.48	-0.62
Bradfield	94705	97441	0.37	-1.48
Mackellar	96733	99238	2.52	0.33
Mitchell	91467	98953	-3.06	0.05
North				
Sydney	95672	98956	1.40	0.05
Warringah	94710	97506	0.38	-1.42
Greenway	89921	98950	-4.70	0.04
	754450	788481		
Parramatta	91771	99464	-2.74	0.56

Allowing for differences in boundaries I have proposed that the eight divisions should in total be about 18,000 electors greater than proposed by the committee. I proposed that the westward displacement of boundaries be greater. I had proposed that the only unchanged Division be Bradfield, which was close to quota and experiencing reasonable growth.

Bennelong

In respect of Bennelong, I had proposed that some 13,000 electors in the Ryde area (east of Church St/Develin St including Gladesville, Putney, Ryde and Tennyson Point) from Bennelong. This is the least disruptive to both Bennelong and meets the numerical requirements for North Sydney.

As noted elsewhere Bennelong is moving slowly westwards with each redistribution. I had proposed to transfer those parts of Baulkham Hills in Parramatta and about 4,500 electors from Parramatta north east to Bennelong. This combined areas of similar socio economic interest and enables the movement of Bennelong to the west which enables transfers from Parramatta to Reid (I propose the retention of Reid) to follow fairly identifiable boundaries (either council boundaries such as including Ermington (from Parramatta council) in Reid), or main roads. Suburbs that would become part of Bennelong include Dundas Valley, Carlingford and Oatlands.

The difficulty with the Committee's proposals is that the failure to adjust Bennelong at this point of time will be exacerbated at a future redistribution, with much greater displacement required.

Mitchell/Greenway

I have provided some context below in relation to my original proposal for Mitchell, which took in the largest portion of Greenway not incorporated into Macquarie. I believe that this was a better long term and short term solution for the north west of Sydney.

An alternative proposition is the simple exchange of the 7,458 from Greenway to Chifley, for the 9,184 from Chifley to Greenway. This is a second best solution, but also reflects the differential growth rates of the two areas, with Greenway having much greater growth potential than Chifley.

Chifley	95483	100422
Marsden Park		
etc	-7458	-7884
Blacktown	9184	9699
	97209	102237
Greenway	89921	98950
Marsden Park		
etc	7458	7884
Blacktown	-9184	-9699
	88195	97135

I had not proposed any changes originally to Chifley, and given its population and growth this was a workable solution. I maintain that Chifley should be left undisturbed. I had proposed Mitchell taken in the southern portion of Greenway (which I had proposed be abolished), using the existing northern boundary of Chifley and western and northern boundary of Parramatta. The use of the Windsor Road as a boundary has been common in recent times. But not using it as a boundary open up considerably more possibilities in uniting areas of similar socio-economic interest in a Division, and also to combine similar areas, that happen to be east of the Windsor Road in Baulkham Hills. These outer suburban areas are consistently divided by a road that is less substantial than the M4, M5, M7, and which are themselves not widely utilised as boundaries in any substantial way.

I had proposed that Mitchell incorporate suburbs such as Marsden Park, Schofields, Quakers Hill, Riverstone, Vineyard, Rouse Hill, The Ponds, Box Hill, Nelson, Annangrove, Kellyville, Kellyville Ridge, Beaumont Hills, Acacia Gardens, Parklea and Stanhope Gardens. I suggest that in the longer term this is a better solution to Divisions boundaries in the north west of Sydney.

Parramatta

In my original submission I had made the point that Parramatta is a point of convergence of the changes of divisions on the north shore, inner and outer west and for differentials in elector growth in all of them.

Parramatta as a Division has for much of its life being entirely or mainly a Division on the northern side of the Parramatta River. I would suggest that given the current western boundary and the proposed solution for Greenway above, that the inclusion of some 35,000 (42,000) electors from Mitchell (overwhelmingly from the Baulkham Hills Council area) is a solution that together with transfers to Bennelong (above), and the removal of those portions of Holroyd Council, and that part of Parramatta Inner to Reid makes for a more sustainable Parramatta. The extent of boundary changes that Parramatta has undergone if overlain on each other would make it evident that a more sustainable boundary solution is required.

The suburbs in this formulation of Parramatta would include Seven Hills, Blacktown, Lalor Park, Kings Langley, Bella Vista, Baulkham Hills, Winston Hills, Castle Hill, Northmead, North Rocks, Toongabbie and Wentworthville.

I had proposed the retention of Reid as a Division, given it is named in honour of a former Prime Minister and it is better defined than some other Divisions such as Blaxland, its retention would have been preferable.

Southern and South Western Sydney

I had proposed a westward displacement of Macarthur to take in areas of Penrith, Wollondilly and Liverpool Councils and the Committee has done this. I was surprised that the committee having embarked upon incorporating these associated semi rural areas on the outer western fringe of Sydney that transfers of Blairmount, Blair Athol and Woodbine were undertaken, when an alternative involving the remainder of Camden Council and the portion of Liverpool Council that was transferred from Fowler to Werriwa were not made to Macarthur instead. I propose that this solution would lead to a better socio-economic match, and also make the two Divisions closer to quota.

Macarthur	88665	101484
Southern Werriwa (ex Camden)	-3781	-4226
Camden Council	1935	2290
Liverpool Council ex Fowler	1432	1488
	88251	101036
Werriwa	89091	97021
Southern Werriwa (ex Camden)	3781	4226
Camden Council	-1935	-2290
Liverpool Council ex Fowler	-1432	-1488
	89505	97469

A further option is to add that portion of Fowler that is generally west of the M7 Westlink to Macarthur as well. Given the size of the M7 this would be a significant boundary.

In relation to Hughes I had proposed a different solution to the committee. I had proposed that Hughes cross the Georges River, but further upstream and consistent with the Committee's 'belief that it is appropriate to cross water features at the narrowest available point.' I had proposed the upper reaches of the River between Moorebank and Glenfield, Macquarie Fields, Ingleburn, Long Point, and possibly Minto, Minto Heights with 16,000 (18,000) electors approximately.

Now given some of the transfers from Hughes proposed by the committee I would suggest that several thousand electors proposed to be transferred to Cook, which place Cook well above quota, should be left in Hughes and an alternative would be to transfer those electors in the Warwick Farm/Liverpool area be transferred to Fowler. The committee has proposed that Hughes crosses the same water feature in two points (and I might add has reduced the extent of the crossing in the Warwick Farm/Liverpool area.). I would suggest a elimination of the portion of Warwick Farm and Liverpool included in Hughes as it eliminates one crossing of the two proposed by the committee. The changes to Fowler can be accommodated by adjustments, to Macarthur, Prospect and Blaxland.

Now given the configuration of Divisions broadly determined by the committee, I would suggest that an alternative configuration for those parts of Banks proposed to be transferred to Hughes. The committee has proposed that a series of suburbs be transferred and parts of others e.g. Revesby. An alternative arrangement would be that given these suburbs have been carved up to meet numerical requirements, that the use of post codes might be more helpful to electors, and that in the case of placing portion of Revesby in Hughes that an alternative is to include all of Padstow Heights. This means that all the suburbs that actually front onto the southern and western bank of the Georges River would be included and all of those post codes. This has the added advantage that that a further crossing point is added between the existing Hughes and the added portion, at the Alford's Point Road (and bridge).

In relation to Cook I have referred to the large transfer of electors made by the committee from Hughes, which has exacerbated the problems with Cook. I believed that several thousand less elector transfers would make sense, in that Hughes would only have to cross the Georges River in one place, instead of two as is proposed.

Inner South and Inner Western Sydney

I had referred to Chifley above, and proposed an alternative pair of solutions for Chifley and Greenway (Mitchell).

McMahon

In relation to McMahon I appreciate the committee's agreement with adoption of the name but am surprised by the configuration proposed. Lowe in its history had broadly covered a north south axis between Strathfield, Concord and Rhodes, and had briefly crossed the harbour some decades back. This east west elongation of McMahon proposed I consider is unnecessary as essentially the existing Lowe Division could be transferred to McMahon less the adjustment in Ashfield, and the addition of electors north of the Western Motorway, which conforms to postcode boundaries.

The Committee proposes to have a Division essentially divided in two by Rookwood Cemetery, the Sydney Olympic Park and the Bicentennial Park. In effect two completely separate parts of Sydney combined together, with relatively little common interests.

The combination of Silverwater and Newington with McMahon makes more sense and it is an area of significant growth. I had originally proposed the use of local government boundaries, to include parts of Strathfield Council, to supplement numbers. This is workable and less disruptive to Watson, Parramatta, and Blaxland.

Banks

I had written above in relation to Hughes and suggested an exchange of Revesby and Padstow Heights to produce a sounder boundary between the two portions of Hughes on the Georges River. As I alluded to in my submission to the committee, there are considerable difficulties in arriving at sensible boundaries in the area of Banks, Barton, Watson because of the confinement of natural features, such as the Georges River, Cooks River and Botany Bay.

I suggest a more workable approach to Banks, where the changes made to Hughes that I have proposed virtually cancel out. Further that incorporating the remainder of Kogarah Council into Banks, and excluding those portions of Canterbury Council that are currently in Banks and to be included from Watson, be left out and suggest essentially that up to 10,000 electors north of the South Western Motorway, east and north of the Bankstown and Hurstville Councils and then follow the proposed boundary of Stoney Creek Road and Croydon Road. This would mean the entirety of Kogarah and nearly all of Hurstville Councils would be in one Division.

This boundary configuration then assists in defining Barton and Watson more clearly.

Barton

The proposed Barton could be largely retained (except for the remainder of Kogarah Council transferred to Banks), and further electors from Watson added, and I suggest as far north as Canterbury Road. This would mean the use of major road boundaries in the north, west and south of the Division, but it would be better defined and have quite good community of interest.

Watson and Blaxland

My alternative proposals would tend to lead to the elimination of Blaxland rather than Reid, and given the preference for aboriginal names, federation names, and prime ministerial names, I would tend to keep Reid in place of Blaxland, despite Blaxland's significance.

I would in consequence of the changes to McMahon, Barton, Banks, that Watson retain the remnants of Canterbury Council, be defined in the south by the South Western Motorway and Hurstville Council boundary, and to the north by the Sydney Water Supply Pipeline i.e. the old Reid boundary. This boundary is quite well defined and should be continued to be used.

Southern New South Wales and Illawarra

In my original submission I had proposed no changes to Eden-Monaro; this had consequential changes for Gilmore, Hume, Throsby, and Cunningham.

Eden-Monaro

The problem with the proposed solution for Eden-Monaro is that the Division is fast growing, and restoring the Division to its old configuration remedied this, by placing the Division below quota, whereas the committee has proposed that it be well above quota. Given the use of the Eurobodalla and Shoalhaven boundary an option would be to transfer either or both of Bungendore and Braidwood (and the areas north) to Hume, given that Division is considerably below quota and slower growing. This would remedy a problem that a future committee will have to tackle.

Gilmore and Throsby

Whilst I had originally proposed a different solution for Eden-Monaro, the committee's proposals for Gilmore make sense in terms of having all of the Shoalhaven Council in one Division. I had proposed that a portion of Hume be transferred to Gilmore that was east of the Hume Highway, something the Committee has taken up, but oddly combined with Throsby. Portions of the area along the Hume Highway such as Moss Vale have been in Gilmore in the recent past, they should be again. The semi rural nature of Gilmore makes a better fit with the Southern Highlands area, and the population the Committee has proposed be transferred from Throsby to Gilmore is virtually identical to that transferred from Hume to Throsby.

Throsby on the other hand is a densely populated industrial electorate with only a general geographical proximity to the Southern Highlands. If the Committee feels that the direct transference of the two blocks of electors cannot be readily interchanged, a small excision of about 2,000 electors from the southern end of the Kiama Council to Gilmore (would equalise the numbers) and a straight exchange of the two areas is very workable.

In relation to Riverina, and Cunningham, I had originally proposed different solutions but see that the scheme of the overall proposals of the committee in those two Divisions makes sense.

I look forward to hearing further of your deliberations.

M. Gordon
16 August 2009