

# OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009  
NSW



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**Objection Number 97**

**by**

**Denise Wiltshire**

**2 Pages**

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27<sup>th</sup> August 2009



Australian Electoral Commission  
Level 4 Roden Cutler House  
24 Campbell St.,  
Haymarket NSW 2000

I am writing to express my dismay and anger at the proposed NSW redistribution. I am angered that the seat of Reid will be eliminated as will the position of the sitting member Laurie Ferguson.

The electorate of Reid was named after George Reid who worked on writing the original Constitution of Australia and a former Premier of NSW who later became Prime Minister. His name and his achievements should not be forgotten.

I am not a resident of the electorate but I was born and raised in the area and I have friends and family who live in the area, and my son teaches at Guildford Primary School. While not a member of the Labor Party I am a staunch supporter of Laurie Ferguson and my husband and I always assist at polling booths in the seat of Reid on election days.

The seat of Reid is a population of immigrants. Many are recent arrivals with little or no knowledge of the English language. Who they do know, respect, honour and appreciate is their local Federal Member, Laurie Ferguson. Year after year as I have handed out 'how to vote' cards people come up to me and tell their story, often in broken English of how wonderful Laurie is. A common theme is "Laurie, he don't ask you how you vote, he just ask you, "What's the problem?" "Then Laurie help you fix it." Many of the problems are immigration issues. Immigration is Laurie's specialty; Why? Because he lives it 24/7.

Seats should be formed by natural boundaries that connect communities, not divide them. The natural boundaries for Granville are Regents Park pipeline, Granville, Liverpool, Parramatta rail line, the M4, Rookwood Cemetery, Parramatta Rd., Parramatta River. The residents of Reid live in Granville and adjoining suburbs, they shop, study and pray in their present electorate of Reid. The new proposal will divide neighbour from neighbour.

The community are proud to identify as residents of Granville and proud to have Laurie Ferguson as their sitting member. This community votes for Laurie, the majority don't know and don't care what party he belongs to, they will tell you that they vote for Laurie because he is a good man. They will also inform you that they tell their friends and family to vote for Laurie because Laurie cares and works hard to help the community.

One may suspect that Reid has been targeted as there is little chance of the residents of Reid writing letters of dissent as 80-90% of the population are immigrants, many first generation arrivals.

This is an unfair and unjust proposal for the residents of Reid who are being robbed of their elected member. Time will tell but it may be more than the electorate of Reid and Laurie Ferguson that is lost; this decision may also effect the cohesion of a somewhat volatile community.

I request that this proposal be re considered allowing natural boundaries and the needs of the

community to be taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Wiltshire