

# **OBJECTION**

The Federal Redistribution 2009  
NSW



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**Objection Number 100**

**by**

**Graham Hoskin**

**4 Pages**

P.O. BOX 29,  
PANANIA NSW 2213.  
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Australian Electoral Commission,  
Level 4,  
Roden Cutler House,  
24 Campbell St.,  
HAYMARKET. NSW. 2000.



**Electorate Naming is faulty**

Dear sir/madam,

I notice the Australian Electoral Office is intending to abolish the seat of Reid as part of the new electoral distribution.

The move I believe is a bad one and I fully agree with Ms Anne Fairbairn that the name Reid should be retained as part of the practice of acknowledging former deceased Prime Ministers. (*Herald* article encl.)

I have also noticed for some time that a number of electorates are curiously misnamed or their names are outside their logical geographic associations. This is particularly true of my former state of Queensland.

Thus a wholesale review of the names of electorates is overdue.

**Badly Named Electorates**

1. Blaxland. The name of Gregory Blaxland has always been associated with the Blue Mountains, because he was the leader of the trio which crossed the Mts. The electorate covers the Bankstown area which is quite inappropriate while the Blue Mts and neighboring areas come under the electorate of Macquarie. I have nothing against Macquarie, but it is a name which could be given to any NSW seat, whereas Blaxland should be assigned to the Blue Mts area.

2. Banks. My own seat. The name of Sir Joseph Banks is closely associated with Botany Bay, but that area is occupied by the electorate of Barton, the first Australian Prime Minister, and also, appropriately by Kingsford-Smith and Cook. The last two names are perfectly located, but Barton could be assigned anywhere in NSW, and Banks would be more appropriately assigned to the area covered by Barton.

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3. Moreton. This seat should logically cover the area surrounding Moreton Bay. This is assigned to a couple of electorates including Bowman and Lilley (both little known historical names). Instead Moreton is a mid-suburban Brisbane seat.

4. The electorates of Kennedy and Leichhardt should historically be reversed. Edmund Kennedy was the explorer who cut his way up the jungles of the east coast (which is covered by the electorate of Leichhardt). Ludwig Leichhardt travelled overland from Roma across western Queensland across the Gulf of Carpentaria rivers into the Northern Territory - the greater part of this is in Bob Katter's electorate of Kennedy - very silly and hard to savvy.

### **Principles**

1. There are some electorates which are very appropriately named. Among those are Cook and Kingsford-Smith, already mentioned, Wentworth, Oxley (he explored the Brisbane River area) and the new electorate of MacMahon (it's a past prime minister and he represented the area while Lowe is a long forgotten British-NSW politician)

2. I agree with Anne Fairbairn that all deceased prime ministers should have an electorate named after them. As well I would add that Sir George Reid and Sir Joseph Cook are especially important because they are founding fathers. The displays in the galleries of New Parliament House alerted me to the fact that all of our Prime Ministers until Bruce were members of the first Parliament. As such it is especially desirable for them to be represented by electorates.

3. The fact that an electorate is named after Captain Cook should not mean that one cannot be named after Prime Minister Cook - it could be named Joseph Cook. We already have plenty of double names - North Sydney, Kingsford-Smith, Eden-Monaro, New England, Wide Bay and Melbourne Ports.

4. Perhaps Federal names should not duplicate state electorate names. There are federal and state seats called Parramatta. Perhaps the Federal seat should be re-named to leave the state seat with the name Parramatta. Then the Federal seat and Blaxland could be named after Prime Ministers - Joseph Cook and Reid?

**Recommendations:** I recommend that the name Reid be retained in accordance with the wishes of Ms Anne Fairbairn, by using the name

Reid for the seat immediately to the south - the incorrectly named seat now called Blaxland - a name that properly belongs in the Blue Mountains area.

I also recommend that the Federal seat of Parramatta which shares its name with a State seat should be re-named after our only remaining deceased Prime Minister not to have an electorate - that is to be renamed the electorate of Joseph Cook.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Graham Hoskin', followed by a period.

Graham Hoskin



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to Japan, but has a small proportion of the regional take.

The recommendations of the scientific committee will be taken to a December meeting of member countries in Tahiti for approval.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry said time was needed to assess a response to the call to cut harvest numbers.

Conservationists such as Greenpeace are now comparing the levels of tuna fishing in the region to whaling before protection efforts began in the 1970s.

"The commission meeting this December in Tahiti must immediately act on this scientific warning and ensure fishing is halved across all of the tuna fisheries," said a Greenpeace Oceans' campaigner, Genevieve Quirk.

She called for 40 per cent of the western and central Pacific waters to be turned into marine conservation zones to protect tuna stocks.

The two-week-long scientific conference found that fishing of yellow-fin tuna was at a record high, though overall stock numbers remained steady. Fishing of albacore and skipjack tuna was at near record fishing levels.

The conference did not address the southern blue-fin tuna, which experts say is the most endangered tuna species in the region. That will be discussed at a meeting in New Zealand, Australia

## Un-Reid it and weep: taking a FIVE SHOT

SM Herald August 22-23, 2009



Pride ... Anne Fairbairn, left, at the home of Martin Sharp, with a cartoon of Reid, whose bulging stomach and bushy moustache cartoonists exploited; a family portrait, above, belonging to Ms Fairbairn; and a formal portrait.



### John Huxley

HE MAY have been the prime minister of Australia for only 10 months and 17 days but the late George Houston Reid is still fighting to hold on to the inner-western Sydney electorate named in his honour more than 80 years ago.

The Australian Electoral Commission wants to abolish the seat – which takes in suburbs such as Auburn, Homebush Bay and Merrylands – as part of a redistribution reflecting the continued population shift from NSW to Queensland.

If it happens, it will be over the dead body of his granddaughter, Anne Fairbairn, who yesterday described the recommendation as disgraceful.

who rendered outstanding service to his country, a man who deserves to be called the true father of Federation," said Ms Fairbairn, a poet, artist and expert in Arabic culture.

She does not expect the seat to be saved, but insists her grandfather's name be retained somewhere on the electoral map.

Scottish-born Reid is the only Australian to have served in three parliaments: as NSW premier, Federal prime minister, from August, 1904, and member of the House of Commons in London, where he had two terms as high commissioner to Britain.

As Ms Fairbairn points out, Australia has traditionally honoured its deceased prime ministers, with the exception of Joseph Cook and William

them. In the case of Cook, there was a clash of names, with a seat named after Captain James Cook. And, in the case of McMahon, the Electoral Commission has added to the insult to her grandfather by proposing his name replace that

### Ms Fairbairn has been rallying opposition to the [electorate's] name change.

of the Labor-held seat adjoining Reid, Lowe.

Ms Fairbairn learned much of George Reid, who was 50 when he married 20-year-old Flora Brumby, from her father, Clive. "Though I was born many years after he died, I'm sure we'd have understood each other well.

"He was idealistic, never

about education, and about helping indigenous people. He was a poet. He had a sense of humour. He also had a head for detail. He trained as a lawyer."

Critics of the prime minister – a large man, whose bulging stomach, bushy moustache and

forceful debating style were much exploited by cartoonists – accused him of indecision.

"They called him 'Yes, no Reid,'" Ms Fairbairn said. "But he said it should have been 'No, yes Reid'. No, to unseemly, zealous haste; yes, to reason full and clear." Such qualities helped him successfully navigate the zigzag

led him to condemn British policy in the Dardanelles 14 years later.

Since being informed of the commission's recommendation by an ally, Peter Bastian, an associate professor of history at the Australian Catholic University, Ms Fairbairn has been rallying opposition to the name change, urging supporters to lodge objections with the Electoral Commission.

Yesterday she was drumming up support at the home of a long-time friend, a near-neighbour and Reid sympathiser, Martin Sharp.

The artist is the proud owner of a 1906 "give a dog a bone" cartoon of the late prime minister, drawn by Livingston Hopkins of *The Bulletin*.

What does he think of Reid?