

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 111

by

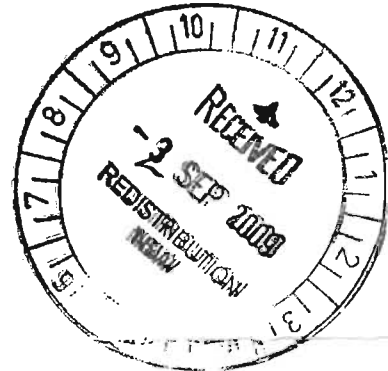
Michael Banasik, Mayor, Wollondilly Shire Council

2 Pages



Our Reference: TRIM113 MB/ts

Mr E Killesteyn
Presiding Member
Redistribution Committee for NSW
PO Box K406
HAYMARKET NSW 2140



27 August 2009

Dear Mr Killesteyn,

2009 PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF NSW INTO ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

I am writing in response to the report of the redistribution committee entitled the '2009 Proposed Redistribution of NSW into Electoral Divisions'. Wollondilly Shire Council has previously written to the committee in regard to the proposed federal redistribution requesting that the whole of our council area be in one seat.

We have previously advised the Shire is spread between no less than five (5) electorates and this makes it very difficult to obtain adequate representation on a federal level, as effectively we do not have a local member. Previously our Shire had five (5) Members of Parliament each responsible for a portion of the Shire and the Wollondilly constituents form a very small part of a population of each electorate.

Our Council needs to regularly lobby federal parliament and seek advice regarding grants and other federal issues. Without dedicated local member our task becomes much more difficult and our residents become virtually disenfranchised. The redistribution report and the associated maps depict the bulk of the population within the Wollondilly Local Government area within the two seats of Hume and Macarthur. Council at its meeting held 17 August 2009 considered this matter and resolved as follows:

That Wollondilly Shire Council forward a submission to the Australian Electoral Commissions Redistribution Committee to:

- 1. Thank the committee for the opportunity to comment on the proposed federal electorate boundary changes*
- 2. Councils preferred position is to have only one federal member for the Wollondilly Shire, and*
- 3. Comment on the proposed boundary corridor dividing rural precincts/communities as opposed to using a natural feature such as the Nepean River.*

.../2

Council in considering this matter recognises the redistribution has to be based on a number of factors, census collection districts and enrolment numbers, etc., as opposed to an arbitrary set of principles. In terms of the proposed redistribution the area of concern for this Council is the rural precinct of Theresa Park, Brownlow Hill and Mount Hunter as well as the proposed Division of Cunningham.

Paragraph 193 of the report of the redistribution committee makes reference to the similarity in the semi-rural characteristics between Cobbitty, Oran Park and Theresa Park already in Macarthur and the areas surrounding Bringelly, Rossmore, Badgerys Creek, Wallacia and Warragamba in the division of Fowler and as such is proposed to transfer 9470 electors from these latter areas into the division of Macarthur. The rural precincts of Theresa Park, Brownlow Hill and Mount Hunter being a rural precinct contain relatively few residents residing in close proximity to the Nepean River. Council would like to suggest the transfer of these rural precincts into the Hume electorate given the number of voters and proximity to the Nepean River would in turn assist in meeting Councils objective of minimising the number of federal seats within our Shire. In addition this would also assist the residents of the Mount Hunter precinct which is proposed to be divided along the main road being Burragorang Road.

Page 69 of the report of the redistribution committee advises nine (9) electoral enrolments from Wollondilly LGA are to be included in the Division of Cunningham. In line with Councils preferred position of only having one federal member, the inclusion of these electors into Macarthur would result in a move closer to this goal.

Consideration of this proposal at the current time may in the longer term assist the committee given the small number of residents within the previously mentioned locations as opposed to the likely number of electors upon the development of the Oran Park, Rossmore and Bringelly urban development projects.

In terms of federal issues for our LGA council being situated on the fringe of Sydney is seeking assistance and funding for urgently needed infrastructure in terms of transport, the construction of the Maldon-Dombarton railway line and representation in terms of ensuring there is no second airport at Badgerys Creek or at Wilton. These types of issues mean it is important for our residents to have a single representative.

Your consideration of these matters is appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Michael Banasik
MAYOR