

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number **150**

by

Dianne Ellis

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Address redacted

3rd September 2009

Australian Electoral Commission
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Fax: (02) 9375 6328
email to nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au

Re: Objection to the redistribution proposal

As the daughter of parents who migrated from Scotland, and a former resident of the Reid Electorate, I must protest at the removal of the name of Reid as an Electoral Division.

George Houston Reid, born in Renfrewshire, Scotland significantly contributed to the Australia we have today. He was a Parliamentarian, NSW Premier and Prime Minister of great stature. His memory should not be dishonoured in this manner and without good cause.

George Reid is regarded as a founding father of Federation who encouraged a Second Federal Convention of Colonial Premiers and was significant in the writing of the Constitution. George Reid was first elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly in 1880. With minor breaks he continuously represented NSW Electorates until being elected to the first Federal Parliament in March 1901. George Reid was Premier of NSW from 1894 to 1899. He is one of a rare group of Premiers who successfully served in both State and Federal Parliament. Ironically another of those former Premiers, Jack Lang, represented the Reid Electorate (1946-1949). George Reid, as Prime Minister, had carriage of the *Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904*, regarded as the first in the world and a model for other countries.

George Reid's Scots heritage is fitting for the Seat of Reid. Granville, effectively the centre of the Reid Electorate, has a long and remembered history of Scottish migrant achievement. A remaining emblem is the continuation of the Granville District Soccer Association which grew from the Granville Soccer Club. That club grew directly from the input of Scottish workers brought to Australia by Clyde Engineering. Granville streets (Clyde Street and The Trongate) local Presbyterian Churches (one named The Tron Kirk, demolished two years ago) and the suburb of Clyde are lasting memories of that era. The Industrial base established at Clyde was supported by the growth of industry on the Camellia pensinsula and the Auburn frontage to the Parramatta River. These are lasting links, and share a community of interest, of Granville, Auburn and Lidcombe from both the Parramatta River and the Parramatta Road (the first road in Australia dating from 1778). Community links persist to this day.

It is difficult to understand why the name of George Reid with its significant input to the history and durability of the Australian system of Government should be dishonoured by removal as the name of an Electoral Division. It could be said that replacing it with the name of a more recent Prime Minister adds insult to injury.

I sincerely request that the name of Reid as an Electorate be retained.

Regards

Signature redacted

Dianne Ellis

