

PUBLIC SUGGESTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Public Suggestion Number 59

by

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SUBMISSION RE 2009 REDISTRIBUTION IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Dear Electoral Commissioners

I would like to propose two changes to Division names in NSW. The first is to rename the Division of Berowra as the Division of McMahon. The second is to rename the Division of Prospect as the Division of Evatt.

The Rt Hon Sir William McMahon was a federal MP for more than 30 years and was a minister continuously from 1951 to 1972, serving as Treasurer and Minister for External Affairs. He was Prime Minister in 1971-72. He is the only deceased Australian Prime Minister not to have a Division named after him. (I believe the Division of Cook is now officially named after Sir Joseph Cook as well as Captain James Cook.)

The Rt Hon Dr Herbert Vere Evatt was a judge of the High Court of Australia 1931-40, a federal MP 1940-60, Minister for External Affairs and Attorney-General 1940-49, and Leader of the Opposition 1951-60. He was President of the UN General Assembly and a highly regarded representative of Australia. He did not become Prime Minister, but two other Divisions, Charlton and Calwell, are named for Opposition Leaders.

Both these eminent Australians deserve to have a Division named after them. It is unlikely, however, that new Divisions will be created in NSW since the state is not growing as fast as other states and is losing a seat at this redistribution. It will therefore be necessary to rename existing Divisions.

The Division of Berowra was created in 1969 and takes its name from the town of Berowra situated on Berowra Water north of Sydney. The Division of Prospect was also created in 1969 and takes its name from the Prospect Reservoir, which is near Mt Prospect in western Sydney. Neither name therefore commemorates any person or event of any significance, and neither name has existed very long.

I suggest that both these names could be abolished without any loss of tradition or affront to any local sensibilities. I would suggest in fact that the people of both areas would welcome Division names that commemorate eminent Australians. Since Berowra is a safe Liberal seat and Prospect a safe Labor seat, naming them for former leaders of these parties respectively would be appropriate.

I hope you will view this proposal favourably.

Yours sincerely

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