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## REISSUE - TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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O/N 117392

### AUGMENTED ELECTORAL COMMISSION

**THE HON PETER HEEREY QC, Chairman**  
**MR ED KILLESTEYN**  
**MR BRIAN PINK**  
**MR PETER ACHTERSTRAAT**  
**MR TJOEN SAN LAUW**  
**MR WARWICK WATKINS**

### AEC PUBLIC ENQUIRY – THE NSW FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION 2009

**SYDNEY**

**9.32 AM, FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2009**

**THE HON MARK COULTON MP**  
**MR PETER CRAWFORD**  
**MS SHAMA KUNHI**  
**MR GRAHAM HOSKIN**  
**MR GEORGE KEITH ROSS REID**  
**MRS ANNE MARY ROSS FAIRBAIRN AM**  
**MS JUNE BULLIVANT OAM**  
**DR JOHN CARMODY**  
**MR BILL CLIFFORD**  
**MRS JANICE KING**  
**MRS EFFIE MATS**  
**MR MARK SPEAKMAN SC**  
**MR HILTON GRUGEON AM**  
**MS LYNETTE CHAMAS**  
**THE HON BOB BALDWIN MP**  
**MR PAUL HENNELLY**  
**MR SHANE EASSON**  
**MR BEN FRANKLIN**  
**MR TONY BEUK**  
**MR NED MANNOUN**

THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning everybody. Welcome to this meeting of the augmented Australian Electoral Commission. My name is Peter Heerey. I'm the chair of the Electoral Commission. The other members of the Commission are Mr Ed Killesteyn, the Electoral Commissioner and Mr Brian Pink, the Australian  
5 Statistician. The augmented Commission is made up includes the following additional members: Mr San Lauw, the Australian Electoral Officer for New South Wales; Mr Warwick Watkins, the Surveyor General for New South Wales; and Mr Peter Achterstraat, the Auditor-General for New South Wales.

10 Now, the Redistribution Committee on the 7 August this year released a proposal for the redistribution of Federal electoral divisions in New South Wales into 48 divisions. Objections were invited and objections were received and comments on those objections. The function of the augmented Electoral Commission today is to  
15 consider all objections lodged in relation to the proposal. And today there is the opportunity for the members of the public to make oral submissions about those objections.

Under the Commonwealth Electoral Act because of its relative population decline New South Wales' entitlement to members of the House of Representatives has been  
20 reduced from 49 to 48. So redistribution is necessary. The Act specifies how this is to be done but the primary consideration is that each division must come within certain numerical requirements. But basically the number of electors are divided by the number of seats, that is 48, and the result is 98,907. Now, obviously you couldn't  
25 have literally each division with that precise number, so the Act allows for a variance either way of 3.5 per cent. So the result is that each division can't have more than 102 odd thousand or less than about 95,000.

Now, within the constrains of those numbers the Act requires us to give regard to communities of interest, that is economic, social and regional interests, means of  
30 communication and travel, physical features such as rivers, railways, shorelines etcetera, areas of the electorates, and, although of lesser importance, the boundaries of existing electorates. Now, objections often suggest that particular areas be moved into or out of a division because of community of interest. Usually that creates a  
35 problem because there are obviously consequential adjustments needed and they may not be possible because of the numerical constraint. So it's helpful if you propose some alteration that you give some attention to how it can be done to keep within the numerical constraints.

Now, this inquiry will be recorded. The full transcripts of proceedings will be  
40 available so we would ask speakers to identify themselves when they commence their presentation. After this inquiry we will deliberate and we have to finish our considerations by the 17 November and we will endeavour to make a public announcement as soon as practicable after that date. So we have a busy schedule and we would ask speakers to be as concise as possible. So the first speaker we have  
45 listed is Mr Mark Coulton MP for Parkes. Is Mr Coulton present? Thank you, sir.  
Yes.

THE HON MARK COULTON MP: My name is Mark Coulton, I'm the Federal Member for Parkes. Can I say in opening I'm here to support the submission that has been placed by the National Party proposing a direct swap in the proposal for Mudgee Gulgong and the southern part of Wellington Shire to be retained in the electorate of Parkes, and for the local government areas of Parkes and Forbes to remain in Calare. If I may, at the start, I'd just like to briefly touch on firstly, the role of representing an area in western New South Wales, such as I do. Presently the seat of Parkes is 107,000 square kilometres and either of the two proposals, the one that is being proposed or should our amendment be allowed, basically its 300,000 square kilometres.

At the size the electorate is now, in the last 10 months, I've spent over 550 hours in a motorcar, which is something like 12 weeks. That's on top of my regular workload. Most of those hours are done early in the morning, late at night and, indeed, I started driving this morning at quarter to 4 to get here today. I enjoy the job, I find it a rare privilege, but it is very restrictive to the type of person that can represent a seat like that. I've got grown up children and a supportive wife that comes with me, but if you were someone with a young family, having four nights in your own home a month, would be very difficult. At the moment the electorate of Parkes is 1913 times than the Prime Minister's, the proposal will make 600,000 times bigger than the Prime Minister's.

Having said that, and I also would like to record my disappointment, at this stage, of losing the local government areas of Gunnedah, which is a thriving town that's been formerly in the seat of Gwydir and now in the seat of Parkes since Federation, and also the town of Rylstone and Kandos. The proposal to move those into Hunter has got the people in those communities quite upset about that and if there was some way of retaining that I would welcome it. But I'm somewhat of a realist and I believe the proposal to make the direct swap of the Mudgee Gulgong and southern part of Wellington, including Euchareena, Stuart Town and Mumble, the villages in that area, I think is sensible.

The nature of representing in rural Australia is somewhat different. It's a personal relationship between an MP, it's not so much about party politics and as someone who has just completed nearly two years, the time it takes to get to meet individual community groups and build that trust and relationship is difficult. And because of all these areas, the smaller communities in particular, don't have government services. Quite often the local member is the doorway to services that in other larger areas, they might not go through the local member because those services are provided. And so purely for the fact that a relationship is born and it takes some time to develop I believe a straight swap, obviously the people in the Parkes and Forbes area to have a relationship with the member for Calare and likewise with the Mudgee and Wellington areas.

There's also a clear interest to the west, to the Dubbo area, from those areas and if you look at the maps of the newly formed Regional Development Australia areas the Orana region indeed, includes the local government areas of Wellington and Mudgee in that area that goes out to the west from Dubbo. So I just ask that you

would consider the proposal put forward by the Nationals for that straight swap. I believe that we're offering something that's not going to have a roll on effect. It's just a swap between two seats. It's obviously not my perfect choice. As I said, I'd love to keep Rylstone and Kandos and it's going to be somewhat irksome to drive through Gunnedah to go to other parts of the electorate, but I believe that we are proposing something that's sensible and achievable and I thank you for the time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any members of the Commission have any questions? No. Thank you very much, Mr Coulton.

THE HON MARK COULTON MP: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr Peter Crawford

MR CRAWFORD: Mr Heerey, members of the Committee, I make this short submission to request that any new electorate in Sydney's western suburbs maintain the name Reid, not McMahan. And I do so as an enthusiast for history and a love of the old Sydney. Reid was a larger than life character in the politics of Federation. He was a brilliant administrator and reformer of New South Wales politics during his years as premier. Reid was a Prime Minister, 1904, and those decisive defining years of Federation. Above all, Reid was an immense humorist and entertainer in politics, 1880-1910.

When moving to England he became so popular that in 1916 he won the seat of St George in the House of Commons unopposed. As a young boy, born in 1949 and growing up in Burwood in the 1950s, the corner of Queen Street and Cheltenham Road, everyone in the area knew and was proud of the fact that Reid lived in Ascot, a beautiful home which still stands in Cheltenham Road, now a nursing home. Now, I know Burwood is outside of this proposed electorate, but in the 1950s and '60s children at Burwood Public School, where I attended, were well aware that Reid lived at Mount Royal in Albert Road, Strathfield, kids used to talk about this.

Reid was an identity and character to the people of the inner west as late as the 1960s. As an entertainer and debater Reid was unsurpassed. His jokes and wit remain legendary and to all interested in history of Australian politics and in the late nineteenth century attracted crowds of thousands to his political speeches in Sydney. It is rather like what rock singers would do today. I remember my step-grandfather, William Thomas Cape, 1870-1960, telling me as a small child of the delights he had as a young man listening to Reid's public oratory around Sydney. He was as famous, too, Reid for his courtroom appearances as for his politics. William Thomas Cape told me that people used to crowd around the entrances to courts to try and get in just to hear his performances.

In the late nineteenth century he was known as Sydney finest lawyer for cross-examination, although there is an old story that Sir Julian Salmon once fronted him and said which Bar are you studying for, the Sydney Bar or the Adams Bar because he was a very portly sort of gentleman. Often the courts were full of people to watch

his style and listen to his humour. Reid lived in Strathfield's largest home, one of those truly magnificent mansions, Mount Royal, since demolished. Strathfield had truly magnificent homes which unfortunately we can't see today because they've been demolished before Heritage Acts. One of the grandest in Sydney that graced the marvellous suburb. In the records of Strathfield Historical Society an Elizabeth Ward recalls the sale of furniture when Reid left Mount Royal to move to London. She was overwhelmed.

10 In 1966 I attended Sydney University. Our lecturer in government was the eminent Ken Turner, since awarded a doctorate of letters, Sydney University, for his seminal work on New South Wales politics and government. Ken Turner spoke of all the colourful and interesting characters in the Federation story, particularly one called Reid. He said, I'll never forget those words, since they confirmed what we'd been told at Fort Street, where I attended school, by a history teacher about what a colourful figure Reid was, what a funny, mischievous character he was.

20 Such is the respect Reid is held, even today, for the impact he made on our politics a century ago. Reid was a politician in the days when the voice of the economist was heard but feint in the land and this is extremely important because William McMahon, by contrast, represents the sort of methodical accountant type of politician without any of the colour or humour or grandiosity of Reid, the baroque that Reid presented. He was an old style jousting politician. During Federation he was known as Yes/No Reid, but when Federation was finally approved he was cheered to the rafters. Reid was greatly loved by the people because he presented high style, laughter and a high level of competence to our politics. Like all good politicians he pulled many rabbits out of the hat. But our story is so much richer by the fact the he was around.

30 McMahon, by contrast, was a competent politician with a limited public persona and nothing like that great public love and fascination that gripped the generations. I always remember my father ringing up David Hunter, the blind member for Croydon, when I had some little assignment when I was about 11 years of age living in Burwood. He rang up the member for Croydon, and the conversation rapidly drifted away from how the senate is elected onto the personality and character of George Houstoun Reid.

40 I remember my school teacher at Fort Street. I won't mention his name. You mightn't want it, but my school teacher at Fort Street in the early sixties constantly raising Reid as the colourful figure of Yes/No Reid that stood against Deakin, you know, that made it difficult for Deakin to achieve Federation, and yet how he cheered John Doyle in his wonderful documentary on Federation that we see on television from time to time. John Doyle makes particular reference to the tergiversating behaviour of Reid, to his to'ing and fro'ing, backwards and forth. He was a great fellow, Reid, a wonderful character, a wonderful prime minister, and his competence and honesty as a man in government equalled any entertainment value he had.

He was one of the few that has, I think, the only person that sat in three Parliaments, the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, the House of Representatives and the House of Commons to which he was elected unopposed as a hero in World War I. I don't need to say any more. I think that the name Reid is the name that should be on that electorate that takes in Strathfield and those sorts of areas should be identified with that area, although he didn't necessarily represent it. That's where he lived. That's where he was known. That's where he was loved. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Crawford. Any questions? No.  
10 Thank you very much, Mr Crawford, thank you, sir. Ms Shama Kunhi?

MS KUNHI: Mr Heerey, and members of the Commission, my name is Shama Kunhi, and I thank you for this opportunity. The Australian Electoral Commission has proposed to abolish the federal seat of Reid and to rename the seat of Lowe to  
15 McMahon under an electoral redistribution. I respectfully submit that the AEC has erred in its proposal. Reid is named after Sir George Reid, Australia's fourth prime minister from 1904 to 1905 and before Federation one of New South Wales' greatest premiers. Sir George Reid was a founding father of the nation's Federation of States.

20 If the seat of Reid is abolished I submit then George Reid will be the only deceased prime minister not to have a seat named in his honour. Scottish born Reid is the only Australian to have served in three Parliaments, as New South Wales Premier, Federal Prime Minister from August 1904 to 1905 and Member of the House of Commons in London where he had two terms as High Commissioner in Britain. Reid takes in  
25 western Sydney suburbs from the southern edge of Parramatta west to Westmead and Merrylands, and south to Granville, Auburn and Rookwood.

It has been represented by notable and emphatic leaders such as Jack Lang, Tom Uren and Laurie Ferguson. The AEC Redistribution Committee decided to  
30 supplement divisions with low enrolment with areas with higher enrolment numbers. However, that is not simply just the issue. The electorate of Reid has a burgeoning population with a unique need for representation, not just a need for representation, but a unique need. Representation which takes into account that the rapidly growing population, particularly in Auburn, Lidcombe and Granville draws from migrant  
35 backgrounds comprising one of Australia's most ethnically and culturally diverse populations.

The wide multicultural community in the electorate of Reid has its unique social, cultural and religious needs and problems. It is characterised by a very significant  
40 proportion of overseas born residents markedly over the last 10 years and has a rising population. The major ethnic groups include Chinese, Lebanese, Turkish and Vietnamese Australians and feature great cultural ethnic and linguistic diversity. Their representation will likely be diluted and their unique collective voice lost if the AEC proceeds with the radical redistribution of Reid. An untenable situation will be  
45 created, I feel, spilling into other border electorates leading to severe social disruption.

It would have a massive impact. This radical and hasty change is simply not necessary, I feel, with respect. Reid will be subject to future changes anyhow due to its high growth. It is vital that the electorate of Reid is retained and is ably continued to be represented by a single experienced MP, one who can continue to provide the  
5 unique representation for their special needs and which has been provided so devotedly for several years. It is an unjust solution to spill them over into adjoining electorates with little or no voice. That will be the likely impact of abolishing the historic and symbolic Reid electorate.

10 Please do not destroy that wonderful and unique representation that the multicultural constituents have and stand to lose. I passionately submit that the glorious name of Reid please be retained. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any questions? No, thank you very much, Ms Kunhi. Mr Graham Hoskin?

MR HOSKIN: Thank you. Yes, my submission, as I gave in the paper, was about electorate naming misquality[sic], and I'd like to pursue that. My submission was purely about the naming of electorates, not about their boundaries, and so therefore  
20 it's about history not politics, and it concerns the way that Australians see ourselves. It concerns the way we expect children to see us, the way we expect migrants to see us, and the way we expect people overseas to see us. I believe it's important for electorates to be both appropriately named and named after figures who are foundational to Australian history, and there are some deficits there.

25 I believe, for example, our most famous, perhaps our most important scientist, Howard Florey, I think there would be justification to naming an electorate after him. I think there would be justification for naming an electorate after Captain Arthur Phillip as there was once. Let's say that name could be kept in reserve – both of  
30 those names could be kept in reserve. Now, I've added to my submission there and I'll just say a little bit about that. Well, I believe the priority of naming electorates should be first deceased prime ministers, and of these I believe the Electoral Commission should recognise the elite group of founding fathers, the founding fathers who later became prime ministers, and that is those prime ministers who were  
35 elected to the first Parliament in 1901.

I became aware of that when looking at the display at new Parliament House, and all of the prime ministers before Stanley Melbourne Bruce were members of the first  
40 Parliament, and these are an elite group, and I believe they deserve electorates to be named after them, that is, Barton, Deakin, Watson, Reid, Fisher, Sir Joseph Cook and Hughes. Because I think they should be regarded as our founding fathers I'd be very reluctant to accept a compromise on that point. Our founding fathers are important and I believe they should be particularly recognised in the names of our electorates.

45 Second after that would be later deceased prime ministers. So I'd be fully in favour of naming an electorate after Sir William McMahon just as one was recently named in Victoria after Sir John Gorton. Then there are the names of other famous

Australians, for example, Premiers Parkes and Robertson. Parkes could be regarded as a founding father actually; governors, explorers, scientists, literature and the arts, famous Aboriginals like Bennelong. Then we've got Aboriginal names and then we've got geographical names like New England, Parramatta, Warringah, Prospect.

5

Implied rules, I'm not quite sure about that, but as I said, implied rules should be that the names given to electorates should have a close association with those electorates, and that's what I dealt with in my submission electorate naming is faulty. I first became of that when I was in my former State of Queensland when I discovered that the electorate of Moreton which I thought immediately sounded like it surrounded Moreton Bay was actually mid suburban Brisbane, and since that time I've been aware that some other electorates, in my understanding, have been misnamed, and that leads me to the example of the name of Blaxland.

10

15 The name Gregory Blaxland is forever associated with the crossing of the Blue Mountains because he was the leading member of the expedition which is a foundational exploration because after a 25 year quest a way was eventually found to cross into the Western Plains area. So New South Wales was opened up to the west and was no longer confined to the Sydney Basin area, a fundamental discovery in Australia which deserves to be recognised. The name deserves to be associated with an area which is appropriate, and if you did a street poll or a poll of our school children, for example, and asked them what they associated the name Gregory Blaxland with, I think the great majority would say, "He was the leader of the expedition which crossed the Blue Mountains."

20

25

If you then asked them why is the electorate after him based around the Bankstown region I think they would be quite puzzled, and would say they don't understand why that is. So that brings me to the matter of the inappropriate naming of electorates. My belief is the names given to electorates should have close association with those electorates. Names which are primarily associated by history or geography with another electorate should be avoided or reassigned or, failing that, kept in reserve. For example, if the seat of New England was shifted to the Western Plains it would no longer be properly called New England, and so it should either be renamed somehow or kept in reserve.

30

35

Other names which I believe to be misnamed, I've mentioned the seat of Moreton, also the seats of Kennedy and Leichhardt in Queensland. Kennedy was the explorer who hacked his way up the jungle of the east coast and the Cape York area. That's now in the seat of Leichhardt. Leichhardt was the explorer who beat his way up the bush from Roma up to Port Essington which is known as Western Queensland. That's in the electorate which is Bob Katter's electorate of Kennedy. So to me that is misnamed. It should be the other way round.

40

45

Now, to swap over immediately would be difficult, but if one could be kept in reserve and then at the redistribution later on could be reassigned, but I believe the seat of Blaxland – since there was a controversy about the seat of Reid, the name Blaxland should be removed because it's inappropriately assigned to the Bankstown area. It should properly belong to the Blue Mountains.



The easiest way to remove it would be to replace it with the seat which a number of people, like Mr Ian Fairbairn, are contesting to replace it with the seat of Reid – with the name Reid. The name Reid could simply be shifted south which is a normal process in the redistribution of electorates. It would preserve the name of one of our  
5 founding fathers, the name of our fourth prime minister, our first leader of the opposition, Premier of New South Wales for five years, a foundational Australian. It could simply be reassigned to the electorate which I believe is incorrectly named as Blaxland.

10 That's my major point. I also said that I believe that an electorate should be named after Joseph Cook because he's one of the founding fathers, and was a member of the first Parliament. There could be some objection to having double names, but we already have double names. I've mentioned some: North Sydney, Kingsford Smith, Eden-Monaro, New England, Wide Bay, Melbourne Ports, Port Adelaide. There are  
15 plenty of double names. I see no reason why an electorate can't be called Joseph Cook, and one I proposed for that was the electorate of Parramatta because there's already a state seat of Parramatta, and that leads to confusion. I don't know of another case like that. There might be a couple of others where there are state seats which have the same name as the federal electorate.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: In Tasmania all electorates have the same name. There are five Federal electorates and five State electorates all with the same name. So it does happen.

25 MR HOSKIN: It does happen, okay.

THE CHAIRMAN: Tasmania is a bit different.

MR HOSKIN: But I believe it, yes, I believe it's preferable to avoid it. I think  
30 that's a legitimate point. So therefore I recommend that the name Reid be retained in accordance with the wishes of people like Ms Anne Fairbairn whose article I have with me. And similarly, simply the name should be shifted to the electorate immediately to the south which is now called Blaxland, a name which properly belongs in the Blue Mountains area. And I also recommend that the, some seat, not  
35 necessarily the Federal seat of Parramatta, be named after our only remaining deceased Prime Minister not to have an electorate named after him, that is the electorate of Joseph Cook, also one of our founding fathers.

40 So that's my major point. The other ones which I mentioned, like the seat of Moreton, seats of Kennedy and Leichhardt, which I believe have been misnamed, I believe they could be, at the next redistribution, names could be kept in reserve and at a later redistribution, that happened with the seat of Parkes, be reassigned.

45 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR HOSKIN: So those are my major points. That the naming of electorates speaks of our history, speaks of how we see ourselves, how we expect our children to see

ourselves and how we expect new migrants and people overseas to see ourselves. And it's important that those names have significance. I disagree with Justice Spigelman about the name Lowe. I believe forgotten names, largely forgotten names should be the first to go if there's a redistribution. Say a Prime Minister is  
5 presently alive, they die, there's largely forgotten names so if you take a street poll on this, the electorate of Grayndler, electorate of Fowler, Lowe I would include, Lindsay. There are plenty of others. In my former state of Queensland, the electorates of Lilley and Dawson. Those are largely forgotten names.

10 Whereas, for example, if you name your electorate after Phillip that would be immediately recognised. Florey would be immediately recognised. Lang could be regarded as either the Big Fella, he was our Premier of New South Wales, our most controversial premier, or the Reverend John Dunmore Lang. So you could have two  
15 for the price of one on that one. But I believe the names are best names which are easily recognised. So that's my basic point.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr Hoskin, as far as I'm aware, Australia is the only English speaking democracy which names divisions after people rather than  
20 geographical areas. Do you know how that came about? Do you know what the background to this system is?

MR HOSKIN: No, I don't know that, but I imagine the naming of electorates after Prime Ministers, just as there were railway stations on the Trans-Continental  
25 Railway from Kalgoorlie to Sydney named after Prime Ministers, which only one, the town of Cook is really functional, but there was obviously a recognition of the names of our founding fathers.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any other questions? No, thank you very much,  
30 Mr Hoskin.

MR HOSKIN: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr George Reid.

35 MR REID: Good morning, gentlemen. My name is George Keith Ross Reid. I'm retired. I was a sometime member of the Inter-State Commission and I'm the grandson of George Houstoun Reid. I would like to briefly expand on my formal objection, which is numbered 105. I note particularly that of the 280 objections  
40 received by the Commission on the proposed new redistribution, 59 of them had as a prime concern the disappearance from the list of Federal electorates of the name of our fourth Prime Minister, and one of the architects of our Constitution.

45 As a young nation, preservation of our history and heritage is very important. Abolishing an electorate named in honour of one of the nation's founding fathers is, to say the least, unusual. If George were here today I doubt whether he would be overly concerned with the continuance of the family name. Whatever his failings, hubris was not among them. He would have been much more likely to take the

opportunity for a quiet nap while the discussion raged. However, he had a life long interest in education and preservation of our history and heritage certainly would have concerned him.

5 The problem is best exemplified amongst the objections to the proposed redistribution by numbers 148 and 149 from the Wallsend South Public School sixth year class who, on a school outing to Canberra, visited the old and new houses of parliament. They could not understand why an electorate named in honour of a man who had they had learnt played a pivotal role in the foundation of the nation should  
10 be abolished with the stroke of a statistical pen. George Reid would have recognised an emerging conflict between the naming of electorates and changing divisional boundaries. He would have seen the problem was bound to recur and needed to be addressed in a logical manner in order to achieve a politically and publicly acceptable result.

15 I certainly believe that his memory should be honoured in some way closely associated with the democratic process that he so firmly believed in. I would not presume to attempt to solve the problem, but I would respectfully suggest that it needs the careful consideration of the Commission. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions? No. Thank you very much, Mr Reid. Thank you. Mrs Anne Fairbairn. Mrs Fairbairn? Mrs Bullivant?

..... : No, she's here.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Fairbairn.

MRS FAIRBAIRN: Thank you for allowing me to speak. I am Sir George  
30 Houstoun Reid's only granddaughter. My name is Anne Mary Ross Fairbairn. Reid lived from 1845 till 1918. He received the KGB, the KCMG, PC, Hon DLC, Ox Hon, Hon, LD, Adelaide, KC. Evidently, and, of course, he is the only Australian to this day to have served in three parliaments, Premier of New South Wales, Prime Minister of Australia, and voted in for St George's, Hanover Square, to the House of  
35 Commons in England after he had served Australia as the first High Commissioner to London for two terms.

Now, evidently, Reid believed that if you get people to have a chuckle or a laugh they relax and listen to you. So I begin, as a poet, by reading a very short poem. I hope to raise a chuckle or two:

40 *Email from Heaven regarding the proposed 2009 New South Wales  
Redistribution from George Houstoun Reid@Heaven's Gate.etern to his only  
granddaughter, Anne Fairbairn@earthmail.au.*

45 *I am writing doggerel today just for you,  
Hoping to raise a chuckle or two  
Be prepared for any eventuality,*

*My motto on earth always helped me.  
Up here I've been as pleased as could be  
That a Sydney electorate was named after me  
In 1922 soon after I died,  
5 Thus confirming it was known how hard I tried  
As a founding father to assist our country  
To become a nation truly fair and free.  
As Professor W.G. McMinn makes clear about me,  
In his well researched biography,  
10 If my name is removed the ACT still has a suburb named after me.  
But I'm concerned for Laurie Ferguson MP  
For if my Sydney name goes so perhaps will he.  
So, Anne, you and Laurie now need to be  
Prepared for any eventuality.*

15

That's it, that's just to raise a chuckle. Now, I'm getting more serious. George Reid was born in Johnstone in Renfrewshire in 1845. Dr John Dunmore Lang had travelled to Scotland to persuade John Reid, George's father, and his family to come to Australia in the hope that this could help Australia to become a federated country,  
20 and become a wealthy nation so Scots would be enticed to come here.

The Reid family settled in Melbourne in the 1850s and George, the youngest son, attended Scotch College. John Reid came to Sydney after a few years to work as a co-pastor with J.D. Lang at the Scots Church where George was the son of the  
25 manse. George studied law. He was determined to become a politician and help to build Australia as a fair and free nation. He also joined the School of Arts debating club, age 15, to help him become a politician. My father told me about Reid, he told me a great deal about him, because I was quite interested from a very young age. And that Reid had great admiration for the Aboriginal culture because he believed  
30 that the indigenous people had lived in harmony with nature for thousands of years.

My father, who was a teenager when his father died in 1918, my father had been at school, was at school in London when George Reid was first High Commissioner. He always described his father as a liberal in the very truest sense of the word. And  
35 he certainly, as dad always insisted, as Minister for Public Instruction worked hard to set up the state school system so every Australian child could have an opportunity to be educated. He also was a great believer in free trade. And, as I said, he had to be prepared for any eventuality. He was Australia's first Scottish Prime Minister and with typical Scottish determination worked to establish a federated Australia, with a  
40 remarkable, workable Constitution which he worked so hard on.

In 1879 he had been admitted to the Bar. He studied law and was eventually motivated, always, by his political ambition. He was a great believer in free trade and he wrote about this in his little book on free trade. In 1880 Reid nominated for  
45 the constituency of East Sydney. He remained the member for East Sydney for 33 years. According to dad, his first consideration was always for Australia and for the wellbeing of all Australians. As Professor McMinn, in his biography of Reid,

which is very well researched, and certainly makes clear that Reid was indeed the father of Federation. He has a chapter called Father of Federation. Reid downed Parkes' plan in the 1890s when he was Premier because he believed it was devoid of detail and as the Right Honourable T.W. Waddell writes in his petition to you all, and I'll just read a couple of lines, and the Honourable T.W. Waddell is a former Supreme Court judge of course:

*It is in the public interest –*

10 in his view –

*that Australians have reminders of their political history and the long continuance of federal constitutional government. For this reason the name Reid, so intimately connected with the history of the creation of the Australian Constitution should not disappear from the catalogue of electoral names. This consideration is much more important than finding an electorate to commemorate the name of one of our less distinguished prime ministers.*

20 Now, I'm going to read you just one verse out of another funny poem I wrote in 2001 to commemorate the Federation, and this is an email to George Reid from me, and this is just a couple of stanzas:

*In federal matters, I can see they often dubbed you "yes/no Reid", but you wrote no/yes was your taste, no to unseemly zealous haste, yes to those who'd federate for reasons clear and full of weight. This plan of Parkes must fail, you said, let's think judiciously instead. This man's belief that he knows best can only leave me unimpressed. Your monocle you screwed in tight to scrutinise each word in sight. Thus every liberal ideal could burn in Henry's flaming zeal. The law reformers he'd rebuff. He saw their aims as tedious stuff.*

*In 1890 you began to sabotage the old man's plan. You and others soon agreed it lacked the detail to succeed, but now we know in '95 your hand made Federation thrive as premier although with fear you hold aloft the great idea while still maintaining your crusade against protection for free trade and battling the Depression's woes which swelled the numbers of your foes, 100 millions lost by banks increased the grim left wingers' ranks, the socialists you fiercely fought. Is that why some have sold you short?*

40 Reid was elected to the first Federal Parliament as the member for East Sydney in 1901 when he became the first leader of the opposition well suited to his robust debating style and rollicking sense of humour. As A.B. Piddington makes clear, Reid was essentially a man of the people with the sensitive attributes of a chameleon. He was certainly a believer in free trade which puts him at odds with Barton and Deakin who were protectionists. After being Prime Minister of Australia in 1904-5  
45 he served as Australia's first High Commissioner to the UK when he travelled to Egypt to inspect the troops before they embarked for the Dardanelles, and this he was very concerned about.

Lord Fisher, Jackie Fisher, who was in Churchill's war cabinet, wrote a handwritten letter to Reid, and I'll quote:

5           *The inexcusable criminal disaster of the Dardanelles and no punishment for the  
butcher politician, yours till Hell freezes, Jackie Fisher. Please burn and  
destroy –*

10 but he didn't. I could have this verified because the present Lord Fisher is married to  
Geoffrey's first wife. I've had it verified. Also, Reid during this period persuaded  
the British to allow being - to be present on the Dardanelles. If this hadn't happened  
we would not have the official history of that period, and while serving in the British  
Parliament, after he'd been First High Commissioner for two terms, he always  
brought forward the interests of Australia to the people there. Of course, as High  
15 Commissioner, he oversaw the construction of the first ships for the Australian Navy.  
He had enormous Scottish determination, and I think I've inherited a bit of this, and  
that's why I'm here today. I want to make it as clear as possible that, in my  
consideration, having learned so much from my father and having read this book, and  
I hope you all read it before you make a final decision, that Reid really deserves to be  
20 honoured and his name should be preserved, but, as Reid said always, "I am prepared  
for any eventuality." Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mrs Fairbairn. We should record that  
there was a chuckle or two at your nice verses.

25 MRS FAIRBAIRN: Sorry, I just didn't hear that last word.

THE CHAIRMAN: The transcript should record that there was a chuckle or two at  
your very fine verses.

30 MRS FAIRBAIRN: Right. By the way, I took my grandmother's ashes when I was  
very young over to London to put in the grave at Putney Vale with Reid, and you  
probably know she was made one of the first Dames of the British Empire for her  
enormous contribution to looking after the wounded from the Dardanelles and the  
Somme, and her name is also Reid. So that's another reason to have the Reid name  
35 kept. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much. Mrs Bullivant?

40 MRS BULLIVANT: Mr Chairman, commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, I'm here  
to represent the Granville Historical which is in the middle of Reid and has been  
there since 1922. Also my husband and myself have been interested in the history of  
the area, so my submission today is purely historical. I also speak on behalf of  
George Reid, a tall mountain of a man with a huge stump, one eye glass and a  
pocketful of lollies. He's a man that has done so much. I realise you've heard a lot  
45 of statistics and a lot of history, but maybe you don't quite know what the man was  
responsible for.

He arrived in Sydney from Melbourne and was placed as a junior clerk in the Merchants Counting House. In 1864 he was assistant accountant in the Colonial Treasury and he progressed through the ranks until 1878. Reid was responsible for the Public Instruction Act. He was also the Minister of Public Instruction. He promoted free compulsory and secular education, critical of the harsh measures against Chinese immigration. In 1889 he was involved in the establishment of free trade and this was definitely free trade with no government intervention.

He was a liberal thinker. I tend to think that the political parties these days have stolen that word, but he truly was, and the reason that he got that was his “yes/no Reid” in the Parliament means he argued both sides. He gave the people the information that they needed to make an informed decision, and I think this was important because the powers of the day were such that if you didn’t have two sides of the story the other side won. He was fair and did not exploit the economic crisis of 1892 to ’93 for political ends, and when he was offered a federal seat by Parkes, a safe seat twice, he knocked it back and went to election. He was a man of principle.

As the member for East Sydney he worked towards Federation by obtaining a fairer Constitution and talking the other side State Premiers including the Braddon clause. The Braddon clause was a clause whereby the Federal Government would have taken the state revenue. So that was a very important thing for the states and that’s why the State of New South Wales was dragging their feet towards the Constitution and Federation.

In 1885 he revolutionised the colony’s financial arrangements. He legislated for the new Crown Lands Act in 1895 and that still stands today with a bit of tweaking from governments along the way. He also reformed the Public Service Act. So if you’ve got any problems with the Public Service look to Reid. He should be here today and he’d straighten it out. He was Colonial Treasurer from 1894 to 1899. He was the Attorney-General. He had the Racing Association Bill and he was on that committee. He was also for the North Shore, Manly and Pittwater tramway and railway belt. His appropriation of the bill committee was hard work. He also served on other committees and where he found the time I don’t know. He was on library, printing, standing orders and of course refreshments. He was a Member of Parliament in the Commonwealth of Australia and you’ve heard that.

He also represented New South Wales. He was the Minister of Australia and the Minister for External Affairs between 1904 and 1905. He was the leader of the Federal Trade Party and of the Opposition and he was a member of the British Parliament. The Federal Seat of Reid, of course, is 87 years old. It was formed in 1922. The suburbs of Granville, Guildford, Lidcombe and Auburn have been part of that seat since that was formed. The only seat formed before that was Parramatta and the seats surrounding it now were formed as late as 1949 and 1969.

I refer you, gentlemen, to your guidelines. It’s on the website. Every effort should be made to retain names of the original Federal divisions. Division names should be named after people rendering outstanding service to the country, and when two or

more divisions are combined, the name of the new division should be that of the old division. I give you Sir George Houstoun Reid and his work, and I leave here some information including a 1922 map for your perusal. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Questions? No. Thank you very much, Mrs Bullivant. Dr Carmody? Dr Carmody?

DR CARMODY: Good morning, gentleman and fellow electors. It's just as well that I suppressed my Irish tendency to be late this morning. Broadly speaking, I  
10 simply want to elaborate, for the benefit of the public record, a number of matters which I raised in my response to the, I suppose, therefore, three sections. First of all, I want to commend the redistribution for remedying a folly from the previous redistribution, which had the subdivisions encompassing East Roseville, East Lindfield and East Killara into Mr Abbott's electorate of Warringah, there being no  
15 geographical or communal logic for this other than simply playing around with pieces on a chessboard to make a map accommodate the numbers.

That folly from previous redistribution has been corrected in the present one, and that is a very wise and justified step. The second point reiterates to some extent, but  
20 elaborates on them as well, some of what I've heard this morning. And I won't canvass again what was so thoroughly presented to you all by the previous two speakers, except to reiterate by way of emphasising the distinction of the man whose name will be obliterated from the electoral map if this particular piece of folly – zealotry, even, may be – goes through and Reid's name is expunged from our list of  
25 electorates.

This was a man, as we heard from Mrs Fairbairn in particular, of extraordinary capacity. Not just because – and it's a remarkable record – not just because he was a member of three parliaments – I think he's unique amongst Australians in that  
30 respect, indeed – namely, of the New South Wales Federal Australian Parliaments and the House of Commons, and was Premier and Prime Minister – a double distinction which should not be denied, particularly given the importance of the states in those times – and, as she said, our first High Commissioner, but it's very clear from the history that we've just heard from both the previous speakers that he  
35 was a man of great determination who through his own work and legislation demonstrated that he was a believer in educating the nation.

In part, the naming of electorates could be seen as a continuation of the education of the electorate. But also, he was clearly a man of quite political efficacy, great  
40 legislative imagination and capacity and also very substantial administrative skills. We hope that our politicians and our political leaders manifest these. It's rare, as we all know, that they are combined in one person. But they were in George Reid. So I think that the distinction of Reid is of such proportions that, in any event, to expunge his name from the list of electorates is bad enough. But to rub salt into the wound, to  
45 insult us all, and that's putting – it may seem to you putting it strongly, but it's true.



To decide at the very same redistribution process to rename an electorate after the man who was the most undistinguished prime minister in the country – the Chief Justice put it a little more politely than that, but it's true – but also a man who was renowned throughout his political career for his utter untrustworthiness – and if you don't believe that, have a look at Sir Paul Hasluck's book, *The Chance of Politics*, or Peter Golding's biography of Sir John McEwen, and you'll see it. He was despised by his colleagues. He was renowned for his untrustworthiness. And yet this man, of little legislative imagination, who introduced the brutal-est economics and accounting to the nature of governance in this country, should be honoured in exactly the same year as you decide to expunge Reid – simply staggers imagination.

I don't want to put it down to ill will, so I can only put it down to a lack of understanding of our history, and a lack of appreciation. What you said about McMahon in your preliminary report is the sheerest hagiography, and that is no ground for naming electorates. The third point in this respect that I want to make is that, all that said, you have allowed to remain the name of a Premier of New South Wales, Sir William Lyne, who was utterly opposed to Federation. So while getting rid of Reid, who was, without any exaggeration, one of our founding fathers, and a most distinguished citizen, at the very same time you retain the name of a man who was opposed to the very electoral governance system which the electorates that we're concerned with, and which the integrity of the system which we're concerned with, deals with.

I simply cannot understand. And so I come to my final presentation, is that – you are of course members of an independent commission. There is no question about that. But this doesn't exculpate you from the need to be publicly accountable. And that is publicly accountable not just in making sure the electoral system operates with integrity, and not just in having public hearings like this, but in actually giving a public accounting of your decisions. Because if you don't, then I suggest that you are likely to go down in history yourselves in the very same unflattering way in which the Governor-General of the time has forever more been remembered by historians.

You might remember that before the convening of the first Parliament, Lord Hopetoun, the then Governor-General, decided to ask Sir William Lyne, Premier of New South Wales and opponent of Federation, to be the first Prime Minister. This was radically opposed by the likes of Reid, Toby, Barton and Albert Deakin. And forevermore, it has gone down in history as the Hopetoun blunder. I don't want this year's results to go down as the Heerey or the Killesteyn blunder.

THE CHAIRMAN: Questions?

DR CARMODY: So if any of you have any public justifications for what you have said in your report and your proposal, I'd be interested in hearing it now.

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

DR CARMODY: No. So accountability actually has very limited advantage - - -

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Look, let me make it clear, doctor. We are the augmented commission. We're considering public objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposal. We will consider what you and what everybody else says and we'll give our reasons in due course.

10 DR CARMODY: You will give your reasons, because you are accountable to the nation through the parliament.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Thank you. Mrs Chamas. Mrs Lynette Chamas. Not here. Mr Bill Clifford.

15 MR CLIFFORD: Good morning, gentleman. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I only had the opportunity to find out about this two days ago, so I haven't had much of a chance to prepare, like some of the other members. I'm retired; I've been retired for the last two years. At the moment, I'm involved with the Australian Men's Sheds Association and I'm the coordinator of the Men's Shed in Gulgong. The position of Men's Sheds around Australia – and there are over 340  
20 Men's Sheds around Australia, and they were founded within Australia, and they are starting to move worldwide.

25 The Men's Sheds are there to provide support for men, for men to come and spend time at to do jobs at, to have a cup of tea or just chat, or many other things. With this situation in the country – as you would all understand, we are suffering from drought and this has been happening for quite some time now – the situation with the drought is causing depression; it is causing suicide and many other problems within the community. And also, we deal with many veterans also. The position that we are trying to do is to provide a place for men to come to for them to feel safe at and to be  
30 able to speak at or ask for information or help if they require it.

In many cases it is very difficult when you are in the country, because of the situation of the size of electorates and things like that when you are dealing with state or federal members. Now, if I may just go back a little bit. Just over the last few years,  
35 the state has changed a number of the shires and local council areas, and that caused a great dissent through the community. And some councils and shires are still coming to terms with the changes. So that also meant that it also changed some of the state boundaries. Now, going on from that, the former federal member, Mr John Anderson, when he became the member in the late 80s, early 90s there, his electorate  
40 changed quite considerably. And it grew to quite a large size.

45 Again, it caused a lot of concern and problems in the community for who should – the communities – who should the local people go to to ask for help from the federal member. In many cases, you travel hundreds and hundreds of kilometres if you want to see the federal member. Our local member is 230 kilometres away. So we don't get a great opportunity to see him either. So that is the main thing about – communication is an important part of the whole situation. Now, our federal

member, Mark Coulton, has been a standout in regard to what we're doing with the Men's Sheds in the area. We have been meeting with him and with other members of Men's Sheds in the Mudgee, Coolah, Dunedoo and Wellington areas.

5 It gives us the opportunity to go to Mark, speak to him as a collective if we need assistance of any sort, or to give us advice on how we should go about things. As I said before, our position is to try and support the men in our area. And that is what all the Sheds are trying to do. And it is important that they know that if we need other help that we can just speak to the state or the federal member and so on. Now,  
10 as I said, this federal electorate has changed, not at every election, but over the last 10 years or so, quite a number of times. And it is important that – I believe that we need to try and keep things in the country as stable as possible while other things are so unstable with the drought and the situation.

15 Although Parkes is a very large electorate, and Mark Coulton does a sterling job in carrying out his duties, and he is always available to us, but we certainly must understand that he has a lot to do. As he said while he was speaking here this morning, he spends four nights out of a month at home, because of the size of his electorate. There's not too many of us that are willing to put that commitment into  
20 our job that we carry out. We have found Mark always available, always happy to speak to us, always to help us with advice or support or point us in the right direction. And I believe that it would be a mistake to cut up the Mudgee Shire into two electorates, because I don't think it will work.

25 It is important that, with the problems and the concerns that occurred when the state changed the electorate boundaries and the local councils and shires, that if that is the case it's going to be I believe that it is important that we try and keep the shires and boundaries as close as possible to what they are now. They are the important things. It is very difficult to call for – I'm sure it would be, if the council were speaking here  
30 – I'm sure that they would be saying to you it would be very difficult for them to negotiate with two federal members, even though they might be in the same party or whatever the situation may be.

35 But my position is, and with many of the other Men's Sheds that are in our area, and not just in Mark's electorate, but in Mark's electorate there are lots and lots of Men's Sheds, but certainly in our area he has done a sterling effort. And without his support, without his advice and without his help, we would not be in the position we are now to support those men that live in our area. That's all I have to say. Thank  
40 you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Good. Thank you, Mr Clifford. Any questions? Thanks very much, Mr Clifford.

MR CLIFFORD: Thank you.

45 THE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Janice King. Mrs Janice King? Yes, thank you, Mrs King.

MRS KING: Good morning, Commissioners. I have to apologise, I won't be able to hear what you're saying, I have a severe hearing impairment so I'll say my bit and perhaps if you have any questions you could write them down for me.

5 My protest, it is a protest, is about the projected removal of 14 and a half thousand voters out of the North Sydney electorate into Warringah electorate. I come from the North Sydney electorate and I've been there most of my life. I am very much used to it and I find that it's really my space and my community. To be put into Warringah, which extends right up to the Northern Beaches, not that I have any objection to  
10 them, it's just that they are not my scene. And 14 and a half thousand people going out of North Sydney into Warringah means that another 14 and a half thousand or so have to be shifted out of Warringah into other electorates. From what I've read these electorates are Mackellar, Bradfield and, would you believe, North Sydney.

15 The people who seem to endorse this proposal that the break up of North Sydney happens get support from a gentleman in Melbourne, perhaps he designed some of the other things that seem to be wrong with Sydney, a Dr Richardson, who I can't find in the phone book, coming from the area, so he's outside the area. I've heard there's a Dr Richardson who lives in Mosman which is not far from Cremorne but  
20 miles away really, and then there's the National Party. Willoughby Council, quite naturally, wants all its suburbs together and at present they are divided into three. But this doesn't help North Sydney, nor does it help the suburb of Forestville, which is going to be sliced right down its middle, with some going into Bradfield and the rest staying in Warringah.

25 I really don't think that there's any justifiable cause for North Sydney to be split up this way. If you want to remove some of the people perhaps they could come from the west. What affinity has Hunters Hill, apart from the local member, to North Sydney. It's aligned more with Gladesville, Drummoyne, Lane Cove, west of Lane  
30 Cove. I think what's been missed out in all this is the human factor. People have a sense of space and a sense of place and removal of so many people right around the shop, just in these electorates, we are talking about 30,000 people, it's a lot, I think is a very strenuous exercise in splitting up people's sense of identity.

35 The other thing is the electorates of North Sydney and Warringah still, they have parity in numbers, now and in the projection of 2012. I don't there's much more to say. I have heard, but I haven't seen it written, is that there's a desirability to name electorates after people, get away from the LGA areas. I don't go along with this. I think that the local areas are very, very important. Riverina, for instance, they sent in  
40 79 submissions by members of their concerned electorate to stay within one grouping. And Riverina is definitely a recognisable entity. Same as the Northern Beaches are. Warringah is not Cammeraygal are the Aboriginal tribes that were in the North Sydney, Mosman, I think, and probably a bit of Chatswood, Willoughby areas. And they are very, very well remembered in our area. So the natural  
45 divisions, and they are natural divisions, are being ignored with such a proposal.

I think that's about all I have to say. Are there any questions?

THE CHAIRMAN: Questions? Thanks very much, Mrs King.

MRS KING: That's enough.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MRS KING: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Effie Mats, Mrs Mats.

10

MRS MATS: I would like to add to my letter dated - - -

THE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Mats, could you speak up a bit please? That's not a microphone.

15

MRS MATS It that better?

THE CHAIRMAN: That's better, yes.

20 MRS MATS: I would like to add to my written objection, 17<sup>th</sup> of the 8<sup>th</sup>, that the population growth in the electorate of Reid is the highest projected for the State of New South Wales. I didn't introduce myself. I am a community member and an editor of a local newspaper. So I'm representing the community spirit.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry, where does your newspaper circulate?

MRS MATS: In Harris Park, Granville, the area of Reid. The real community interests in the suburbs of Granville, Auburn, Merrylands, Guildford in comparison to Canada Bay, for example, and Auburn or Granville are different. The social and economic background of the population mainly comprises, that is the area of Reid, of low income, social security dependent students, first generation immigrants, working class families and in most cases the first home buyers. The multicultural population of the existing Reid electorate, find travelling distances short and convenient to visit their local MP. I'm saying this in points because these are the points where I did not put in my previous letter.

35

Immigration community requirements are effectively serviced in the existing Reid electorate. A close community relationship with the member of parliament and staff addresses their needs. Government policies are created by the feedback provided by the member of parliament who should be easily accessible to the vulnerable population. Common community interests and community bonds are disrupted if the electorate should be abolished. Harmony and multicultural programs funded by the Federal Government and other community services are already running in the Reid electorate.

40

I object to the name change. I object to the boundaries, the boundary changes as well. .... I don't know, do you want to ask me any questions on this?

45

THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions? No. Thank you very much, Mrs Mats.

MRS MATS: Fine, thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Speakman. Mr Grugeon and Councillor Mannoun.

MR SPEAKMAN: Members of the augmented Commission, good morning. I'm Mark Speakman and to my left is Hilton Grugeon, I am representing the Liberal Party this morning. Mr Grugeon will be speaking about Paterson and Newcastle and  
10 Lyne. I also have Councillor Ned Mannoun from Liverpool Council coming. I understand that the Secretariat of the Commission has been informed that he won't be able to be here till 1.30 this afternoon. So with your indulgence I propose to split my time between now and have Mr Mannoun come some time this afternoon if that's convenient to the Commission and the other speakers.

15

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I think that would be after lunch, yes.

MR SPEAKMAN: Also, if it's convenient for the Commission and the other speakers, I was hoping that I could split the Liberal Party's 30 minutes in a further  
20 way, to carve out some of my time now and defer it until after, at least, the Labor Party has made its presentation this afternoon. In my submission whatever I say orally would be more useful if it's in reply to whatever arises orally from Labor's submissions today, rather than rehashing written submissions that, no doubt, the members of the Commission have already extensively read.

25

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, all right. The Labor Party may want the right of reply too, but we'll deal with that when it arises.

MR SPEAKMAN: Thank you very much. May I now ask Mr Hilton Grugeon AM  
30 to address the Commission.

MR GRUGEON: Thank you, gentlemen. My name's Hilton Grugeon, I'm a resident of Berry Park which is in the Paterson electorate currently. Berry Park is part of the Morpeth, Berry Park, Duckenfield, Millers Forrest community which is a  
35 rural area of small farms, but up until very recently largely dairy farming with chicken farming and turf farming. And my submission as to our little area there, that it be removed from Paterson and into the Newcastle electorate would be, for us, detrimental. We have enjoyed under Paterson electorate representation which has had a very strong interest in the rural needs of the rural community. Both the current and  
40 former members for Paterson have been involved in matters relating to both dairying and the chicken industry in the past when there's been problems on a national level.

We do not feel that the ongoing representation from a city based electorate and a city based member would be anything equivalent because this would be a very tiny fringe  
45 in that electorate and the needs of that electorate are so different. This little rural community has, for instance, a very active progress association which is quite an

amusing term when you stop to look at it, a real misnomer, but the progress association has been active there for over a hundred years. The Rural Watch, which is the rural equivalent of Neighbourhood Watch, whereas Neighbourhood Watch is in the urban communities, have trouble maintaining their viability, our Rural Watch is alive and well.

Our community shops mainly in Raymond Terrace where we have our medical, dental, legal, accounting services. We are very much focussed towards Raymond Terrace and the secondary focus for us is Maitland. Newcastle is not part of the community that we are involved in or part of. Distance to our local member's office would be changed from about seven kilometres to over 30 kilometres which in bigger rural areas isn't much of a distance, but for us, of course, it's over four times the distance to go for any contact, personally, with our local member.

In our area, of course, there is encroaching urban development, in Thornton, Somerset Park and Metford. This is, though, all people that are in urban centres that don't have those links with us in the rural community. For them to be encompassed into the Newcastle electorate would, of course, obviously be a better fit. And I notice that you've put some of them in there already and possibly Metford being part of that little urban stretch could well fit into there if there needed to be some adjustment in the numbers

Our area is very old whereas all these urban areas are very new. As an example I live in a house that was built in 1828. In the urban areas they weren't even there in 1960, 1970, so it's a totally different lifestyle altogether. But for our needs as an electorate, for our needs as a community, we strongly believe that a member that has a large rural constituency would be better able to serve us.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just before you go on to the next point, I notice that at paragraph 105 of its report, the Committee gave us a reason for this move in order to obtain a stronger boundary. Do you have any comment on that?

MR GRUGEON: The boundary – there is a very strong natural boundary in the main road. The main road - - -

THE CHAIRMAN: That's at the moment, at the - - -

MR GRUGEON: And the other boundary is, there is a wetlands, a very wide wetlands area that stretches from that main road right across to the river. It is a natural boundary which, of course, both the main road, with the new developments that are happening right up to the main road, and I'm involved in some of them, they won't even have road frontage. That road will be isolated from – so we won't have people living on both sides of a road in different electorates. The wetlands, of course, or swamps as they used to be known, are very extensive. So again we don't have people living on opposite sides of a line that would be in different electorates. They are in different communities, different areas.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Thank you.

MR GRUGEON: If I could go then to the business connection that we're heavily involved in in the Lower Hunter and I was honoured with an award which related to our economic development in the Hunter Valley and to move over to Raymond Terrace and across to the Williamstown area. Williamstown, as you'd be aware, is the centre for the major RAAF base. I'm personally involved in an aero space business park adjoining the RAAF base and the civil airport of Williamstown. So to touch on that, those areas are part of the Raymond Terrace business influence. For instance, the Department of Defence just recently opened their new business defence centre, their defence business centre, which, when it went out for tender, it was considered to be the Newcastle - - -

THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me a moment. What area are we talking about, looking at the redistribution map.

MR GRUGEON: At the redistribution, we're looking at the Williamstown area, which is down in Newcastle at the top of Fullerton Cove.

THE CHAIRMAN: But that's not been altered, has it?

MR GRUGEON: Well, I was wanting to mention it because if there is any reason to be changing anything, whether it could be considered that Williamstown could be linked back to Raymond Terrace - - -

THE CHAIRMAN: I see. Yes.

MR GRUGEON: - - - because of the business links, both with all of us and with the Department of Defence. It used to be, Williamstown used to be within Paterson, then moved out again but the link between Williamstown and Newcastle has not been strengthened or changed. If anything, it has, in the last couple of years, become much closer aligned with Raymond Terrace and, as a business activity, to have the same federal representation would be highly advantageous to us both from Raymond Terrace community, business community, and from the RAAF centre.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, instead of the earlier area you were talking about, you would suggest Newcastle be moved north to include Raymond Terrace. Is that - - -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. South.

MR GRUGEON: No. No. I'm suggesting that Newcastle could be moved south.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: South.

MR GRUGEON: Straight across Fullerton Cover there is, again, a big area of no habitation between Williamstown and the Fern Bay area. Fern Bay is very aligned to Stockton, which is part of Newcastle and Fern Bay is the very bottom of the Port



Stephens Shire but even recently in some development at Fern Bay, the section 94 was split between Port Stephens and Newcastle by agreement with Port Stephens because they see Fern Bay as definitely relating to Newcastle. Williamtown, though, more relates to Raymond Terrace and up into Port Stephens up at Tilligerry Peninsula, where most of the work force for the Williamtown area lives but I put this in, not as an objection to what you have done but as a suggestion of where we could get added advantage if you were to consider looking again at where those lines fall. I don't think I have anything else unless somebody would have a question.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Grugeon. Any questions?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

MR GRUGEON: Thank you very much.

15

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. Mr Speakman, we had an earlier speaker who was scheduled at 11 and fortunately, we're running ahead of time. I'm told she's arrived. How much longer would you be?

20 MR SPEAKMAN: It might be convenient to hear from her now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

25 MR SPEAKMAN: I was going to propose that, as you've just heard about Paterson, that Mr Baldwin, who's here now, be rescheduled ahead of me and address the Commission next on Paterson.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. All right. Well, you have no objection to Mrs Chamas being introduced today.

30

MR SPEAKMAN: No I don't.

35 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you. Mrs Lynette Chamas? Mrs Chamas, are you out there? Okay. All right. Well, yes, we'll wait. We've earned a bit of a spell. Mrs Chamas? Please come forward, Mrs Chamas. Don't worry. You're not really late. You came on time. It's just that we got through quicker than expected, the other speakers.

40 MS CHAMAS: Right. I'm not going to take very much of your time. I have something written here but I'm just going to speak from the heart. I'm not here to talk about maps and even history, although I do agree that confining a man like George Reid to the historical waste basket is a pretty poor way to treat our own history, however, I would like to speak on behalf of the other constituents of the current seat of Reid, who do not have, for the most part, do not have the English language or the confidence to speak for themselves. For a time last year I worked as  
45 the convenor of the Australian Citizenship ceremonies for Auburn Council and I saw

how desperately proud these people are to be able to vote, to become an Australian Citizen and to vote.

They are unbelievably proud. They bring their families. They take photographs.  
5 Voting to them is a very serious business but it's also a complex business, when you're not very educated in your own country, when you're in a foreign country that is far more sophisticated than your place of origin and to these people, voting can be quite, quite challenging even when they've been in the same place for several years and they know where the voting booth is and they know what the procedure is. It  
10 can still be a bit of a challenge each time. I'm sure everybody here can understand that. These people who have been there for several years all know where, for example, the Member of Parliament's Office is. It's very centrally located for the people in that area. It's easy for everyone to get to. It's right next to a railway station.

15 It's been there for 40 years. Everyone knows, and if you ask around, someone will always be able to tell you if you need your local member, and these people are very often very needy with services and help from their local member, more so, perhaps, than better educated, more affluent folk are. They know how to get there and they  
20 can get there with relative ease because of the railway system. Those who are going to find themselves in Blaxland are going to find it quite challenging to get to their local member. If you live in Guilford or Merrylands or Granville or Auburn, getting to Bankstown practically needs a passport. The bus service is limited at best. The train service, it requires a change of trains, a change of platform and a rather long  
25 journey at which Bankstown was somewhere at the end.

For people who haven't got their own transport, it's going to be very difficult getting to see their local member and these are people who, as I said, often have a great need to see their local member. Would you excuse me if I put on my glasses, without  
30 which I am completely hopeless, so that I can actually see my notes? Thank you. The boundaries that have always been used up to now for seats are sort of sensible, either large man made or natural boundaries – Duck River, the big pipeline, railways, highways. As an example of the complexity of the new boundaries, I would give you the way it affects people just at the end of my street. Wellington Road, the boundary,  
35 the new boundary for McMahon, starts at Duck River and goes up along Wellington Road.

I live on – I don't know if – the north side I think it is. I'm not terribly good with directions. I live on one side of Wellington Road. My street runs off it. I would be  
40 in Lowe, I believe. The people on the other side would be in Blaxland. So people on one side of the street are in one seat. People on the other side of the street, a stone's throw literally, are on, in another seat entirely. Now, the people who are now in Blaxland are used to going only two blocks away to vote. They will go their two blocks and find that they no longer vote there. They have an option. They have two  
45 options. They can go to a further one, somewhere further away, which might not be convenient if they don't have their own transport and a lot of – since so many people

in our area are migrants and are starting out and don't have access yet, in the beginning, to their own transport, that might be difficult for them.

5 The alternative, I believe, is multiple polling booths. So these people who are already challenged by going year after year to the same place, suddenly find there's two lots of queues and two lots of frustration and two lots of not knowing where to go, where to go on and a lot of them will just say, the heck with this and walk off and not vote at all and the system will have made it so complicated that they simply can't cope with it. Through no fault of their own, they'll just decide, I'd rather cop the \$20  
10 fine than go through all this hassle. The informal vote in my area is already way above the national average. In one booth alone, Berala Public School, in 2007, the informal vote was 7.2 per cent.

15 That's just typical because these people don't speak English and aren't familiar with our parliamentary system. Watch that vote, informal vote, go through the roof as people just abandon attempts to do something that has become too difficult and give up and walk away. There's also a matter of common interest, community interest. The current seat of Reid covers a great, I think the biggest proportion of people from non English speaking background. Auburn has 53.2 per cent of the population come  
20 from a non English speaking background. These people are very challenged in everything that they do and it just seems to me really cruel to make the longed for voting, I'm voting, I'm finally voting as an Australian citizen, a frustrating, difficult process because somebody else has made decisions without thinking about how it's going to impact on the local people and it seems to me everybody talking about  
25 history and maps and boundaries has forgotten what it means really.

Changing the distribution is going to affect ordinary people who already find the whole thing difficult as it is and to me that seems really unfair. You can – I believe there was another seat where they were going to change the, where they were going  
30 to alter the boundaries and there was a very concerted campaign to stop this happening. This was, I believe, in a seat where people – English is their first language. Well, they're Anglo Celtic Australia. So naturally English is their first language. They're educated and they're further up the socio-economic ladder. It seems almost to me as somebody living with these people that you're saying well,  
35 these people are uneducated, they're migrants, but what the heck, we can mess them around and it doesn't matter. Yes, it does matter. They're people and your decision here is going to affect them in a very fundamental way.

40 There's also the matter of common community interest. I don't think there's a great deal in common between the people of South Granville and the people of Canada Bay or the people of Auburn and Chester Hill. The current constituency of Reid has a common interest. It has something that holds people together, their common experiences as migrants and coming to this country and trying to start again and being proud to be part of the system, desperately proud. It's quite pathetic if you  
45 could see how proud they are to be able to vote sometimes for the first time in their life have a say, and if they end up getting messed around with complicated

boundaries that turn left at this street and go under the bridge and around the roundabout and suddenly they're all confused.

5 They've been there for years and they're told you've got to go over there and it becomes difficult. It will be so disheartening to them and so many of them will end up either walking away or voting in the wrong place and the informal vote will go through the roof. That's really all I have to say. I've just come to speak on behalf of those people because they can't speak for themselves. I hope you will take what I'm saying into consideration and remember this isn't about boundaries or even good old  
10 George. This is about the people who live there now and the Committee helping them to do what they love which is voting and not make it more difficult. Thank you very much for your time.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions? Thank you, Mrs Chamas. Mr Speakman?

MR SPEAKMAN: Thank you. Did the augmented Commission wish to hear from me now or from Mr Baldwin, as I'd suggested?

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it's up to you how you would like to present your case.

MR SPEAKMAN: If Mr Baldwin can be interposed now that's what I propose.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right.

25 THE HON. BOB BALDWIN MP: Thank you very much, gentlemen. I'm Bob Baldwin, the Member for Paterson. I last appeared before you at the previous redistribution hearings. At that time I was successful in arguing to keep Raymond Terrace as a part of Paterson, but, unfortunately, not arguing well enough to keep Williamtown RAAF Base, but I will come to that very shortly. I wish to break my  
30 argument into five distinct areas. Firstly, I'll address Nahiab, then I'll go to the Williamtown RAAF Base, Williamtown Airport and the local environment, the Port Stephens Local Government Area split, the issues surrounding Berry Park, Duckenfield, Millers Forest and then the Metford, Thornton, Chisholm, East Maitland areas.

35 It is unfortunate that the Boundary Redistribution Committee cannot change Local Government Area boundaries. These are boundaries that were set down many, many years ago but when we talk about communities of interest quite often people link it back to Local Government Area boundaries, and in modern times and with progress  
40 that has occurred they are quite often falling far from the pail. In that situation I say to you, and I respectfully say to you, it's very hard to develop up maps relying on Google Earth or information provided to you. I present to you my information based as a person who drives through these towns regularly, meets with the people, the constituents, addresses the concerns of people who don't live in my electorate, but  
45 believe they do because of communities of interest. So it is in that sense.

- I'll talk about NABIAC. NABIAC is one of those unusual towns that is split by the Pacific Highway. It's split by the Pacific Highway and one half of it is in Great Lakes Local Government Area and the other half is in the Greater Taree area. Both are in the state seat of Myall Lakes but again it is split at this point in time through the seats of Lyne and the seat of Paterson. On the Great Lakes LGA side and the Paterson side, basically the eastern side of the Pacific Highway, you have all the food outlets, the chemists, the school, the police, the Rural Fire Service, the hardware store and the pub.
- 10 On the western side of the highway of NABIAC you have the – which is on the Taree LGA you have all of the fuel stops, 100 per cent of the fuel stops. You have the Caravan Service Centre. You have the food stops. So you have a community which is split because of LGA, a community that is split because of the Pacific Highway, and this is where it makes it hard for you commissioners looking at a natural
- 15 boundary. Well, I say to you that there is a very strong community of interest in having the whole of NABIAC and including the surrounding areas of Dyers Crossing included in the one LGA.
- I obviously agree with the part of the National Party's submission which argued in its initial submission that Dyers Crossing and NABIAC should be included in one save that their submission said that the whole of the area should be put into the seat of Lyne. Obviously we have a different opinion into where it should be located, but we both agree that it should be one community, and it creates a great level of concern to people not just turning up at polling booths, as your previous speaker said, the concerns that people have, but it's more on their day-to-day management of issues, and as if being a separate Local Government Areas is not an issue enough for them, being in separate Federal boundaries while they're all in the same state boundary also creates an issue and a problem.
- 20
- 25
- 30 The other area that I now wish to address is the issue surrounding Williamstown RAAF Base and Newcastle Airport. Of course they are the one facility and it may be called Newcastle Airport, but can I say to you that it is wholly contained in the Port Stephens Local Government Area. All of the support and infrastructure for – whether you deem it Williamstown RAAF Base on one side or Newcastle commercial
- 35 airport on the other side is supported and funded by the Port Stephens LGA, not the Newcastle Local Government Area, right, not at all. In fact, the Newcastle Local Government Area, if my memory serves me correctly, doesn't start for around about 23 kilometres from the airport.
- 40 Williamstown RAAF Base is a base that is there for the long term. It has a lot of issues to address, a lot of community issues and a lot of development issues in relation to defence. As I said, it's all in the Port Stephens area and it's predominantly serviced by Raymond Terrace. The Defence Housing Australia office is located in Raymond Terrace. Most of the people – the predominance of the people
- 45 located at Williamstown RAAF Base live in the areas of the Tomaree Peninsula, in other words, Nelson Bay and environment, Tilligerry Peninsula predominantly through Tanilba Bay, Mallabula, a massive amount of them live in Medowie which is

in Port Stephens and of course through Raymond Terrace. It depends on your ranking which area you actually get to live in as in the grading of the house that is provided, but the predominance of the people there live in Port Stephens and of course the predominance of the people live in the Paterson electorate.

5

Mr Grugeon spoke of the Defence Business Centre which was put out to tender. There were four areas – five submissions, but four areas. There was a submission for it to be located in Newcastle, one to be based in the Maitland area of Thornton. There were two from Raymond Terrace and one to be based at Williamstown itself. The Department of Defence, not the government, chose that it should be located in Raymond Terrace because that's where a lot of support business and industry and services for those working in this complex which houses an excess of 150 people, and the predominance of those employed at the Defence Business Centre are the partners of those who are based at Williamstown RAAF Base.

15

That's why it was chosen as a location to base it here in the Hunter. The other one that was developed was in Townsville and it has the same situation where the predominance of people employed in that centre are spouses or partners of people engaged in that base. So Defence can see the need or the link between Williamstown and the RAAF Base. The population around Williamstown other than the RAAF Base is predominantly rural people much like those in the areas of Duckenfield through Bolwarra, Largs, Lorn, up through Seaham. They all have the same community – farming community of interests and whether that's in chickens or in beef production they have very similar needs and, in fact, they obtain all the services whether it's the feed, whether it's the irrigation services, whether it's the support industries, whether it's getting their machinery fixed, all done at Raymond Terrace, not in Newcastle.

20

25

Can I respectfully put to you that there is also, as I said before, issues pertaining to Local Government boundaries? Here you have the ironic situation where you have a township called Fern Bay. Fern Bay is a very densely populated place down in adjoining Stockton. Fern Bay is in the Port Stephens Local Government Area. Stockton of course is in Newcastle. The socio demographic of Fern Bay is replicated in the Stockton. As the submissions – and I won't repeat what is in the submissions – the communities of interest there are very common and, in fact, if somebody were to do a favour to both the people of Fern Bay and Stockton there would be a suggestion that the Local Government Areas realign their boundaries to service the needs of the people there.

35

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Baldwin, just looking at the factors set out in section 73(4) of the Act it doesn't make any mention of Local Government Areas. Now, true it is it talks about community of interest, economic, social and regional interests, but it may be that if those interests happen to coincide with a Local Government Area that's purely coincidental.

45

THE HON BOB BALDWIN MP: Okay. Then I've misinterpreted the Act, but the people who seem to develop these plans and submissions from political parties and the way

I see the natural boundaries follow of a seat they predominantly seem to follow in regional rural areas Local Government boundaries. That's why the whole of Gloucester has been contained in Paterson. Recently the whole of Great Lakes, the whole of Dungog – while I was a member up until last election all of Port Stephens was an area of location, but it's right what you say, communities of interest can sometimes be quite often outside of Local Government Areas and for us that boundary.

Going back to Williamtown RAAF Base, with the advent of the Hawk Lead-In Fighter and the noise plans that came in, Williamtown School was closed down because it was not economically viable to provide the sound insulation as was provided to Salt Ash School. The children from Williamtown School because they live in a rural area were either split into the Salt Ash School. Some went to Medowie School and others went to Irrawang which is part of the Raymond Terrace community.

That's a sign of things that are to come there with the increasing economic and business development, but the links are to the north through the areas of Raymond Terrace, Medowie and, indeed, across to Maitland where they will draw their workforce who are in the predominance - because it's going to be an aviation technology park the predominance will be ex-Defence Force personnel or people who have been brought in to work on the Defence Force equipment and will be located in that region.

The other issue that is coming to the fore at the moment and was announced last week was the Joint Strike Fighter, the new aircraft, and its noise profiles and the effect it will have on the region. There's talk of more schools having to close because of the increased noise and where those children will be relocated, but, importantly, and the point I want to get to, the noise profile is split into two. You have the Salt Ash Weapons Range which is in Port Stephens currently located in the seat of Paterson. The noise is generated because of the aircraft from Williamtown RAAF Base which is now located across the road from the seat of Paterson in the seat of Newcastle.

When people come to complain about the noise they come to the one member of Parliament and that is person they perceive to be their local – or that is their local member. It gets hard to argue well, the noise is created out at – when you live in my electorate the noise is created by a base that's located in somebody else's electorate. So for ease of addressing the concern it is easier to have the whole of the noise footprint in one area. I've dealt with this issue since being the member since 1996 and in 2001 was effective in having streets bought out in the Williamtown area and those people chose to move to Raymond Terrace, to Williamtown, to Tilligerry because they could no longer live under those noise profiles. That in part was part of the reason why – besides the noise factor – the Williamtown School shut down because there was a migration of around 80 families from that area near the airport.

The next area I wish to address again is the Port Stephens LGA, and I note the submission from the council. Port Stephens Council talked about Port Stephens basically being one for ease, but in the submission written by the general manager differs to that put by the council, and if I can take a moment to quote to you from the  
5 Port Stephens Examiner on 3 September which reported on the council meeting and, in particular, the quotes from the Labor Councillor, Glenys Francis, who said:

10 *She wanted the proposed boundary for the Paterson to be extended in line to the Hexham Bridge to incorporate Motto Farm, Heatherbrae, Tomago and Williamtown -*

Williamtown was left out of the submission put forward by the general manager –

15 *which had been drawn into the Newcastle electorate in the draft. It's a logical way –*

Councillor Francis said. She said:

20 *Residents in the areas are associated more with Paterson and should be included in the same electorate as the rest of the port.*

The rest of it – then she goes on to quote that Fern Bay is a different collection of population. So there's somebody who shares a totally different political ideology with me but actually understands the community, as I do.

25 In relation to Port Stephens, submissions that you've received have said that well, Port Stephens should be in Newcastle because it shares the chamber of commerce, supports the football team, well, can I say to you the Newcastle Knights and the Jets draw their supports from more than just Raymond Terrace or areas of Port Stephens.  
30 It's the whole region over. But in relation to chambers of commerce, each of those areas have their own individual chambers of Commerce. And perhaps the most telling point is that Port Stephens is not a member of the Hunter Tourism. It is actually a member of Mid North Coast Tourism.

35 It made the decision five years ago to move out of Hunter Tourism because it bore no resemblance to the tourism promoted by Newcastle and Maitland and wanted to be associated, through its coastal beach and rural strips, to those of the Great Lakes and Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour region, which it considers it has a stronger community of interest in relation to tourism. Turning now quickly, because I  
40 understand time is running out, to the Berry Park, Duckenfield and Millers Forrest area. I drive that road every day between my office and where I reside. I can see the natural boundary and the natural boundary, and I will differ with Mr Grugeon, is not Raymond Terrace Road, which is the current boundary, the natural boundary is the Hunter River and then the wetland.

45 Because what you have at the moment, you have families, the Mexon family at Millers Forrest where one half of the family lives one side of the road in one



electorate and then across the road the other half of the Mexon family, and there are eight Mexon families on this one hill that Raymond Terrace Road divides. If you take the Hunter River you take all of the rural aspect in. And if you take the wetlands as a boundary you take all of the rural aspect and combine that with  
5 Duckenfield, Berry Park and Millers Forest. Each of those areas, as Mr Grugeon said, are linked to Morpeth, are linked to Raymond Terrace. Morpeth was actually a port before Newcastle. Morpeth was the key port before Newcastle and all of those communities along that line all have a common area of interest. The wetland separates off Thornton, Somerset Park, Metford, so if you were to take a natural  
10 boundary you'd look at the wetland and then Raymond Terrace Road.

I would also acknowledge the contribution of Gloria Green who has written a very heartfelt submission to you, but truly understands that community. She is known as the Mayoress of that area. She takes control and command of all of the issues,  
15 whether it's local government, whether it's law and order, road works and does a tremendous job there. Finally, if I can get to the area in relation to Metford, Thornton, Somerset Park, which I've addressed, as having a possibility of a natural boundary of the wetlands from Raymond Terrace Road. This area of development is all very much the same. It's the same socio, demographic, age, population, they are  
20 the same. Which are different to East Maitland which is the older part of Maitland which has its connections through to the areas which are suggested to be in to Paterson. And I would strongly suggest to the Committee that Metford be a part of that Thornton, Somerset Park group, rather than across into the East Maitland, Tenambit, Raworth areas.

25 Now, they have the same sort of age demographic. They have the same education facilities, the same local sporting connections and facilities and the difference is one is an old town, the other is a new town. The other area that I'd suggest to you is that has respectfully been omitted is the township of Chisholm. Chisholm is a new town  
30 on the north western side of Raymond Terrace Road which is progressing. Road works have commenced. The infrastructure is going in. Blocks of land are being sold and it's projected there will be nine and a half thousand people being established in that area. Now, that will be a new township, but those numbers, if you're looking at whether there is a shortfall in numbers over the next electoral period, between now  
35 and the election in 2013/14, whenever it will be, there will be an additional 1500 to 2000 constituents in Chisholm. There will be nine and a half thousand people there over the next decade and that needs to be taken into consideration so that there's not this constant boundary shift each and every election cycle to take into account.

40 Also I can say to you in closing, gentlemen, is that understanding the area can only come from being a part of that area. I travel through that area regularly and that is why I respectfully put to you that Nahiabac should be one whole area. That the areas particularly of, the rural areas through Williamstown, Fullerton Cove, even the industrialised areas of Motto Farm, Tomago and Heatherbrae are a part of Port  
45 Stephens and, you know, keeping those areas together, even though those areas haven't been part of my electorate for the last two years, we see no shortage of

people who assume because they are in Port Stephens assume that their member is in Raymond Terrace and therefore come to you with those problems.

5 Now, I know that is not an issue that you have to deal with, but that is one that actually occurs and that's a real situation where people believe that that area is their area and if that does anything it describes communities of interest. So all of those areas in Port Stephens, with the exception of Fern Bay, and even when I was the member and had Fern Bay, people could still go to Newcastle because they considered that was part of their area. These are the things that I ask you to consider  
10 as you interpret the comments on the redistribution.

Thank you very much.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank You, Mr Baldwin. Any Questions?

MR KILLESTEYN: Mr Baldwin, sorry, if all of the changes that you've suggested are made, do you have any understanding of what the impact is in terms of the tolerances or impact on the quotas for each electorate?

20 THE HON BOB BALDWIN MP: Leaving the numbers in Chisholm out, which I understand you have to do because otherwise you would have to go back and redraw all of the boundaries based on quotas, I believe that with the submission put forward by the Liberal Party it makes it on the very bottom end of the allowable tolerance. In real terms, though, with the growth just taking what will occur in Chisholm alone,  
25 and not talking about the other developments that are about to occur in Raymond Terrace through Kings Hill Development which is now getting the go ahead from the council, the population growth in the electorate of Paterson under the suggested boundaries will take it at the next electoral cycle well and truly up towards the upper end of the margins, well and truly. I can say that because I know the area. I've  
30 served on the council there. I've served as the local member and I know of all of the developments that are occurring in that region.

MR KILLESTEYN: Thank you.

35 THE CHAIRMAN: Good, thank you, Mr Baldwin.

THE HON BOB BALDWIN MP: Thank you very much for your time.

40 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Speakman.

MR SPEAKMAN: Thank you. Just further on the last question, our calculations of the numbers are in paragraph 3.6 of our objection document, 184. The Liberal Party maintains as its submissions the matters that are set out in our objection document and our comment document and could I supplement then with these submissions. I  
45 wasn't in attendance yesterday in Mittagong, but the report that I received suggested that Mr Easson, for the Labor Party, said that there were two decisions that the Commission needed to make with the respect to the proposed Gilmore and Throsby.

The first, as I understand it, was did the proposed Gilmore better reflect communities of interest, namely does Shoalhaven have the closest links with Kiama, Shellharbour, or alternatively with the Southern Highlands. And the second decision that was said to be necessary, paraphrasing what was said, was which is the best road link from the Southern Highlands, was it the Illawarra Highway or was the Nowra Bowral Road. Dealing with that second question first, we don't put the submission that the Nowra Bowral Road is significantly better than the Illawarra Highway. The submission we put is that it is as good a link between the Southern Highlands and the coast as is the Illawarra Highway. As I understand it, Mr Easson invited the Commissioners to drive down both roads and described problems with the Nowra Bowral Road, slow speed zones, a one lane bridge at one point. But all the problems ultimately come out in the wash when you compare it with the Illawarra Highway.

Without regurgitating what the data show, travel times between Mittagong, Moss Vale, Bowral on the one hand and Nowra on the other hand are broadly comparable with travel times between those Southern Highlands towns on the one hand and Shellharbour/Dapto and the volume of traffic is broadly the same. So whatever advantages and disadvantages there are for the two routes they are broadly comparable in terms of travel times and in terms of conditions.

So then the question, reverting to the first question that Mr Easson posed, well, standing in, paraphrasing, standing in Nowra do we have closer links with Kiama and Shellharbour or do we have closer links with the Southern Highlands. Now, that is a relevant question on communities of interest but it is not the only relevant question. There are a whole lot of linkages that one has to look at, not just standing in Nowra and saying which way do we have stronger communities of interest. It's also relevant to stand in Mittagong or Bowral and say are we a better fit with the Shoalhaven or are we a better fit with an industrial, urban area around Shellharbour and the southern part of the Wollongong LGA. It's also relevant to stand in the southern part of Shellharbour and say are we a better fit, do we have a stronger community of interest with the Shoalhaven or do we in South Shellharbour have a stronger community of interest with North Shellharbour. It is also relevant to stand in the northern part of the Shellharbour LGA and the southern half of the Wollongong LGA and say are we a better fit with the Southern Highlands or are we a better fit with Shellharbour south.

Now, in relation to those last two questions, our submission is it is a no brainer. A continuous urban area like Shellharbour, it is self-evident, we say, that those in the southern half of that continuous urban area will have a stronger community of interest with those in the northern half of that continuous urban area in the same local government area than they will with the Shoalhaven. Likewise those who are north of the Redistribution Committee's proposed Throsby/Gilmore boundary, but are in Shellharbour, or are in the southern end of Wollongong, will have as part of that continual urban area with services and utilities crossing all over that area, self-evidently stronger links with the southern part of Shellharbour than they will with the Southern Highlands, particularly as the Shellharbour CBD is very close to the proposed Throsby/Gilmore boundary.

It seems that everybody is in furious agreement that generally speaking north/south links are stronger than east/west link. Now, Labor tries then to say well, that means that Nowra should be in the same electorate as Kiama. We say that there are a number of problems with that argument. If there are these strong north/south links they are strongest within a continual urban area like Shellharbour. Shellharbour south will have strong north/south links with Shellharbour north than it will with the Shoalhaven. There was some traffic data in Labor's comments to the Commission about the traffic volume at Bombo and what that said about north south links. The problem with that analysis is it doesn't tell you the origin and the destination of that traffic flow. It tells you what the flow is at one point on the Princes Highway. It doesn't tell you where those people have come from and where they are going to. We submit that it is much more sensible to draw a line through the Kiama LGA in a way that doesn't separate continuous urban areas, that has Gerringong and Gerroa south of that line and the town of Kiama north of that line, than it is to run a line through a continuous urban area.

So I've stressed the community of interest around Shellharbour. They're looking at the southern highlands for reasons that are in the written submissions, that part of Wingecarribee that has to go somewhere - unfortunately, the numbers just aren't there to keep Wingecarribee together - that part of Wingecarribee that has to go somewhere is a more natural fit with the semi rural environment of the Shoalhaven and the rest at Gilmore than it is with Throsby and the Nowra Bowral road provides just as good a link between the southern highlands and the Shoalhaven as does the Illawarra highway heading in an east west direction. Yesterday, Mr Easson, I understand, quoted some figures about numbers employed in Agriculture.

We say that to rely on those figures is misleading. So far as the State district of Kiama is concerned, to which Mr Easson referred, that State electorate includes all of the Shoalhaven local government area north of the Shoalhaven River. Over half of the Kiama State electorate would be in Gilmore, on both the redistribution committee's boundaries and the Liberal Party's proposed boundaries, so one can't get out anything to support Labor's position on the numbers employed in agriculture in Kiama. The relevant data appear at pages 26 and 27 of the National Party objection where you will see the significant numbers employed in agriculture etcetera in Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee and the almost total absence of agriculture businesses in the Shellharbour local government area.

So, for those reasons, we submit that it is a much more logical fit, from a community of interest viewpoint, to have Southern Highlands with the Shoalhaven and to keep the continuous urban area around Shellharbour intact as one community of interest in one electorate. So far as Paterson, Newcastle and Lyne are concerned, basically, my thunder has been stolen by Mr Grugeon and Mr Baldwin and there's nothing useful I can add to what they have put. So far as Hughes, Werriwa, Fowler and Cook are concerned, what we have proposed addresses what we say is a serious disadvantage of the redistribution committee's proposal, which would split Liverpool CBD. We have come up with a proposed set of boundaries that will keep Liverpool CBD intact. It's a major growth centre with tens of thousands of people employed there.

The arguments are similar to those that appear to have been accepted by the Commission on the last occasion in relation to Parramatta. Our boundaries don't involve an awful lot of change to what the Committee proposed other than to tidy up around Liverpool, to use the Georges River as a strong, physical boundary separating Hughes, on the one hand, from Werriwa and Fowler on the other hand using a railway line as a strong boundary between Cook and Hughes and otherwise adopting the Committee's boundaries. It seems to us that nobody has put anything in the comments that have gone to the redistribution committee, the comments on our proposal, really there's nothing there that has gain saved the advantage of Liverpool – to Liverpool CBD that we propose.

So far as other electorates are concerned, Labor's proposals in Eden-Monaro and Hume and the proposals of the Nationals and Labor around Hume and Macarthur, our comments on their proposals are set out on our written document and I'd suggest it would be better for me not to rehash them now but to see if there's anything new that comes out today orally and reply to that if necessary. They are our submissions unless the Commission has any questions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Speakman.

MR SPEAKMAN: Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Speakman. I understand Mr Hennelly is present. He wasn't scheduled until after lunch but Mr Hennelly, would you like to address the Commission now?

MR HENNELLY: Yes. Just for the record, I'm Paul Hennelly and I'm from The Fishing Party and I run for the Federal seat of Paterson in 2001, 2003 and 2007 and I'd just like to speak a little bit to the submission that I've already put in on the basis that – I shouldn't say Bob's had his say but Bob has and there's a few other issues I'd like to raise with the Commission in relation to what I've said and, specifically, of course, we've got the Duckenfield, Berry Park, Millers Forest area, which is definitely rural and I'd like to point out to the Commission that I was the bushfire captain for the North Rocks, West Pennant Hills volunteer bushfire brigade from something like 1976 until 1979.

And, in relation to the disastrous and lethal bushfires we've had down in Victoria, the areas here have, as I understand it, about three of their own rural fire brigades and I feel that it would be most unwise to essentially marginalise them because of their rural values and area and put them with a distinctly city based electorate with a very large Green presence who are quite antagonistic to the activities of rural fire brigades such as burning off fire hazards so they don't kill people in a killer bushfire and, on that basis, I don't feel that their special needs and that is, of course, in relation to bushfire protection, are going to be enhanced by putting them in with an essentially city based electorate where the city based values and, dare I say, the important swinging votes of the Greens will take precedence over any integrity in terms of lives and property in the bush. Now, having said that, I'd appreciate it if you would consider the fact that the Paterson electorate is very much, if not rural, then definitely semi rural and certainly on the rural urban interface and that putting these people in with, essentially,

Newcastle City, is going to turn them into sort of urbanised fringe dwellers whose interests, and kindly remember that, you know, freedom for the pike is death for the minnows and with 173 fatalities down in Victoria due to maladministration. The basic democratic mechanism whereby these people can view and air their areas of concern are going to be circumscribed if they're lumped in with 80-odd thousand other essentially urbanised voters who've got no concept of what is involved in either running a bushfire brigade or protecting a rural community from bushfires and their interests would run counter to the Greens on, say, Newcastle City Council. Now, on that basis, in terms of a socio, if you like, rural divide and the special needs rather than if you want some concerns of rural people needing to be protected from killer bushfires, I think it would be most unwise to take these small rural communities out of Paterson and put them with a large urban conurbation and leave them exposed, if you like, to the vagaries of Green politics. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions? No. Thank you. Thank you, Mr Hennelly.

MR HENNELLY: Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think we can adjourn now. Yes. Is Mr Franklin here, and, Mr Easson here? Well, the program did designate a break for lunch from 12 to 12.40 but you gentleman are the only remaining speakers, subject to Mr Speakman asked for right of reply, which we agreed to on the basis that Mr Easson could have one as well. If everybody's happy, it might be a good idea to press on and see if we can wrap it up before we have a break for lunch. Is that satisfactory or – I beg your pardon?

MR EASSON: Sorry, your Honour, I have someone who's coming at one to speak about Austral.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR EASSON: But that will be only for a few minutes and then we're done but what I can do, if you prefer, is to deal with everything else now, apart from Macarthur.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. All right. Well, we'll proceed in that way then.

MR EASSON: Okay, well, I've got to say, Commissioners, that when the proposed boundaries were released, many of us in the Labor Party were very sore and sorry for ourselves. And I expected to come here today a bit flushed and flummoxed about some of the boundaries that were produced. I didn't expect this to happen, but when we saw the objection to the proposed boundaries, we started to feel sorry for the members of the Redistribution Committee having to deal with some of these appeals.

Let's take the National Party appeal concerning Parkes and Calare. You will recall that in the suggestion, all three parties suggested that Macquarie retain Bathurst and Lithgow. That was not done by the Commissioners. So we now have a proposed

Calare similar to the Calare of last time, prior to 2006. And we also have an appeal from the National Party suggesting that Mudgee go in with Parkes and that Parkes and Forbes go into Calare. So I thought, why not go back to 2006 and have a look at what the National Party proposed at that time? Because that's relevant, because prior to the 2006 redistribution, the division of Parkes contained Dubbo, Parkes and Forbes, as it's now proposed to contain.

Back in 2006, the National Party suggested that that arrangement be continued. They further suggested that the division of Calare not be changed from its then boundary. We regard the National Party appeal lodged today – it's completely frivolous. And an example – if you have a look at the existing state district for Orange and the state district for Dubbo, what you'll find is that the state district of Dubbo contains both Parkes and Forbes. You will also find that the state district of Orange contains Mudgee. What you can say is that the proposed boundary in the board, reflect the position of the National Party in 2006 and the situation pertaining to state electoral districts today

We dealt with the Throsby-Gilmore matter yesterday, so I don't intend to re-cover that ground. But let's have a look at the Liberal Party appeal concerning the divisions of Paterson, Lyne and Newcastle. And what I would like to do, having done these things on behalf of the Labor Party for 25 years, is go back a little bit in history. Back when the suggestions were made to the Redistribution Committee earlier this year, both the Labor Party and the Liberal Party suggested in different ways that Maitland be consolidated as much as possible in one seat. Both the Labor Party and the Liberal Party, in our suggestion, proposed that a big chunk of Port Stephens be transferred to Newcastle. Both parties did.

The Labor Party proposed Port Stephens itself. The Liberal Party proposed both Port Stephens and Raymond Terrace be moved from the division of Paterson to Newcastle. Now, if we look at the – as it happened, because the Commissioners didn't do certain things we might have both liked them to do, or in different ways wanted them to do, the north coast and the Newcastle-Hunter electorates were basically set at the lower end of the future quota. So there's not a great deal one can do to change boundaries unless there is major sort of knock-on effects and changes made.

But if we look at the Commissioners' boundary for Newcastle, you will find that Newcastle has lost about 1000 electors to Charlton, and it has gained about 500 odd electors from Paterson. Now, what we had was the Liberal Party appeal for Paterson – not rocket science to regard Newcastle as having a major radius of influence. And it's not rocket science to say that Maitland does too. Ideally, it would have been best had Maitland been kept as much as possible together in one seat. That wasn't done. We're not talking about today. We're talking about the actual Liberal Party appeal concerning Paterson and Newcastle.

It makes sense if some of Port Stephens and Newcastle is going to be placed in – Port Stephens and Maitland is going to be placed in Newcastle. If that is going to

have to happen, it makes sense to put the closest areas to the division of Newcastle in that seat. If you look at the map of the Liberal Party objection, what they have is the division of Newcastle coming up in a very jagged edge, right up to Maitland itself. In our comment on the Liberal Party objection, we made the point that Williamstown Airport, or Newcastle Airport, located in Williamstown, within the Port Stephens Shire, proposed by the Commissioner to remain in Newcastle, is jointly owned by the Port Stephens Newcastle Council.

That's an example of an area that has an influence coming out of Newcastle. It makes less sense to have Newcastle jutting out all the way to Maitland, under the Liberal Party objection. And for the Liberal Party objection to succeed, they are required to split the Greater Taree Council. Now, the Greater Taree Council has been united together completely in the division of Lyne for many, many decades. Lyne on this occasion needed to gain electors. It makes no sense to split the shire of Taree between Lyne and Paterson, as the Liberal Party proposed.

I next would like to cover the Liberal Party objection concerning Cook and Hughes and Werriwa and Fowler. Again, both the Liberal Party and the Australian Labor Party, in our original suggestions, advocated that Hughes take in more territory than the Liverpool CBD area, more territory, both parties suggested that. Under the Liberal Party appeal now, what they try to do, distinct from the Commissioner's proposal, is to shrink Cook from what the Commissioners have proposed by taking out Como, i.e. west of the railway line. But under the Commissioners' proposals, instead of the railway line being the boundary, you have the Woronora River being a boundary.

You also have the suburb of Como united together in the same seat, being Cook, under the Commissioners' proposal. The current arrangement, having been a railway boundary, and that proposed by the Liberal Party, would result in the current situation of the suburb of Como being split. We can see no good reason to support the Liberal Party appeal concerning Fowler and Werriwa and Cook and Hughes. And we further make the point that, under the proposed boundaries for the division of Hughes, a majority of its electors will come from outside of the Sutherland Local Government Area. There were also a couple of appeals concerning Bundeena – non-political-party appeals.

We also support the Commissioners' boundaries concerning Bundeena, which, for most of its history, or in recent history, has been in the division of Hughes. For example, Bundeena in the 1984 redistribution, at the suggestion of the Liberal Party, was removed from Cook and placed into Hughes. It remained in Hughes until the 2000 redistribution. Under the proposed arrangement for the division of Cunningham, you have the Royal National Park placed together in the one seat, being Cunningham. And that is achieved by transferring Bundeena from Cook to Cunningham. So that makes a lot of sense. The other appeal from the Liberal Party, I don't really recall. I think that might cover that ground. I can now deal with the division of Macarthur and apart from our other, I'll quickly try to cover that ground, if you would wish.



MR KILLESTEYN: Mr Easson, could I just ask, in relation to your first point about Parkes and Forbes - - -

MR EASSON: Yes.

5

MR KILLESTEYN: Would you agree that there is a stronger affinity with Parkes and Forbes in Orange?

MR EASSON: Not at all. Look, I used to work for the New South Wales Minister for Agriculture back in the early 1980s, and I travelled to those areas quite frequently. I do not believe that there was a stronger relationship between both Parkes and Forbes with Orange. I do not believe that. Furthermore, that fact has been reflected in the boundaries over more recent years, except for the last redistribution, where Parkes and Forbes were taken out of the same seat as Dubbo. Moreover - - -

15

MR KILLESTEYN: We heard considerable evidence yesterday – well, not evidence, but statements, of course, that there was a strong affinity. So how would you suggest the Commission reconcile with the almost stark difference in views?

20

MR EASSON: Well, if I were in your shoes, the first thing I would look at is Mudgee. And I would ask myself about agriculture: is Mudgee more similar to Orange and Bathurst? Or is it more similar to Parkes and Forbes? And I think you don't need to know that much about rural New South Wales to be easily able to answer that question. Secondly, you've got the very strong road connections between Parkes and Dubbo. The problem with Dubbo is it's got a radius that far extends any division.

25

You yourselves had that problem when you tried to allocate the western division and you found you had to split the western division of New South Wales between different electorates. You also have other towns feeling a sense of rivalry with Parkes. We have this example outlined by Bob Baldwin about Port Stephens wanting to, you know, distinguish themselves from Maitland and Newcastle. I think a similar situation applies with Parkes. So you do get the little brother rivalry, if you like.

35

MR KILLESTEYN: Thank you.

MR EASSON: Okay, we'll now deal with the Division of Macarthur now. The Labor Party appeal is that those parts of Wollondilly Shire still remaining in Macarthur be transferred to Hume except for Warragamba and Silverdale. It might be easier, if you're able to, to have a look at the map of the proposed Macarthur. As I understood it, the appeal of the Wollondilly Council was to have the area north of Mount Hunter from Wollondilly Shire transferred to Hume.

40

They didn't say anything about this southern part of Wollondilly Shire, and I'd like to speak to that now. If we look at the southern part of Wollondilly Shire proposed

by the Redistribution Committee to be retained in Macarthur, you'll see on the map there three identified towns being Menangle, Douglas Park and Appin. If we look at Appin, Appin was founded in 1810. It is a Macquarie town. By 1825 its population was 562. If we look at the two census collector districts for Appin, Appin contains  
5 fewer than 1000 electors, 963. There hasn't been very much growth in Appin in the last 184 years, but that tells you that Appin is a rural sort of area. If we look at the part of Campbelltown, the southern part of Campbelltown, if we look at Gilead that's a new release area. If we look at St Helens Park, that's already an urban area. If we look at Menangle Park, that at the moment is rural, but it's already been earmarked  
10 for further major urban development along the same lines as St Helens Park and Gilead.

So you see quite a difference between the southern part of the Campbelltown Shire and what I referred to earlier as the towns with Wollondilly of Appin, Menangle and  
15 Douglas Park, and you've got a clear distinction if you see the Nepean River boundary between the shires of Campbelltown and Wollondilly you'll see the river is a boundary between rural and rural residential areas and the urban part of Campbelltown. The last non-urban parts of Campbelltown are being developed as we speak. Seventy per cent of the people in Wollondilly Shire travel north to work.  
20 They do shop in Campbelltown. We'll hear this from the Liberal Party later. However, whilst they might use the services of Campbelltown they don't feel associated with Campbelltown. They feel different from Campbelltown and that's reflected by the rural nature of the Wollondilly Shire.

My next point is that under the proposed boundaries Wollondilly Shire is broken up in three distinct parts by the Redistribution Committee. There's no contiguous area between the three different parts of Wollondilly Shire that would be placed in your Division of Macarthur. That is going to make it a bit confusing for people. We've  
25 heard that example with the area north of Mount Hunter and Theresa Park and so forth outlined by the Wollondilly Council representatives yesterday, and we feel that given the distinct differences between the rural nature of Menangle, Douglas Park and Appin to that of the urban Campbelltown that it would make sense for the commissioners to draw the southern boundary between Macarthur and Hume the council boundary of Wollondilly – the northern council boundary of Wollondilly.  
30 The witness that I would have will speak for about five minutes concerning the Austral area which we propose instead of being placed in Werriwa be placed in the Division of Macarthur.

My last point, I suppose, will – though I covered it yesterday – prime ministers  
40 name. It's not your job to pick and choose your favourite prime ministers. We regard your job as to find a division and name it after a deceased prime minister. You've done that in the case of McMahan. Unfortunately, due to numbers, you've had to abolish the seat of Reid. We understand the rationale behind that, but that does not prevent you finding a division with a name that you don't feel is all that  
45 worthy of being retained or not as worthy as retaining the name of the Division of Reid. You've got that option. Unfortunately, you're not going to be given much guidance by the political parties.

What I can say for fact is that members hate to have their division renamed. They become attached to the name. They associate themselves with the division name. They see the two as one and the same. There's a bit of ego in politics, but that's how it is. So, unfortunately, you're not going to get very much direction from the  
5 political parties. We are not going to give up a name to you of one of our own held seats, and I think that might apply to both the Liberal and National Parties as well. So we're not going to give a direction and if you pick one of our names and choose to call it Reid or whatever, well, we'll live with that but, unfortunately, we're not going to be volunteering one of our own names, and that's going to be the case with  
10 all three political parties. But having heard what you've heard today, I expect you to make the right choice among those that you've got.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions? Good, thank you, Mr Easson. It will be Mr Houssos, will it, at 1 o'clock, Mr Easson?

15 MR EASSON: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, Mr Franklin, would you like to come to the table?

20 MR FRANKLIN: Thank you very much, gentlemen. My name is Ben Franklin. I'm the State Director of the National Party and here to present on behalf of that party. By way of introduction the National Party is the only party in New South Wales dedicated entirely and 100 per cent to representing regional New South Wales. Because of that commitment our submissions have been primarily focused on  
25 regional areas although we have taken the opportunity to make a number of comments, as you would know, on matters to do with the Sydney Basin which we felt it was appropriate to do.

30 However, our objections continue in the vein of focusing on regional New South Wales. Clearly the main point that we are concerned about is the Parkes and Calare issue, and that will be the issue that I'll spend the majority of my time on today. However, I will spend a small amount of time talking about Gilmore and Throsby which was covered well in Mittagong and by the Liberal Party but which we would like to speak about as a party concerned with regional New South Wales in our own  
35 right to support the proposals made by the Liberal Party.

I'll also make a few clarifying remarks about Macarthur and Werriwa. Yesterday there was some discussion and some concern or possible concern about Rylstone and Kandos which was raised with regard to the Parkes Calare issue. So I wanted to  
40 from the outset make it very clear what we are proposing. I've printed some maps and some numbers for our proposal and would ask if you would take a look at those. Perhaps somebody could pass those up. We are proposing a very simple swap that the Parkes and Forbes Local Government Areas that are currently in the Division of Calare but that are proposed under the Redistribution Committee suggestion to be in  
45 the seat of Parkes – the Division of Parkes be swapped with the southern part of the Wellington LGA and that part, and only that part of the Mid-Western Regional LGA

which are currently in the Division of Parkes but which are proposed to be in the Division of Calare.

5 So the National Party suggestion as you see in front of you is to in effect swap the blue section with the red section. Rylstone and Kandos, it is not our suggestion that they be moved into Parkes. We will cover the possibility of what you could with them later on, in my submission, but that is not our suggestion. If you look on page 2 of the numbers that I've handed up you will see that if you do make that swap there is a net change of approximately two and a half thousand extra voters will be then be placed in Calare and approximately two and a half thousand fewer voters – this is on actual enrolment rather than projected, but it's very similar, 2203 on projected enrolment in the seat of Parkes.

15 Now what that means is, as you can see, the final numbers in terms of projected enrolment is 100,074 for the seat of Calare, 98,440 for the seat of Parkes both of which fall appropriately within the confines of the boundaries that we are allowed to consider. So I just wanted to make that point very clear to start with. We are not proposing that Rylstone and Kandos go into Parkes. We only talk about that later down the line as another option if you're considering other issues, but I'll do that later in my submission.

25 I just wanted to make a couple of brief comments firstly about the remarks that Mr Easson has just made about our submission. He commented on two things primarily. The first was talking of the boundaries of the previous seat of Calare and where they were and our submission to previous Redistribution Committees in 2006 particularly. To that we say three things – well, to the second point we say three things. Firstly, in 2006 the quotas were different. So obviously our concerns were different. Secondly, Mr Easson said that we wanted Calare to stay the way that it was then, but at that point Mudgee wasn't in Calare and so therefore Mudgee wasn't an issue for us to consider.

30 The third point, of course, is that what we put in a submission three years ago is entirely irrelevant to what we're considering today and entirely irrelevant to this process and should be considered as such. However, when talking about the former Calare and the former boundaries of the seat, it is worth considering and just reflecting on the fact that it's just a bit cute to say that Calare has had, you know, Parkes and Forbes in the past when you consider that Calare has included on occasions neither Parkes nor Mudgee in 2004. It's included Parkes but not Mudgee in 1977 or it's included Parkes, Forbes and Mudgee in 1968. So clearly, this is an area, and being in the centre of New South Wales, it's clear why, but this is an area that shifts around and all we can do is to try and find the best links and the best communities of interest and that, obviously, under the Act, is your job. The second point that Mr Easson made is clearly and implicitly that, because the State electoral boundaries of Orange include Mudgee and of Dubbo, include Parkes and Forbes. Then, obviously, they should be the gold standard upon which this Committee, the augmented Commission, bases its decision.

Well, clearly, they're not the gold standard and I respectfully suggest that mistakes that may have been made in other boundary determinations not be repeated and, in fact, there's nowhere better and not a better example of showing this than, in fact, the seat of Dubbo itself, which includes currently, Canowindra but it partitions Trangie from the towns to which Trangie looks, Narromine and Dubbo and so, clearly, there are going to be major problems there but they were the only two points that Mr Easson made and he, in no way, except for one comment later in response to a question, made any substantive suggestions refuting the substantial points that we've made about the community of interest being stronger between Parkes and Forbes and Orange and the community of interest between Mudgee and Dubbo.

So I would like to just speak of those communities of interest again to just remind both the augmented Commission and the Labor Party of those very strong arguments indeed. I'll discuss them separately because I think it warrants consideration to do so but there are two general issues that I want to bring up first and that is with regard to state and government services. The Regional Development Board for the Urana Region, which Mr Coulton spoke about in his presentation this morning, comprises 13 LGAs, all of which are in the proposed Parkes electorate, except for one, and that's the Mid- Western Regional LGA. The Mid- Western Regional LGA, is – and if you have a look at the boundaries for the Regional Development organisation throughout New South Wales, it makes the point very clearly that Mid-Western is seen with the local government associations like Wellington and Dubbo and Narromine and Gilgandra and Warren and Coonamble and so forth, whereas, if you look at the Regional Development Australia central west, it incorporates all of those areas within the division of Calare that we propose including Parkes and Forbes.

If you look at the Home and Community Care Program, which is a major tender of age care in New South Wales, you see that the same thing happens. Mid-Western Regional area LGAs included in the Urana far west local planning area and Parkes and Forbes LGAs are included in the central west local planning area along with Bathurst and Blayney and Cabonne and the Orange LGAs and Greater Lithgow and so forth. When you consider the media, you can also see that the point is a very strong one in terms of communities and interest. Now, obviously, television and ABC local radio, we consider, are the strongest communication issues that should be considered. Local newspapers and local radio stations tend not to go very far beyond a local government area boundary and it tends to be the local major television networks and the ABC local radio that do.

Of those, there are only two that actually are split in this area. The first is WIN, as a television station, and it delivers separate broadcasts based on Dubbo and on Orange. Now, the Dubbo broadcasts go into Mudgee and Gulgong and Parkes; and Forbes broadcasts are received from Orange and so on a communication basis, that's quite clear. In fact, the ABC local radio, the point is made once again, the ABC central west, which is broadcast from Cumnock, covers the entire region but the ABC itself decided that Dubbo was an area where the ABC wasn't adequately covering and so what they did was set up a new radio station which was ABC Western Plains, which they set up in 1992, which they broadcast from Mudgee originally into Dubbo and

now it's broadcast from three different areas, Mudgee, Dubbo and the Warrumbungles.

5 All three areas, we suggest respectfully, should be placed in the seat of Parkes. I'd like to talk now about the links, some specific links without labouring our submission too much. I'd just like to reinforce some of the links between Parkes and Forbes to Orange compared with the Parkes and Forbes links to Dubbo. The speaker on behalf of the Labor Party, Mr Easson, said that he could clearly tell you that there aren't very strong links between Parkes and Forbes and Orange because in the 1980s  
10 he worked for the Minister for Agriculture and in his opinion there weren't then. Well, I respectfully contend that 25 years ago and from one's personal recollections is not a strong argument, particularly when you consider the arguments that the Member for Calare made yesterday, along with one eminent current councillor and one former councillor.

15 The name Calare, in fact, has been – is, in fact, used and has been used for many years to describe the Lachlan River and the Lachlan Valley.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Where does it come from, do you know, the name Calare?

MR FRANKLIN: I don't actually know. It's an Aboriginal name.

THE CHAIRMAN: Aboriginal, yes.

25 MR FRANKLIN: And it's been, although Orange lies outside of the Lachlan Valley, and in fact the proposed division and the proposed boundaries actually don't include the river at all, they use it as a boundary. In a very small amount of time we think that by including Parkes and Forbes it actually fulfils the naming requirements better, or the naming idea better. I'd like to talk about the Regional Organisation of  
30 Councils that was referred to briefly yesterday and, particularly, CENTROC, which is a group of councils based on the central west and incorporated predominantly in the division of Calare. We see and contend that Parkes and Forbes have a much stronger linkage with that organisation and therefore with Orange and with Bathurst than do the other organisations of councils.

35 For example, the Parkes General Manager chairs the CENTROC infra structure advisory group. The Forbes General Manager holds the position of sponsoring the General Manager for the CENTROC Health Work Force group and the Forbes Shire Council currently holds one of the six elected positions on the CENTROC executive.  
40 We heard a lot yesterday about health and the particular focus that's given to the Orange Hospital and particularly to the people of the Parkes and Forbes LGAs look to Orange for their health needs. I would simply add to that by saying it's looking increasingly likely that the Federal government is going to spend more time focussing on issues concerning local health matters and so therefore, placing towns  
45 and cities in the same Federal electorate where there's a similar health envelope or coverage is going to become increasingly more important.

In terms of transport, which is obviously another consideration under the Act, Parkes and Forbes are closer to Orange than to Dubbo and so I enjoyed comments previously today where somebody would have to travel 28 kilometres instead of seven kilometres to their local member of parliament or 30 kilometres instead of seven kilometres. Obviously, in seats like Parkes and Calare, that would be luxury but Parkes, for example, to Orange is only 100 kilometres. Only 100 kilometres I say, whereas to Dubbo it's 120. Parkes to Orange, sorry, Forbes to Orange is 120 kilometres whereas to Dubbo it's 150. In public transport as well, we can see that the links between Parkes and Forbes and Orange are extremely strong.

There is a daily bus from Parkes to Orange, which meets the Sydney XPT. The same service runs four times a week from Forbes to Orange to meet the Sydney XPT. There's an evening rail bus service six times per week which goes from Orange to Parkes and Forbes. Even the Outback Explorer train travels once a week from Orange to Parkes but in terms of the transport links between Parkes and Forbes and Dubbo, there's only one bus three times a week, which is to meet the Melbourne XPT and so it shouldn't be any surprise that the links are much, much stronger between Parkes and Forbes and Orange because Parkes lies on the transcontinental rail line, which is still a major transport corridor in New South Wales.

And that's continued that tradition [sic] which were in place, which started well before 1900, continues today in terms of the public transport links. In terms of the links from Mudgee to Dubbo compared with the links from Mudgee and Gulgong to Orange and Bathurst, we also contend that the community of interest is stronger between Mudgee and Gulgong to Dubbo. The Member for Parkes made that point this morning and talked of the importance to local regional communities and country communities for people to have a relationship with their member of parliament and it becomes a much less political role than perhaps it is in the cities.

They rely on the members of parliament for services and so it is important that although subservient to all other factors to be considered in the Act, that of current boundaries and we understand and respect that but it's still a consideration and we contend that in country seats, if it's possible to keep areas within the same electorates because they come to rely on the services provided by local Federal members of parliament, then it's important to do so and, of course, our submission and our suggestion does keep both Parkes and Forbes and Mid-Western and the southern half of Wellington within the electorates in which they currently reside. Bill Clifford this morning, of the Men's Shed network talked of the network that has been established between those Men's Sheds in Gulgong and Mudgee and Wellington and Coolah and Dunedoo.

Now, Wellington, Coolah and Dunedoo are all in the Committee's proposed Parkes and the current Parkes, whereas Gulgong and Mudgee, of course, we contend, should be also in the same way in Parkes rather than being moved into Calare. The Mid-Western council originally was a member of the CENTROC regional organisation of councils but now sees itself, we believe, aligned much more closely with Dubbo and with members of the Urana Regional Organisation of Councils and I'd just like to

quote – this was considered, this issue was considered by the Mid-Western Regional Council this year in June about whether the council should, in fact, join the Urana Regional Organisation of Councils or not.

- 5 The Corporate Services Committee Meeting considered it in depth and came up with a proposal which strongly supported them joining the Urana Regional Organisation of Councils, which, of course, aligns them with Dubbo and other towns to the north-west and the reasons they announced were as follows and I quote here:

10 *Dubbo was the closest city to the majority of this region. Health services for this region are based in Dubbo, including most specialist references from doctors in the area to Dubbo. The major government departments we deal with are based in Dubbo, such as Planning, Regional Development and Water and Energy. Council engineering staff and works offices form part of the Urana*  
15 *professionals. A number of Urana based people travel through this region on their way to Sydney. This council belongs to a number of Urana based organisations such as the Regional Development Board, which I spoke of earlier, located in Dubbo and Urana ROC is now re-focussing their direction with the appointment of an executive officer and by becoming a member, this*  
20 *council will have an opportunity of inputting into that direction and achieve an effective organisation.*

Now, they decided at the end of the day not to join Urana but that was not because of the arguments about where they were more appropriately placed but the reasons were  
25 financial, however, it's quite clear that the council considers themselves much closer to Dubbo than to Orange. Mr Easson also spoke of, very briefly in response to a question, agriculture links and that the agriculture links between Mudgee and Gulgong are closer to Orange than they are to Dubbo. Well, we contend that this is just not the case at all and the most critical and most important reason for this is the  
30 issue of water, without which, obviously, no agriculture can even begin. Mudgee and Gulgong are in the Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley and this is one of the most productive irrigation areas in the State, along with Dubbo, mind you.

Whether we're talking about wine grapes at Mudgee, oranges at Narromine or cotton  
35 at Warren, there are a lot of jobs and businesses tied up with water. Now, due to the enormous role that water plays in this region's economy and acknowledging that issues to do with water affect users from across the entire valley, it should be recognised, we believe, that the water users in the Macquarie-Cudgegong Catchment form a significant and inseparable community of interest between Mudgee and  
40 Gulgong and Dubbo.

The catchment all falls under the Macquarie-Cudgegong water sharing plan, overseen by the Macquarie-Cudgegong River Management Committee. Numerous water lobby and advisory groups span the entire catchment, and irrigation contractors  
45 based in Dubbo service water users in Mudgee and the lower Macquarie. This community of interest is bisected by the current boundaries, which split the irrigation areas on the Cudgegong in Mid-Western Regional LGA from the irrigation areas on



the lower Macquarie, which obviously entirely refutes Mr Easson's point. The amendment proposed by the Nationals contains the irrigation areas in the catchment entirely within the division of Parkes.

5 Now, we also believe that irrigation plays a much smaller role in the economy of areas on the Macquarie upstream of Burrendong, such as Orange and Bathurst, due to the lack of significant storage capacity in the upper reaches of the river. So for that reason, in terms of irrigation, we think much more appropriate that Mudgee and Gulgong sit in the same seat as Dubbo. You are required under the Act to consider  
10 transport links. I won't dwell on these as they are in our reports. Suffice to say that Gulgong is closer to Dubbo by road than either Bathurst or Orange, and Mudgee is closer to Dubbo than Orange, and Mudgee is roughly equidistant to – sorry, Dubbo and Bathurst are roughly equidistant.

15 I want to talk briefly about the physical features as well of Mudgee and Gulgong and putting them in the same area as Orange. Now, the problem is that there is a significant physical issue and divide between those two areas, and the terrain is largely impassable between the two – between Mudgee and Orange. It's rugged hill country and there are few roads, and a sparse population. Now, there aren't very  
20 many river crossings at the area which cross the Macquarie River; and the most direct route – for example, you have to drive in a four wheel drive anyway and you can only go at certain times when the water isn't flooding the area. So what most people do is they drive from Mudgee to Wellington and then down to Orange.

25 Wellington, of course, is in the Committee's proposed Parkes, and then down to Orange. So you can see, for transport links, it makes much greater sense as well. I'll speak briefly about the Wellington Shire. There's only 1000 people or so in the southern half of the Wellington Shire, and we believe that there are similar  
30 community of interest links with both Dubbo and with Orange. And we think it could go in either, but we do note the Wellington Shire Council's objection that they would like to be placed in the same electorate and that firm desire that they stated, and we contend that it would be a logical thing to place it all together in the north in the Parkes electorate.

35 Now, the next point I wanted to make is in terms of growth. Parkes is obviously the state's lowest in terms of growth, at .53 per cent. And so it's very important that there's an anchor in Parkes, we think, to have a larger amount of growth to ensure its viability into the future. Mid-Western Regional and the Wellington LGA – the parts  
40 of the Mid-Western Regional and Wellington LGAs that we propose to include in Calare – the growth is 2.8 per cent. And we're just going to provide a good strong anchor. But the projected growth from the Parkes and Forbes LGAs is just .5 per cent. And so, therefore, we believe that it's important that Parkes, which doesn't have very many major growth centres, has – this swap will help the viability of both  
45 electorates into the future, not only Parkes.

So in conclusion on this point, we believe that stronger links exist between Parkes and Forbes and Orange, and Mudgee and Gulgong and Dubbo, under our suggestion

than do under the Committee's proposed boundaries. As I mentioned before, the augmented Commission should also give consideration to existing boundaries. Clearly, it's of less import than all of the other conditions, but we believe that not only is the case very strong for including both of those areas in the seats where they already are, because of community interest ties, but that they also therefore fulfil this requirement as well.

Now, I just want to speak very quickly about the Rylstone-Kandos option. We noted that the Redistribution Committee had placed Parkes at the higher end of the allowable range. We make no comment about that, but we noted that that happened. And it may be that there was a consideration given to a low level of growth in the area for that reason. If that is the case, or if for any other reason you wanted to keep Parkes at the higher end of the range, we contend that there are two ways that this could be done. The first is that the northern part of the Parkes LGA, including Tullamore and Peak Hill, could be sliced off and included in the electorate of Parkes, which would add about another 1000 people.

Or alternatively, you could move Rylstone and Kandos, which is where the issue came from yesterday, from Hunter, where the Redistribution Committee currently proposes it go back into Parkes to be reunited with the rest of the Mid-Western Regional Council. Of course, as was rightly pointed out yesterday by Mr Watkins, that then drags Hunter down below the quota. But that could be fixed, and we think most appropriately by moving voters from the Liverpool Plains into Hunter. But that would be an issue, of course, for you to consider, if you wanted to go down that path. That's not a path that we're promoting, nor are we recommending; however, we've just provided you with solutions if you do want to keep it at the upper end.

I just want to make some final comments about some of the other seats. In terms of the Gilmore-Throsby issues that were raised yesterday and effectively covered in Mittagong, I won't go over them in too much detail, but do contend that the points that Mr Speakman made about Shellharbour City unnecessarily being split in two is correct. There was a discussion yesterday about, "Is it not reasonable to have different communities of interest in a seat?" Is that not good for democracy and good for a member of parliament to have a variety of views coming to them? We contend that there should be, in a Westminster system with only one representative per seat – there should be as similar a community of interest as possible, which obviously is the suggestion under the Act too.

And so, where possible, it needs to be minimised. But we also contend that under the current suggested Throsby, where there will be over twice as many voters in the Wollongong area than from the Southern Highlands, we believe that the community of interest of the Southern Highlands is likely to be minimised in terms of the consideration and lessened in import because of the numbers. And so, therefore, you need to work out what to do with Southern Highlands, of course. We contend, and agree with the Liberal Party absolutely, that the profile of the part of the Southern Highlands that we're considering fits much better with that in Gilmore.

If you look at just a small number of demographic statistics, both in the Shoalhaven local council area and the Wingecarribee local council area, the average age is, significantly, 5 and 7 years above the national average, whereas in Shellharbour it's in fact 2 years below the national average. Both the Shoalhaven and the  
5 Wingecarribee have a significant number of older people above 55 years old: over 30 per cent in both local council areas, but only 23 per cent in Shellharbour. Again, where the national average is 24.3 per cent, population density, of course, is not something that tells the entire story.

10 But I think it is quite clear when you consider that 15.7 people live per square kilometre in the Wingecarribee LGA, 19.5 people per square kilometre live in the Shoalhaven LGA, but 410 people per square kilometre live in the Shellharbour LGA, which shows the extraordinary differences between those two areas, and why  
15 therefore we agree that that part of the Southern Highlands should be placed in Gilmore, and that Shellharbour should be reunited once again as one community with a continuing urban interest.

The final point that I just wanted to make briefly was regarding Wollondilly and Macarthur, and to reinforce the importance of uniting Theresa Park, Brownlow Hill  
20 and Mount Hunter with like areas in the Wollondilly Shire and, therefore, with Hume. We believe that bringing this part of Wollondilly into Hume creates a far more readily identifiable boundary between Hume and Macarthur, which is going to be the Nepean River, rather than the current proposed boundary by the Committee, which is along Burragorang Road, Big Hill Road, Silverdale Road, Werombi Road  
25 and Forest Hill Creek.

I also just wanted to lastly clarify our position with regard to Macarthur and Werriwa, and the boundary that we suggested there. We support everything that the  
30 Liberal Party have suggested in their objections in relation to the divisions of Cook, Hughes, Werriwa and Fowler. And in terms of the southern boundary that we originally proposed in our objections of Werriwa and Macarthur, we stepped back from that initial objection and that initial southern boundary, because it was only a consequential amendment to allow both divisions to meet the numerical requirements of the Act.

35 However, we do differ from the Liberal Party slightly in that we still stand by our initial objection regarding the north-east of the Camden LGA and those three CCDs and believe that they should be moved into Macarthur. Therefore, the only difference that that would require in terms of numbers, in order to ensure that  
40 Werriwa was then brought back up within the allowable range, is moving one CCD back in, the CCD that includes Blairmount, back into Werriwa. I don't want to dwell on that point, but I just wanted to clarify our position.

45 The final point I would make as well, on behalf of the National Party, is we have heard much discussion today about the name of Reid. We would have no objection and in fact would support the retention of the name Reid somewhere if that was the augmented Commission's decision, and we would think that appropriate. But that's

entirely a decision in your hands. That is the nub of my submission, but I'm happy to take any questions if you have any.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions? No. Well, thank you, Mr Franklin.

MR FRANKLIN: Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Now, I understand Councillor Mannoun is here. Perhaps, Mr Speakman, you might like to have your reply and call Councillor Mannoun, if that's convenient to you.

MR SPEAKMAN: Councillor Mannoun is not - - -

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Sorry, could you come forward a bit, please, Mr Easson?

MR EASSON: I was going, talk about Macarthur here?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I - - -

20 MR EASSON: We could have Tony Beuk, who is the former Deputy Mayor of Liverpool Shire Council, to speak for a few minutes, then my case is completed. And then Mr Speakman can sum up and I'll - - -

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, all right. Well, if you're - you have no problem with that, Mr Speakman?

MR SPEAKMAN: No.

30 THE CHAIRMAN: No. All right, we'll do it that way then. Yes, Mr Beuk.

MR BEUK: Thank you. Tony Beuk, as Shane has stated, the former deputy mayor of Liverpool Council. I've lived in the Austral area for over 40 years and certainly support the Labor Party submission in terms of looking at integrating that area back into the Macarthur or the proposed Macarthur boundary, and there are probably a  
35 number of reasons to support that submission. Austral forms part of a western area, a rural part of Liverpool Council west of a corridor that was put in place in the sixties and it has continued to remain as such and is referred to as the Western Sydney Parklands Corridor. So Austral is probably the eastern part of that rural area and certainly has a lot of synergy in terms of the rural or the surrounding rural areas that  
40 are not that dissimilar being Kemps Creek, Rossmore, Bringelly and certainly areas south of that.

45 In terms of the future in where Austral will go, I know in one of the submissions there was reference to planning proposals looking at the proposed future residential in the Austral area. That forms part of the Western Sydney or certainly the South West Sydney Corridor all the way down to Harrington Park or the current release

area which is around Oran Park which is adjacent to Cobbitty, and certainly the infrastructure that's associated with that or the future infrastructure that will be associated with the continuing planning in that area towards residential, obviously integration of employment zones in that area and further augmentation of public transport infrastructure including rail and certainly a bus proposal, I think, has more connection with the future planning of Austral than it does have with any future planning in any of the adjacent corridors – certainly any future planning within the Liverpool Council area because most of that has been either complete or under way.

5  
10 So the relationship between Austral not only today given its rural connections, but certainly in the future will have more integration with the south west area, and I believe that as part of that certainly the issues that arise in that area are more connected to the proposal Macarthur area than they do with any adjacent or proposed Federal boundary.

15  
THE CHAIRMAN: Good, thank you. Any questions? No. Thank you, Mr Beuk. All right, well, Mr Easson, we'll give you a brief right of reply after Mr Speakman's final presentation along with Councillor Mannoun.

20 MR SPEAKMAN: Thank you, commissioners. The only area I need to reply on is Macarthur, Hume and Werriwa, in particular the suggestion that parts of the Wollondilly LGA go into Hume. In both the National's submissions which concern a smaller part of the Wollondilly LGA than do Labor's submissions, but in both the National's submissions and Labor's submissions there's a town that dare not speak its name, and that's Camden. We say that those parts of the Wollondilly LGA that you sensibly propose be in Macarthur have a much stronger community of interest with Camden than they do with Picton which is the seat of the Wollondilly LGA let alone with somewhere like Goulburn which would be the likely location of an electorate office in Hume.

30  
The data is in our written submissions but they demonstrate that the public's transport links are much better between these areas on the one hand and Camden on the other hand than they are with Picton or with Goulburn. The travel times are much shorter. It could take hours to get to an electorate office in Goulburn. It might be 20 or 30 minutes to an electorate office in Camden. Camden is a major service centre in this area. These areas look to Camden, not to Picton. They look to Camden for the nearest hospital and, indeed, after Camden the next nearest is in Campbelltown still in Macarthur, and they look to Camden for police and other services.

40  
So what the Committee has proposed for these areas in the Wollondilly LGA is eminently sensible and the communities of interest are stronger keeping them in Macarthur than having them in Hume. So far as Austral is concerned, whatever Austral may look like now it's part of a growth area that will resemble more and more areas like West Hoxton Park in Werriwa, and the details are in our written submissions, but the transport links between Austral on the one hand and Liverpool on the other hand are far superior than they are to any centre in Macarthur. So we

submit that Austral has a closer community of interest with Liverpool which on our proposal would be wholly within the Werriwa Division than anywhere in Macarthur.

5 We support very strongly the National's submissions on Calare and Parkes, but beyond that I don't have anything else in reply other than – it was really in chief – calling Councillor Mannoun. I did foreshadow that he wouldn't be here until 1.30. The current position is he can't be here until – well, he's on his way, but he won't be here until 1.20. I don't know whether I can seek an indulgence to - - -

10 THE CHAIRMAN: I thought he was here.

MR SPEAKMAN: No, he wasn't here. No, that was Mr Easson's fellow from – Mr Beuk from Austral.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Well, we might perhaps hear Mr Easson's final comments and then break for lunch and hear Councillor Mannoun after lunch.

MR SPEAKMAN: I'm very grateful for that. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR EASSON: Thank you, your honour. Earlier today I was asked by Mr Killesteyn a question about Orange and its relationship with Mudgee and, in particular, Parkes and Forbes. A point I wanted to convey, but I'll try and repeat  
25 which applies to the whole set of objections that you received. Most of you at the front table are conducting your first – or with Queensland nearly first redistribution. Were I in your shoes I would go back to previous submissions and suggestions over recent years – recent times - - -

30 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Easson, it seems to me in looking at section 73(4) that it sets out a number of criteria and they don't include consistency with previous submissions. I mean we have a proposed redistribution to consider and objections either good or bad on their merits. The fact that they may be different or inconsistent with earlier submissions made by the same people I'm not sure that it matters much,  
35 does it, or at all?

MR EASSON: Well, to me it does and I'll tell you why. If you think something is fairly important to do why wouldn't you have made that part of your original suggestion? For example, as I pointed out yesterday, the National Party proposed  
40 that Kiama be placed in the seat of Gilmore. They proposed that Albion Park be placed in the seat of Gilmore. I marked them down for you. The Redistribution Committee, having accepted the submission concerning Gilmore, what happens, you get a bouquet. You get an objection from the National Party.

45 Now, to me, I'm not sure about how sincere that objection is. My point about Parkes and Calare had been that the National Party at the most recent redistribution in 2006 supported a Dubbo, Parkes, Forbes seat. In other words, they supported a seat where you've got the State seat of Dubbo containing Dubbo, Parkes, Forbes. There was no

objection from the National Party at the last state redistribution to that arrangement. There was no objection to the National Party concerning Orange and Mudgee being combined together. The National Party in 2006 had also proposed that Parkes, Forbes and Dubbo be part of the same seat.

5

To me if you then put up this long involved argument about why Mudgee fits better with Dubbo than Parkes and Forbes do, well, why haven't you suggested it before at the state and federal level? That would be a yardstick which I would use. Now, of course, your point is correct that the Commissioners have to consider objections in terms of the Act and that's section 73 referring to the community of interest provision. It's up to anyone to put up whatever set of arguments they care to think of, but I feel that it's relevant to point out where people have been inconsistent in very recent times concerning their argument and so forth, and that was merely my point there.

15

If we deal very, very quickly with the various submissions and so forth, Gilmore/Throsby, it seems true that Nowra and Bowral might have a strong relationship, but actually you - we went through the grounds yesterday - the proposed seat of Gilmore has a far better relationship if it's drawn - in community of interest terms if it's drawn north south. There is no employment relationship between Nowra and Bowral. The witness who we had yesterday works at Blue Circle Southern Cement, 110 employees. Twenty come from the Kiama/Albion Park end. None come from Nowra.

We also know that in the case of Albion Park and Moss Vale there's a freight line there between the two. There is nothing of that kind between Nowra and Bowral. So we support the Commissioners' boundary there. If we look at the Paterson case, I think it is of relevance that the Liberal Party proposed that almost all of the Port Stephens Council be placed in the same division as Newcastle when they made their original suggestion. What that tells me is that they are saying there is some connection between Port Stephens and Newcastle.

If you go through state history prior to the establishment of the seat of Port Stephens in 1988, prior to that date Port Stephens itself was in the State District of Newcastle. Our point concerning the Liberal Party Paterson appeal is that you don't want Newcastle extending further and deeper and a jagged edge into Maitland Council. If you're going to have parts of Maitland and Port Stephens in the Division of Newcastle which is still part of the Liberal Party appeal - the Liberal Party are saying parts of Port Stephens, i.e., Fern Bay remain in Newcastle. They're saying that parts of Maitland remain in Newcastle - be in Newcastle. The Commissioners have part of Port Stephens in the Division of Newcastle, part of Maitland in the Division of Newcastle.

The way the Commissioners have drawn their proposed boundaries for the Division of Newcastle is to have those parts of Port Stephens and Maitland closest to Newcastle incorporated in that division. And as we pointed out earlier today, Williamtown is the location of Newcastle Airport jointly owned by the Port Stephens

and Newcastle Councils. I further pointed out earlier today to even get the Liberal Party's submissions up for the Division of Paterson it requires the Commissioners to split the Shire of Taree which has not been split for many, many decades and has been kept together in Lyne.

5

When we come to the Eden-Monaro appeal of the ALP, I don't wish to add to what I said yesterday. There are only about 500 electors. Most of Palerang Council is already within Eden-Monaro. All of it was within Eden-Monaro prior to the 2006 redistribution. Our suggestion there is to have 500 more electors from Palerang Shire currently in Hume be transferred to Eden-Monaro which would include Lake George.

10

Then we come to Macarthur, the last part of the Labor Party appeal. The Wollondilly Council itself has argued why Mount Hunter should be kept together in the same seat of Hume. I refer you to page 29 of the National Party's submissions. They contain an article, I think, from the Macarthur Advocate quoting both Pat Farmer, the member for Macarthur and Alby Schultz, the member for Hume both saying that the proposed electoral boundary along Burragorang Road proposed by the Commissioners should not stand, and that Mount Hunter be included completely in the Division of Hume.

15

20

Now, we come to the Menangle, Douglas Park, Appin. I've already dealt with the history of Appin. Douglas Park in fact is closer to Picton than what it is to Campbelltown, but the more stronger point to make is that the council boundary separating Campbelltown and Wollondilly actually is a division between urban areas and semi rural areas, and for that reason those areas should go into the Division of Hume. And that pretty well covers our points.

25

30

THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions? Thank you, Mr Easson. Mr Speakman, when do you anticipate that Councillor Mannoun was coming?

MR SPEAKMAN: I anticipate 1.20.

35

THE CHAIRMAN: We'll have our lunch and we'll adjourn till, say, quarter to two.

MR SPEAKMAN: Thank you.

40

**ADJOURNED**

**[1.09 pm]**

**RESUMED**

**[1.45 pm]**

45

THE CHAIRMAN: Councillor Mannoun is here, Mr Speakman, I gather.

MR SPEAKMAN: Yes, he is thank you.



THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, all right then. Councillor Mannoun?

MR MANNOUN: Good afternoon and thank you very much, members of the Committee, for allowing me the opportunity to speak today and this goes more so  
5 considering the special circumstances that you have allowed me in waiting for me. I'd like to first start off I mentioned yes, I am an elected councillor in Liverpool City. Liverpool City is slated to be the third major regional city in Sydney. When people think of Australia they think Sydney. When they think of Sydney well, you know, you look at the new frontiers. Sydney is a pretty much well-developed city and you  
10 have the north west and the south west regions.

Liverpool is said to be the third regional city in Sydney after the CBD itself and Parramatta. We are at the moment in the planning stages of putting a city the size of  
15 Canberra into Liverpool. This basically means all of our new release areas and our CBD itself will be a new city, will be a new identity for us here. Looking at it at the moment the way our city is set out and why I believe the CBD should not be fragmented, the CBD needs one voice. It needs an identity. It needs one person out there lobbying for it into the Federal Parliament and the reason is this.

20 At the moment when we travel to go to work we travel – the west goes to the east. We hop on the M4, M5, onto the public transport links and they all get clogged up. At 5 o'clock we all do the same thing heading the opposite way. An area like Liverpool is needed for the benefit of everybody because when we look at putting all the jobs into the CBD then people will not only be travelling people will be able – it  
25 will be the opposite. People will be travelling from the east to go to the west. So Liverpool is going to form a hub. It's important that we do stay unified.

It's an extremely diverse city with regards to its identity, and the reality is the identity of Liverpool is still being developed. We have a popularly elected mayor  
30 which I think is worth while noting, you know, because once you're in this place it's different from other Local Government Areas. Our popularly elected mayor once again is this figurehead and this person here. Now, looking at who lives in Liverpool and if I can go to a bit of a divide we have in our city along the Georges River. In your areas like your Chipping Norton, like your Moorebank and your Holsworthy it's  
35 a very well-established area. Property prices, you know, over half a million dollars plus.

As soon as you cross over to the CBD you have Speed Street. In Speed Street you can buy a unit for \$140,000 for two bedrooms. Now, the people who are living there  
40 and who historically have been refugees, people coming from the former Yugoslavia, from India. At the moment a lot of Sudanese people are moving into Liverpool. So there is a very significant divide in what we call the new Australians and the established areas. There is actually an interesting story. I had a conversation with Dana Vale after the last Federal election and she was telling me how one of her  
45 constituents who were from a Sudanese background. They were surprised that there were no riots. There was nothing. There was no violence at the election because they're not used to peaceful democracy which is what we have here.

Now, going and explaining to these people that okay, yes, we have our three tiers of government, our local, our state and federal, but then your neighbour who lives across the road in the other part of the CBD, you know, has another Federal member. It just makes things extremely complicated, and I think it's important that we do stay unified for reasons like that and others. Looking at the regional – and I think where Liverpool should form – it should form the nucleus or the core of an area. With all these new areas, like, for example, let's say Austral which has just been released, Austral is part of Liverpool. It identifies with Liverpool.

10 When all those five acre farms get broken down into multi-dwelling units or single residential homes those people are going to have to work somewhere and essentially they will be travelling to the CBD. If you live in Austral when you go to do your shopping you'll be going to Liverpool Westfields. The public transport, the roads, the buses will bring you to Liverpool CBD and likewise – Austral is one example –  
15 there's all those regional areas out there that will be heading into Liverpool as its core. It's for those reasons I believe that Liverpool needs to be unified, needs to stay in one and that's pretty much it. So thank you very much.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, councillor. Any questions?

MR KILLESTEYN: Just one question, Mr Mannoun, you talk about the strategic plan of Liverpool becoming the third city of New South Wales. What's the time frame that the council is projecting for that to happen?

25 MR MANNOUN: It's over the next Fifteen years.

MR KILLESTEYN: Fifteen years?

MR MANNOUN: Yes.

30 MR KILLESTEYN: Thank you.

MR MANNOUN: Also it has just been released. When we look at all of our budgeting we have to take all this into consideration.

35 MR KILLESTEYN: Thank you.

40 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Well, there are no further speakers. We will now conclude this session. We thank everybody who has made submissions and we'll consider the matter further. Thank you very much for your attendance.

**MATTER ADJOURNED at 1.51 pm ACCORDINGLY**