New South Wales.



ANNO TERTIO

EDWARDI VII REGIS.

Act No. 1, 1904.

An Act to provide for the reduction of the number of Members of the Legislative Assembly and of the number of electorates to ninety; for the distribution of electorates; to apply the Royal Commissioners Evidence Act, 1901, to Electoral Districts Commissioners, and to authorise such commissioners to take evidence; to provide that existing electors' rights shall continue to have effect in respect of the new electorates; to amend in these and other respects the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1902; and for purposes consequent on or incidental to the carrying out of the said objects. [28th January, 1904.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Preliminary.

1. This Act may be cited as the "Electorates Redistribution Short title. Act, 1904," and shall be construed with the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1902, hereinafter referred to as the "Principal Act."

Numbers

ELECTORATES REDISTRIBUTION.

Electorates Redistribution.

Numbers of Members and of electorates.

Number of Members of Assembly.

2. In the next and every subsequent Parliament the number of Members of the Assembly shall be ninety, each Member representing an electoral district.

Number of electorates.

3. New South Wales shall from time to time be distributed into ninety electoral districts.

Quota and margin of allowance.

4. In making any such distribution, the divisor shall, for the purpose of ascertaining the quota of electors, be ninety, with a margin of allowance not exceeding one thousand two hundred; and no reasons for the addition to or deduction from the quota of any such margin of allowance need be given or appended to any report by any commissioners making such distribution.

Evidence may be taken by commissioners.

5. The provisions of the Royal Commissioners Evidence Act, 1901, shall apply to Electoral Districts Commissioners making any such distribution, and such commissioners may accordingly take evidence as to the matters entrusted to them.

Distribution of electorates.

Appointment of commissioners.

6. The Governor shall, as soon as practicable after the commencement of this Act, by letters patent under the Great Seal, appoint three persons to be Electoral Districts Commissioners, who shall be appointed in accordance with the Principal Act. Sections five to ten of the said Act shall apply to the said commissioners.

The said commissioners shall distribute New South Wales into ninety electoral districts.

Matters to be considered by commissioners.

- 7. In making such distribution, the said commissioners—
- (a) shall give due consideration to existing boundaries of electoral districts and divisions, and so far as possible shall not divide such divisions by the boundaries of the new districts; and
- (b) shall give due consideration to community or diversity of interests, lines of communication, and physical features.

Notification of proposed districts.

8. Before finally making such distribution the said commissioners shall, in each proposed new district, notify in the prescribed manner the proposed boundaries of such district.

Objections to such distribution may be made in writing to the commissioners within fourteen days after such notification.

Final notification of distribution.

9. (1) At the expiration of such fourteen days the said commissioners, after considering all objections made as aforesaid, shall finally make the distribution and give names to the new electoral districts, and shall notify the same in the Gazette.

Effect of distribution.

(2) The distribution shall have effect by virtue of such notification, but shall not operate so as to affect the representation of

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the present electoral districts in the present Assembly, and shall not affect any by-election which may be held before the dissolution or the expiration by effluxion of time of the present Assembly.

(3) Such notification shall have the same effect as a procla- Effect of notification. mation under Part II of the Principal Act of the names and boundaries of electoral districts made after a distribution approved by the Assembly.

10. No distribution of New South Wales under subsections one No distribution on and two of section eleven of the Principal Act shall be made on the census of 1901. results of the census taken in the year one thousand nine hundred and one being ascertained and reported by the Government Statistician in pursuance of that section.

11. The distribution made in pursuance of this Act shall not Electors' rights to affect the validity of any electors' rights issued and in force under the standing distribu-Principal Act or any Act thereby repealed, and any such right shall tion. have effect as if it were issued for the new electoral district for which the holder of the right is enrolled.