



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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The Commissioners  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Redistribution Committee for NSW,  
Dear Commissioners,

This letter is to express strong objection to the proposed redistribution in which a new electorate of Parkes will cover nearly half of NSW.

The proposal is unfair to rural residents of NSW. It leaves rural residents with only 28% of the NSW seats in the Federal Parliament.

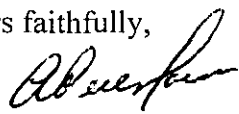
Rural residents already feel under represented in Parliament and have seen the steady loss of infrastructure in all areas west of the dividing range. I have seen the steady erosion of medical services. It is hard enough to gain access to our local member whose office is 115 kilometers away. In the proposed new electorate of Parkes residents will be 1,000 kilometers away or more. As such it is unlikely they will receive adequate representation no matter how dedicated their local member might be. The proposed new electorate has a wide range of primary industries all with different problems which make it even more difficult for a single member to represent such a large electorate adequately.

The committee should also consider the unusual circumstances which prevail at present. Most of the northwest of NSW has been in drought for the last five years. The population growth has therefore declined. This will almost certainly reverse when normal seasons return. The sustainability of the current high growth rate of population on the eastern seaboard of Australia has to be seriously questioned. If the committee were to take a longer term view of the likely trends it would conclude that the proposal will result in an electorate with a higher than average number of voters.

There are alternatives for the committee to consider. The committee could reduce the number of electorates in Sydney with much less impact on the ability of people to communicate their concerns to their local member.

I strongly urge the committee to abandon the current proposal and to consider alternatives which do not further compound the problems of people living outside of the major cities.

Yours faithfully,

  
Arthur Beresford.  
25<sup>th</sup> July, 2006

