



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 66

Name: Senator the Hon Sandy MACDONALD

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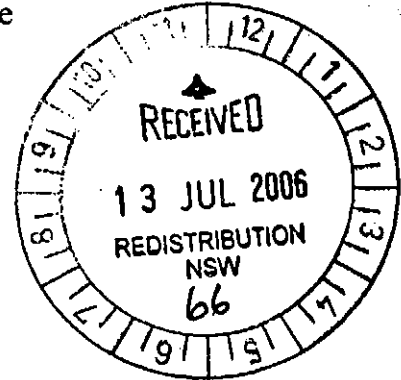


SENATOR THE HON SANDY MACDONALD

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence
Deputy Leader of The Nationals in the Senate

11 July 2006

Redistribution Committee for NSW
Australian Electoral Commission NSW
P.O. Box 20014
WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002



Dear Commissioner,

I write to object to the Australian Electoral Commission's proposed NSW Federal Redistribution. In particular, I believe the creation of a mega-seat of Parkes through the abolition of the Gwydir electorate unfairly reduces representation for residents of regional NSW in the Australian Parliament.

As a Senator for NSW, I am focussed on giving the best representation for every voter in our State. I understand more than most, how difficult it is to provide that service over the western part of NSW.

Simply put, it is unnecessary for the Committee to make this decision. You can, in effect, draw the lines on a map wherever you like in reaching the outcome required under your legislative powers. You don't have to reduce the number of regional seats to do that. This can't be good public policy. Why have you done it? My reading of the criteria allows for the use of commonsense.

The impact this will have on the voters of the proposed seat of Parkes will be varied, but mostly negative. Not only will they feel that they are not fairly and equitably represented in Parliament, but will also find it extremely hard to access their local Member. In order to visit their MP, significant costs of travel, time and much inconvenience will be experienced.

In the proposed seat of Parkes, you have 19 local government areas over a vast area, many of which are marginal communities of interest at best. I am also disappointed at the proposal to abolish a seat that has been in existence since Federation.

A voter in Blaxland would be unlikely to be affected, or in fact care at all, about a change in the boundaries and in what seat they may reside. However this means a great deal more to those voters in the west of our state.

I find your decision disingenuous, and with respect, insulting to regional people. I ask you and the Redistribution Committee to reconsider.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Macdonald