

COMMENT ON PUBLIC SUGGESTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Comment on Public Suggestion Number **16**

by

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6 Pages

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Dear Commissioners,

Re 2009 NSW Electorates Federal Redistribution

Thank you for your advice that my recent proposal was too late for consideration.

Firstly I wish to lodge a strong objection to the Liberal party submission and any other which proposes to abolish any of the large area non metropolitan electorates. It is both unnecessary and unfair on inland voters and inland politicians to have to traverse such wide physical areas. The ALP and Nationals proposals demonstrate that it is not necessary, as does my own and several others.

It is critical for fair and adequate parliamentary representation, that the 80% land area of NSW is represented by a minimum of at least 5 politicians, when 43 politicians represent the other 20 % land area of NSW. This can always be done within the numbers margins if the electorates start at or near the outer extremities of NSW and head towards the more densely populated areas near the coast and Sydney. The natural transport corridors to Sydney/Canberra also follow the attached colour map.

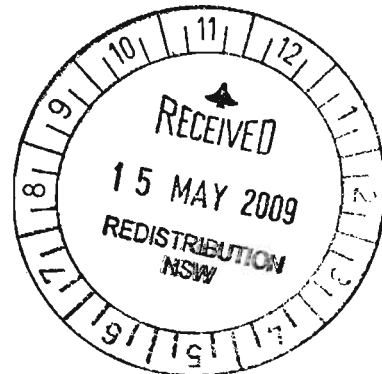
Your previous placement of Tibooburra and Albury in the same electorate of FARRER, which touched 75% of the Victorian boundary, 100% of the South Australian boundary and 20% of the Queensland boundary, is a clear indication that you are not much bothered about any of the other criteria about community of interest, etc, etc. You could hardly have two locations further apart in NSW.

I wish to submit the attached proposals as an objection to the proposals you have received for the abolition of one of the five largest inland electorates in NSW. It is neither necessary or desirable.

My attached previous rejected submission covers most of the information about the reasoning for the Objection as well as the previous Proposal.

Yours faithfully,

David G Houston



Enrolment Figures for 5 largest NSW Inland Electorates

FARRER	93,877	97,032	3.36%				
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SLA'S	19/2/2009	16/7/2012	%	SLA'S	19/2/2009	16/7/2012	%
Albury	31997	34171		Balranald	1565	1540	
Berrigan	5755	6030		Broken Hill	CALARE		
Conargo	1167	1173		Corowa	8019	8255	
Deniliquin	5258	5209		Gr Hume A	2470	2496	
Grr Hume B	4494	4613		Hay	RIVERINA		
Jerilderie	1187	1163		Lockhart	2396	2380	
Murray	4660	5109?		Tibooburra	CALARE		
Tumbarumba	2388	2368		Tumut	7714	7768	
Urana	861	849		Wakool	2931	2913	
Wentworth	4192	4307		Yass	9808	10604	
TOTALS	96,862	100,948					

Deleted Broken Hill, Tibooburra, to CALARE Hay to RIVERINA

Added Tumut, Tumbarumba from EDEN- MONARO Yass from HUME

RIVERINA	92418	94827	2.61				
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Bland W Wy	4316	4339					
Carrathool A	770	775		Carrathool B	1121	1097	
Coolamon	2896	2966		Cootamundra	5491	5521	
Griffith	15581	15919		Gundagai	2687	2680	
Hay	2221	2192		Junee	3662	3722	
Leeton	7268	7186		Murrumb'gee	1530	1515	
Narrandera	4310	4251		Temora	4361	4342	
Wagga A	36243	38216		Wagga B	3303	3395	
TOTALS	95,762	98,116					

Deleted nil

Added Hay from FARRER Carrathool B from CALARE

Enrolment Figures for 5 largest NSW Inland Electorates

CALARE	89,076	90,473	1.57				
SLA'S	19/2/2009	16/7/2012	%	SLA'S	19/2/2009	16/7/2012	%
Bathurst Reg	1369	1426		Blayney	4779	5018	
Bogan	to PARKES			Broken Hill	13759	13707	
Cabonne	9106	9309		Carrathool	to RIVERINA		
C Darling A	740	729		C Darling B	422	423	
Cobar	3046	3099		Cowra	8924	9041	
Forbes	6570	6526		Orange	24925	25680	
Parkes	10002	101125		Tibooburra	523	506	
Warren	2023	1998		Weddin	2753	2752	
TOTALS	97,495	99,204		Young	8554	8865	

Deleted Bogan (Nyngan) to PARKES

Added Young from HUME

PARKES	89743	90618	0.98			
Bathurst B	2314	2424		Bogan	1992	2002
Bourke	1729	1739		Brewarrina	877	872
Broken Hill	to CALARE			Coonamble	2715	2720
Dubbo A	23083	23934		Dubbo B	2464	2509
Gilgandra	3057	3013		Gunnedah	8138	8175
Gwydir A	2080	2039		Gwydir B	1779	1747
Lithgow C	41	45		M W Reg A	12462	12888
M W Reg B	2457	2420		Moree	7948	7961
Narrabri	8776	8632		Narromine	4476	4452
Walgett	3842	3784		Warrumbungle	7104	7022
TOTAL	97,334	97,701		Wellington	5567	5467

Deleted nil

Added Narramine, Bogan, Brewarrina, Bourke, from CALARE Gwydir B from NEW ENGLAND Bathurst B from MACQUARIE

Enrolment Figures for 5 largest NSW Inland Electorates

NEW ENGLAND		342	92035	94382	2.55		
SLA'S	19/2/2009	16/7/2012	%	SLA'S	19/2/2009	16/7/2012	%
Armidale A	12569	12897		Armidale B	2963	3065	
Glen Innes	6288	6393		Guyra	3016	3063	
Gwydir (Bingara)	to PARKES			Inverell	7552	7698	
LiverP Plains	5371	5388		Tamworth A	29705	30957	
Tamworth B	8321	8492		Tenterfield	4629	4734	
Upper Hunter	9344	9416		Uralla	4220	4241	
TOTALS	96,278	98,645		Walcha	2300	2301	

Deleted Gwydir B to PARKES

Added Upper Hunter from HUNTER

COMMENTS ON THE NEED FOR CHANGES AND CHANGES MADE

1. The last redistribution which put Albury and Tibooburra in FARRER electorate indicated that the Commissioners disregard most criteria except numbers. The same can apply to all electorates.
2. There is a very strong case for all the inland electorates to be maintained and extended from or near the interstate boundaries towards the coast and Sydney /Canberra for access convenience.
3. There are five logical corridors for them to follow and maintain the numbers basis AND give the MP's a smaller area to service AND logical transport corridors EAST to WEST except in NEW ENGLAND case N-S.
4. There is a fairness requirement that MP's and electors should not have to travel unnecessary excess distances in order to meet with each other.
5. In the last redistribution, contributions from inland electors were substantially ignored or were unable to be given, because of the high cost of accommodation and transport to Sydney and other hearings Airfares and motel costs of hundreds of dollars would have been involved for inland representatives. It was laughable for rural people reading about the two groups in Sydney, on either side of a bridged river, debating whether they had a "Community of Interest" for electorate boundary purposes.
6. It would also be appropriate for the Commissioners to ignore the machinations and submissions of political parties and politicians whose main agenda is to reconstruct seats in order to win them. No redistribution criteria exists to support the political, media and commentators opinion on these pushes.
7. Most of the changes made in this submission, conform with the criteria of numbers and place towns inland where they logically lie for most elector and government purposes. It was also a joke to read one of the justifications for placing Broken Hill and Buronga (Mildura) in the same electorate. It was said that people occasionally travel to Mildura for shopping. People in inland NSW travel hundreds of km on a regular basis for shopping and most other business and political purposes.

8. The huge distances inland politicians have to travel, relative to urban politicians, is a factor the commissioners should take note of, even if it is not in the criteria. It comes under common sense and fairness.
9. The FARRER extension into EDEN MONARO to make up the numbers is travel friendly and justified.
10. RIVERINA extension into FARRER to Hay further down the Murrumbidgee Valley is logical.
11. The East-West corridor in CALARE from the central tablelands to Broken Hill and Tibooburra is the closest logical and shortest way to the Far West. Public Rail and Air transport is reasonable accessible.
12. The additions of the Divisions between Dubbo and Bourke to PARKES is a logical placement
13. Upper Hunter joins NEW ENGLAND from Hunter again to make up the inland electorate numbers.
14. There is no legal, reasonable or fair reason for any large inland electorate to be abolished, now or ever.
15. Future redistributions may simply follow through the corridor electorates to maintain their numbers.
16. The attached map with coloured electorates is not to scale. Dots give an approximate outline of the new

Corridor electorates from 5 biggest inland NSW Electorates towards Sydney/Canberra

EDEN MONARO HUME MACQUARIE HUNTER

Starting in the South and Clockwise North and East pointing towards Sydney/Canberra

ELECTORATE	CCD'S	Enrolment	Estimate	% Growth	
DIVISION	Name	Number	19/2/2009	16/7/2012	%
EDEN MONARO	303	92119	97785	6.15	<u>Some divisions near Farrer</u>
Tumbarumba	2388	2368	Tumut	7714	7768
HUME	283	91838	96133	4.68	<u>Some Divisions near Farrer, Riverina</u>
Yass Valley	9808	10604	Young	8554	8865
MACQUARIE	268	95332	98261	3.07	<u>Some Divisions near Calare, Parkes</u>
Bathurst B	2314	2424			
HUNTER	247	90792	96505	6.29	<u>Some Divisions near Parkes, New England</u>
Upper Hunter	9344	9416			

This submission from David Houston, Budgewah, Hay NSW 2711 is for retention and a redistribution of the 5 biggest inland electorates in NSW and a flow on to the adjacent corridor electorates towards Sydney via the Great Dividing Range, the coast and the Sydney hinterland with its 43 electorates. Reason says that it is much easier to abolish a Sydney electorate with their tiny area and high population density, compared with the low pop.density, large inland areas.

See Attached Electoral map of NSW with proposed changes outlined.

