

PUBLIC SUGGESTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



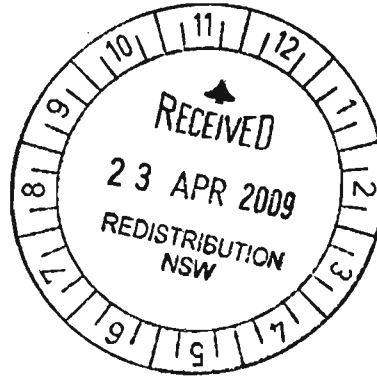
Public Suggestion Number 37

by

Councillor G Matthews Mayor Dubbo Council

3 Pages

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MAYOR'S OFFICE

20 April 2009

The Chairman
Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
Australian Electoral Commission
PO Box K406
HAYMARKET NSW 2000

Dear Chairman

PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

In 2006, following the abolition of the Gwydir electorate, the area for the electorate of Parkes was increased by one hundred thousand square kilometres (100,000 sq km), making it a complete impossibility for one Member of Parliament to adequately represent those within the electorate. Now there is a further proposal/possibility to change the boundaries and names for the 49 Federal Electoral Divisions in New South Wales to 48 Seats. As in 2006, this redistribution is unacceptable.

The electors west of the mountains should not be disadvantaged in comparison with those electors who live in a densely populated metropolitan/coastal electorate; each has the same rights of fair and equal representation. A person at Wilcannia or Ivanhoe does not have the same opportunity of face to face representation/contact with their local member as does a person in say Marrickville.

I understand that the electoral boundaries are based on numbers. Not only is this unfair on the electors, but it is impossible for one member to understand the different "communities of interest" that exist between Moree or Gunnedah and Dubbo and Parkes, and how can one person possibly be expected to fairly represent those communities? I repeat, it is an impossible task.


Densely populated metropolitan seats share similar interests with the next door seat - there is much less diversity, yet much better local representation. This needs to be recognised, and a fairer distribution formula based on a combination of area and population needs to be implemented.

All sectors of Government have agreed on the importance of stemming the population shift to coastal areas, and support efforts to create strong economic inland cities. This can only be achieved through adequate representation and reasonable access to a Member of Parliament.



In the interests of fair representation for all electorates, I ask that the issues raised in this letter be given consideration before any changes to the existing electoral boundaries are finalised.

Yours faithfully



Councillor G Matthews
Mayor