



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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**Public Comment Number: 12**

**Name: Peter ANDREN, MP**

**Page(s): 4**



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To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>  
cc <terry.rushton@aec.gov.au>  
bcc  
Subject Comment on Public Suggestions from Peter Andren,  
Member for Calare.  
Classification  Unclassified

To the NSW Redistribution Committee,

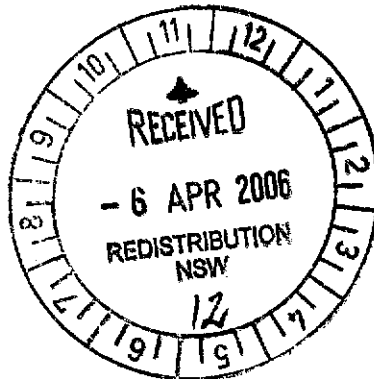
Comments from Peter Andren, Member for Calare, on Public Suggestions for  
the federal electoral redistribution in NSW are attached below.

Thanks and regards,

Tim Mahony

*TIM MAHONY*  
Senior Adviser to  
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**Federal Member for Calare**

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6 April 2006

The Secretary  
Redistribution Committee for NSW  
Level 4, Roden Cutler House  
24 Campbell Street  
HAYMARKET NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: COMMENT ON PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS NSW ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION**

I submit the following comments on the suggestions made by the Australian Labor Party (NSW), the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW) and the Nationals (NSW) for the 2006 redistribution of federal electoral boundaries in NSW.

My comments are concentrated on proposals relating to the boundaries of the Calare, with some attention to their treatment of the current seven 'country' seats west of the Great Divide.

**AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY (NSW)**

The Australian Labor Party (ALP) submission has suggested significant changes to the existing Calare electorate, despite its assertion to the contrary.

The ALP describes the existing boundaries of the Calare electorate as "in community of interest terms suboptimal". I entirely disagree with this statement.

Apart from the fact Calare, as it currently stands, falls comfortably within the projected voter population requirements, it also encompasses six complete Local Government Areas (LGAs): Cabonne, Orange, Cowra, Blayney, Bathurst Regional and Oberon; and the vast majority of the revised City of Lithgow LGA – except for its north-eastern corner containing Glen Alice and Boguee. My own submission proposes to include this area in Calare in concert with the revisions to the City of Lithgow LGA.

There can be no stronger community of interest argument, especially in rural and regional areas, than redrawing an electorate's boundaries to maintain the integrity of the LGAs contained within it.

The ALP proposes the inclusion of the Mid-Western Regional LGA in Calare, the removal of Cowra LGA into the Parkes electorate and the splitting of

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Printed in Calare

Cabonne LGA to satisfy quota requirements. To my mind this completely disregards the community of interest for these areas, and is required in the ALP submission to accommodate the recommended loss of one-country seat (Riverina), which I reject.

#### **Mid-Western Regional LGA**

In support of its proposal to include the whole of the Mid-Western Regional LGA in Calare, the ALP refers to my 1999 redistribution submission supporting the inclusion of Mudgee in Calare; and the fact Mudgee and Gulgong had been part of Calare from 1969-1993.

My 1999 submission supported the inclusion of the southern part of Mudgee Shire, including Gulgong but not the northern part of the shire. This was a division along CCD borders which are not ideal guides for electorate boundaries. The inclusion of the whole Mid-Western Region LGA goes far beyond any community of interest argument based on the relationship between the centres of Bathurst and Mudgee.

Whilst historical arguments can help support a change of border in order to bring an electorate up to quota (especially if this involves splitting LGA or locality borders rather than following them), if the electorate in question is already within the projected voter population quota range, as Calare currently is, it undermines rather than strengthens suggestions to significantly change the existing borders in the way the ALP submission does.

#### **Cowra LGA**

In relation to Cowra, the ALP argues it should be moved into the Parkes electorate, but there is nothing to bear this out, besides the statement: "Cowra is able to be placed in Parkes where it relates well with the towns of Forbes and Parkes". A stronger argument can be made for its linkages with Blayney and Orange within Calare, including proximity and shared media.

#### **Cabonne LGA**

Further, Labor proposes to split the Cabonne LGA to make the changes outlined above possible.

The splitting of a local government area is not in line with community of interest arguments, nor the priority concerns for the redistribution of electorate boundaries under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. The fact the ALP must split the Cabonne LGA only to accommodate its suggested changes completely undermines the logic of the party's proposal.

I contend the ALP's suggestions for the Calare electorate should be disregarded by the Commission.

#### **Abolition of Riverina**

Similarly I do not agree with the ALP's proposal to abolish the rural seat of Riverina, reducing the number of country seats west of the Great Divide to six. I urge the Commissioners to refer to my submission that suggests the retention of 25 seats outside of metropolitan Sydney, including seven inland country seats, in a way that will accommodate 24 metropolitan seats with projected voter population numbers within the range required by the Commission.

The abolition of a rural seat will only increase the size of the remaining electorates in the west and central west of the state, making it all the more difficult for country MPs to effectively represent their constituents.

**LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (NSW)/NATIONALS NSW**

The submissions from the NSW branches of both the Liberal and National parties do not change the existing boundaries of the seat of Calare in any way. They also maintain, in varied form, seven country electorates.

The Liberal Party's submission states: "electoral boundaries should be drawn in rural areas that incorporate whole local government areas in one seat, with splits minimised".

This assertion supports my own proposed change to the Calare electorate boundary to include all of the redefined City of Lithgow LGA, so that the seat is made up of seven complete LGAs.

**SUMMARY**

Finally, in noting the suggestions of the ALP, Liberal and National parties for rural NSW seats, I would argue the proposed boundaries contained in my submission deliver a more logical redistribution while maintaining the current number of rural MPs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Andren', written in a cursive style.

**PETER ANDREN**  
Federal Member for Calare