



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



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**Name: Hawkesbury City Chamber
of Commerce and Industry Inc**

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HAWKESBURY

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY INC.**

April 7, 2006

The Chairman
Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
PO Box 20014
WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002



Dear Sir,

We are writing in regards to the redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries and in particular the boundaries, which effect this area. This Chamber is based in the Local Government Area (LGA) of Hawkesbury and is therefore servicing members in the Federal Electorate of Macquarie.

This Chamber is also the official operator of the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) and in turn is responsible for the operation of tourism in the LGA.

In any redistribution the sense of community is important. The need to belong to an environment that is compatible and related to the members of the community is of vital importance. It is the connectivity of the community within itself that provided the inherent strength and social fibre, which binds people together.

In the Macquarie electorate the communities of the Hawkesbury and the Blue Mountains have been bound together in this sense of belonging for many years. As a result the two communities have come to share significant parts of their culture and social behaviour.

This relationship has not been developed in other surrounding areas for a number of reasons. In particular the two areas are of significant historical importance. They share common history and discovery. They share rural lands and open space, bush scenery and a substantial heritage in the botanical history of Australia. The Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury where inseparable in the history of Australia through the explorers and the botanists.

These significant connections over a 100 years have meant that the two communities have shared other aspects of their community. This association has developed tourism co-operation in such attractions as the Grand Tourist Circuit from Richmond to Katoomba. And more recently the Bells Line of Road Partnership.

HAWKESBURY CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY INC.

All correspondence to: The Secretary PO Box 20 Richmond NSW 2753

Telephone: 02 4578 7878 Facsimile: 02 4578 9033

Email: admin@hawkesburychamber.com.au Web: www.hawkesburychamber.com.au

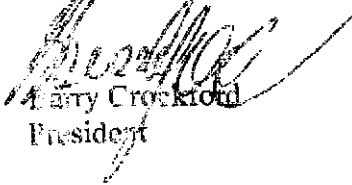
Business has also benefited from this historical connection. Many Blue Mountains residents see Richmond as their shopping centre. This Chamber has been involved in many projects over the year with the Blue Mountains business associations and seeks to maintain that relationship. More recently in a partnership which includes Penrith in a major Federal Government Grant to assist school leavers.

To remove the Blue Mountains from the Macquarie electorate or attach the Hawkesbury to Baulkham Hills or in some other way to significantly break up the Macquarie Electorate would be in our view quite irresponsible. It would destroy two communities who have built up relationships over a 100 years. A relationship of not only business and tourism but also one of social and community support. Both areas are affected by bushfires and the co-operation, which is needed in these times, has come as a result of the cohesiveness of the society being as it is one total community.

We would ask that you give careful consideration to this redistribution and to view it not as a political issue of moving people to suit a particular group but as a social issue that involves the lives of people who have grown to support and work together over many years. This cohesion of community does not come easy and can be easily destroyed. By breaking up the Macquarie Electorate this sense of community will be destroyed and the tow areas may never have the same sense of purpose if attached to other areas which have no common bounds or purpose.

Yours faithfully

HAWKESBURY CITY CHAMBER OF COMERCE & INDUSTRY Inc



Harry Crockett

President