



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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**Public Comment Number: 19**

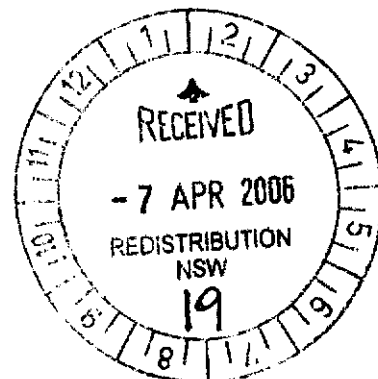
**Name: National Party of Australia - NSW**

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# THE NATIONALS

April 7, 2006

Ms Marie Nelson  
The Australian Electoral Officer (NSW Manager)  
Redistribution Committee for New South Wales  
Level 4  
Roden Cutler House  
24 Campbell Street  
Haymarket, NSW 2000



Dear Ms Nelson

Please find enclosed comments of the National Party of Australia - NSW for the redistribution of Federal electoral boundaries

I commend these comments to you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. McFarlane".

Scott McFarlane  
State Director

New South Wales Head Office

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## The Nationals' Comments

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# GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The Nationals have presented suggestions that are based on accommodating the necessary reduction of one seat in New South Wales while, where possible, keeping communities of interest intact.

The Nationals note that some other suggestions are based on achieving political goals. The Nationals believe that redistributions should not be used by political parties to further political goals – that is what elections are for. It is unfortunate that others have used this process to shift the responsibility of previous electoral results onto the arrangement of existing Federal electoral boundaries.

The impartiality of the Australian Electoral Commission and its redistribution processes is the cornerstone of public confidence in our electoral system.

That public confidence is the envy of the democratic world. It is therefore concerning that the current redistribution process is being used to bring into question the integrity of the current electoral boundaries and the process that created them.

The Nationals note that the Australian Electoral Commission's criteria for assessing submissions states: "That potential or real political implications are not considered in any way by the Committee".

The Nationals believe the redistribution is a serious and important process and has taken all submissions into account and responded where necessary in these comments.

The Nationals' suggestions are based on the premise this year's redistribution warrants only minimal change in non-metropolitan divisional boundaries while at the same time fulfilling legislative requirements.

The Nationals believe frivolous change is detrimental to regional communities. The Nationals seek, therefore, to ensure minimal disruption and unite communities of interest where boundary adjustments are unavoidable.

In studying the submissions lodged with the Redistribution Committee The Nationals are even more convinced the reduction of one division can be achieved in Sydney with minimal disruption to non-metropolitan divisions.

# COMMENTS ON RICHMOND, PAGE AND COWPER

## Suggestion by ALP

The Nationals note that the ALP has suggested that in the case of Richmond 'No change is necessary'.

## Comments

The Nationals reiterate the suggestion that changes to divisions in coastal and country divisions be kept to a minimum.

The continuing high rate of population growth in the State's north-east corner does, however, need to be embedded in Richmond's boundaries – as it has been for a series of redistributions (with a similar contraction in successive re-drawings of the State Tweed electoral district, which is wholly embraced by Richmond).

Since the last Federal redistribution entirely new communities have been built and inhabited on the Tweed Coast such as the Salt and Casuarina developments just south of Kingscliff. More are well and truly on the way. This rapid growth needs to be built in to this year's redistribution.

Richmond is among the highest of all the North Coast divisions in terms of projected population growth, with a rate of 8.43% growth from 2 December, 2005 to 31 May, 2010. Lyne (8.9%) and Paterson (10.74%) are also in this high growth band.

The Nationals have, in their suggestions acknowledged that those two latter seats, along with Richmond, require some trimming, all for the same reason - growth.

Page, on the other hand, has the *lowest* projected growth rate of all North Coast divisions (4.22%). Indeed, Page has a projected growth rate below the State average.

So, Page is ideally placed to absorb a self-adjusting excision of Lennox Head from Richmond.

The Nationals note the suggestion from Ballina Shire Council requesting that the Shire be contained wholly within one division. The Nationals comment that, while the Council's desire is understandable, the Council is currently split between two divisions and, on this occasion, it is not possible to contain it in one division – given the above imbalance in projected enrolments of these neighbouring electorates.

Lennox Head residents have always gravitated towards Ballina (in the current Page division) for all manner of social and business engagements, Ballina being only a few minutes drive from Lennox Head.

The Nationals note that Ballina Shire Council specifically resolved to request that in unifying the Shire in one division, Lennox Head be included in Page.

This is the suggestion of both The Nationals and the Liberal Party.

### **Suggestion by ALP**

Because of the ALP's failure to acknowledge the plainly obvious need to trim Richmond at its southern border, the ALP suggests correcting the low population projections for Page division with the addition of Yamba from Cowper (as does the similar suggestion made by Peter Andren).

### **Comments**

The Nationals comment that the existing Page/Cowper boundary uses the district's most dramatic natural feature – the Clarence River (which separates Yamba and Iluka) – as a 'natural' and obvious border which should be retained.

Similarly, the ALP suggests that the rural localities of Jackadgery, Nymboida and Hernani be shifted to Cowper.

Such change is also unnecessary if The Nationals self-adjustment between Richmond and Page to the north-east corner (Lennox Head to Page) is utilised.

Then, as suggested by both The Nationals and the Liberal Party, no change is necessary for Cowper. This is in stark contrast to the ALP suggestions for Cowper which propose, again, unnecessary changes.

# COMMENTS ON COWPER AND LYNE

## Suggestion by ALP

The ALP has suggested the transfer of 'most of Kempsey LGA, including all of the town of Kempsey' from Lyne to Cowper.

## Comments

The suggestion of transferring Kempsey township disregards the requirement for a redistribution to consider communities of interest.

Kempsey has a far greater affinity with the centres of Port Macquarie and Taree than it does with Coffs Harbour, which is the major centre in the Cowper division.

Access to the local Federal representative for Kempsey residents would also become more restricted if they were required to travel to an electorate office in Coffs Harbour. Given the Member for Lyne has two electorate offices, Kempsey residents currently have the option of travelling to two locations, one within close travelling distance.

**Distance Comparison - How far Kempsey residents have to travel to see their Federal Representative.**

Kempsey to Port Macquarie 49km (Current Situation & Nationals' submission)

Kempsey to Taree 117km (Current Situation & Nationals' submission)

Kempsey to Coffs Harbour 113km (ALP submission)

While the distance from each of the major locations within the divisions is comparable, the placement of an electorate office in Port Macquarie means that Kempsey residents have much easier access to the Member for Lyne.

Many Kempsey residents undertake employment or major shopping in Port Macquarie. The nearest town where specialist health services, such as breast screening and skin checks, are available to Kempsey residents is Port Macquarie. Major purchases such as motor vehicles and whitegoods are more readily available to Kempsey residents from Port Macquarie.

Kempsey, Port Macquarie and Taree are also all within the same telephone prefix. All the numbers for these towns commence with the 65.. prefix whereas Coffs Harbour phone numbers commence with the 66.. prefix, which means that if Kempsey were to become part of the Cowper division local residents would have to make a long distance phone call to contact their local federal representative in Coffs Harbour.

For Kempsey residents, the local federal representative is far more accessible to them if they are located within the division of Lyne as opposed to the Cowper division.

### **Suggestion by Peter Andren**

Peter Andren has suggested drawing a boundary between Cowper and Lyne that would 'follow the Macleay River, further than it currently does' to transfer the Kempsey township on the north side of the Macleay River from Lyne to Cowper

### **Comments**

The suggestion of creating a division border along the Macleay River in order to take in the township of Kempsey would split the town, meaning that East Kempsey and South Kempsey would be located within the division of Lyne and Kempsey and West Kempsey would be located in the Cowper division.

This would mean the residents on the northern side of the Macleay River would be in one division while residents just over the bridge in East and South Kempsey would be in another.

In successive redistributions, Redistribution Committees have studiously avoided splitting non-metropolitan urban areas unless that is clearly unavoidable. As The Nationals' suggestions demonstrate, there is no need to split Kempsey and so such a scenario should be avoided.

Mr Andren also suggests leaving Hat Head in Lyne, which would mean that residents of Hat Head would have to drive through Cowper along the Pacific Highway before they could re-enter their own electorate to access their Federal representative.

### **Suggestion by The Nationals**

The Nationals' submission proposed the inclusion of Lord Howe Island into Lyne.

### **Comments**

The inclusion of Lord Howe Island in Sydney division has been an anomaly for some time. Under State boundaries Lord Howe Island is part of the Port Macquarie Electorate and the Island maintains strong links with the Port Macquarie community. Lord Howe Island is situated 500km due east from Port Macquarie and 700km north east from Sydney.

Lord Howe Island residents use Port Macquarie as their main centre for medical services, education for school students, and general goods and services. A major decision has taken place in recent times to relocate the Lord Howe Island Trading



Company from Yamba to Port Macquarie and QantasLink is beginning a Port Macquarie-Lord Howe Island service.

Residents of Lord Howe Island also listen to ABC Radio broadcast from Port Macquarie. Further, Lord Howe Islanders share the same telephone prefix (065) with Port Macquarie.

Given the increasing links between Lord Howe Island and Port Macquarie it makes sense to unite the communities of interest and ensure they are within the same division.

## **Suggestion by Liberal Party**

The Liberal Party suggests that it is necessary to remove either Old Bar or Wingham from Lyne. This assertion is incorrect as it is possible to bring Lyne within the quota variance by simply making the transfer suggested in The Nationals' proposal.

The Liberal Party suggested moving the Lyne/Paterson border up along the coast, transferring Old Bar, Mitchell Island and Oxley Island into Paterson.

While they have not directly proposed removing Wingham from the Lyne division, they have also suggested that Wingham has strong links to Gloucester and could be moved if necessary.

## **Comments**

Old Bar is inextricably linked to Taree. Taree is the 'capital' of the Manning Valley. The Manning River reaches the sea downstream at Old Bar. The beach at Old Bar is the closest beach to Taree and many Old Bar residents work in Taree.

Many local residents consider Old Bar to be an outlying suburb of Taree. Taree is the major provider of services to Old Bar and to unnecessarily split these two towns would cause disruptions for Old Bar residents as they would still use Taree as their major centre for goods and services but if they needed their local Federal representative they would have to travel to Raymond Terrace in the Lower Hunter.

The distance residents of Old Bar would have to travel in order to see their "local" Federal Member of Parliament is dramatically lengthened under the proposed Liberal Party submission. Old Bar residents travelling to Raymond Terrace would have to travel 130km more than if they had to travel to Taree.

**Distance Comparison - How far Old Bar residents have to travel to see their Federal Representative.**

Old Bar to Taree                      17km    (Current Situation & Nationals' submission)

Old Bar to Raymond Terrace    147km   (Liberal Party Submission)

A much more sensible solution to the need for Lyne to shed territory is for the Paterson division to take in the communities of Diamond Beach, Hallidays Point, Krumbach, Dyers Crossing and Kimbriki, as proposed in The Nationals' submission.

These communities already have connections to the towns of Forster and Tuncurry which are located in the Paterson division. Many of these residents tend to look south to Forster/Tuncurry rather than north to Taree. Diamond Beach and Hallidays Point are only about 17 minutes drive from Forster-Tuncurry. Many secondary students from Hallidays Point/Diamond Beach attend schools in Forster-Tuncurry.

While in an ideal situation the Greater Taree LGA would remain intact there is a need to shed some territory and the logical place to do so without unjustifiable disruption to local residents is to follow The Nationals suggestions for effecting minimal change.

# COMMENTS ON PATERSON, HUNTER AND NEWCASTLE

## Suggestion by ALP

The ALP has suggested the transfer of the Dungog Local Government Area from Paterson to Hunter.

## Comments

Dungog is a rural area with far more community of interest ties to the other rural areas in the division of Paterson than to the increasingly urban areas of Hunter.

Hunter is based on Singleton and Cessnock and with all major parties proposing the inclusion of Muswellbrook into Gwydir, Hunter looks set to lose more of its rural territory.

Dungog's major industries are timber and dairy, which closely tie the area to the Gloucester Shire which is a major part of the Paterson Division. Gloucester and Dungog also share the lower mountain geography and climate associated with the Barrington Tops. These common threads between Dungog and Gloucester make it preferable for them to be within the one division.

There are also distance factors that need to be considered for the residents of Dungog. Moving Dungog from Paterson to Hunter would mean that local residents need to travel an extra 26km in order to reach their federal representative.

**Distance Comparison - How far Dungog residents have to travel to see their Federal Representative.**

Dungog to Raymond Terrace 50km (Current Situation & Nationals' submission)

Dungog to Cessnock 76km (ALP Submission)

## Suggestion by The Nationals and Liberal Party

The Nationals suggested that the townships of Woodberry, Tarro and Beresfield should be transferred from Paterson to Newcastle.

## **Comments**

Woodberry, Tarro and Beresfield have a much stronger community of interest tie with Newcastle than with the more rural and coastal townships in Paterson division.

Beresfield and Tarro are in fact within the Newcastle City Council's LGA boundaries and Woodberry was established as a dormitory suburb for the industrial area of Newcastle.

There has often been debate in regard to the location of these communities and as to whether or not they should be split between different electorates. The Nationals' proposal unites them within one electorate where there are direct road links to Newcastle. Likewise, there is a direct rail link into Newcastle. Many residents of these communities would work in the industries within Newcastle city.

The residents of Woodberry, Tarro and Beresfield utilise Newcastle for major medical services as they have access to a major hospital system.

## **Suggestion by The Nationals and Liberal Party**

The Nationals and the Liberal Party have suggested the transfer of Thornton from Paterson into Hunter.

## **Comments**

Thornton has very strong community of interest link with Maitland which is a major part of the Hunter division. Thornton has always been classed as part of Maitland by local residents.

There are direct routes from Thornton through to East Maitland (shopping) and to Maitland for general shopping and commerce, that is both road and rail networks.

Thornton residents use Maitland to access many essential and specialist services such as legal advice and specialist medical services.

It has been contended in the past that Thornton has some affinity with Beresfield, Tarro and Woodberry, however it is considered locally to be a separate area.

## **Suggestion by The Nationals and Liberal Party**

The Nationals and the Liberal Party have suggested that the communities of Glendonbrook, Reedy Creek, Westbrook and surrounds be transferred from Hunter division to Paterson division.

## Comments

The communities of Glendonbrook, Reedy Creek, Westbrook and surrounds are considered to be a part of the Barrington Tops region and therefore have strong community of interest links to the western portion of the Paterson division.

Barrington Tops Wine Tours include stops in Glendonbrook, Chichester, Gresford and Barrington. These tours encompass towns in all the major shires in the west of Paterson division as well as the area The Nationals have proposed to transfer. All these towns share similar geography, climate and industry links and these common interests provide strong links between these communities.

Residents from Glendonbrook, Reedy Creek, Westbrook and the surrounding communities access medical and other essential services through Gresford and Dungog, thus providing strong ties to the communities with Paterson division.

# COMMENTS ON GWYDIR, NEW ENGLAND AND HUNTER

## Suggestion by The Nationals

All major parties have proposed that Muswellbrook be included in the division of Gwydir. The Nationals have suggested that this addition reach slightly further east to incorporate Jerrys Plains.

## Comments

The projected enrolment for Gwydir is substantially lower than required, necessitating the inclusion of Muswellbrook and surrounding areas from the Hunter Division.

These inclusions lift the projected number of electors by the required 9,000 voters.

The Nationals' proposal puts the number of electors well within the projected quota range and provides a realistic realignment of the boundaries.

Agriculture remains extremely important within Muswellbrook Shire's boundaries and according to the Shire's website the agriculture industry employs 10% of the Muswellbrook Shire workforce.

The equine and viticulture industries have close links to other communities, such as the Scone region, which is located in the Gwydir division.

Both the ALP and the Liberal Party suggest moving only Muswellbrook from Hunter to Gwydir.

The Nationals contend that in order to avoid drastic change in Gwydir in the future it is necessary to move further east to Jerrys Plains which has a strong community of interest with Muswellbrook.

Residents of Jerrys Plains use Muswellbrook as their main source of medical and legal services as it is located only 34 km away.

Muswellbrook is also the major retail centre used by residents of Jerrys Plains.

Under the Liberal Party proposal Gwydir will only be 37 electors above the minimum quota, which in the view of The Nationals is too fine a margin.

## Suggestion by ALP and Liberal Party

Both the Liberal and ALP submissions move all of Gwydir Shire, including Warialda, into New England.

## **Comments**

The Nationals respectfully submit that there is a very strong case for minimal changes in non-metropolitan boundaries and in line with this view we see little point in altering the eastern boundary in the manner suggested by the Liberal Party and the ALP.

Under the Liberal suggestion the New England division is just 141 electors above the minimum quota, making it more likely that radical change will be required in subsequent redistributions.

The northern end of the Gwydir Shire is heavily based on broadacre cropping with Moree as the main service centre.

Commercially and socially, this part of Gwydir Shire looks west to Moree. The Nationals contend there are very few communities of interest to the east.

Many community services that cater to the residents of Warialda are located in Moree. For example, the closest Day Care Centre is in Moree, 79 km away. Both Warialda and Moree are contained within the same school district.

Transport links such as the CountryLink bus service link Warialda and Moree. The proposed inland rail line would go through Gwydir Shire and run from one end of the Gwydir division to the other. The road link between Bingara and Narrabri is currently being upgraded and there are close ties between Gwydir Shire and Narrabri and Moree Shires.

## **Suggestion by The Nationals and ALP**

The Nationals recommend the inclusion of the township of Quirindi from Gwydir. In this particular respect, The Nationals note that the ALP proposal is in line with The Nationals' proposal.

## **Comments**

The level of population growth in the New England division means that it is possible for the long-standing eastern and western boundaries of this division to remain unaltered from the current boundaries.

In order to bring the projected number of electors within quota a small addition is required.

Under the Liberal Party proposal the New England division will be just 141 electors above the minimum quota, making it more likely that radical change will be required in subsequent redistributions.

Therefore, the inclusion of Quirindi into the New England division is a logical step.

All of the closest government offices, such as the Office of Fair Trading and Education Department, are in Tamworth. The closest major shopping centre for Quirindi residents is in Tamworth, 62 km away.

Library services are provided by Central Northern Libraries, which is based in Tamworth.

The closest private hospital facilities are also in Tamworth as is the Base Hospital and a train service links Tamworth and Quirindi.

### **Suggestion by ALP**

The ALP has suggested a transfer of Mudgee from the Gwydir division to the Calare division.

### **Comments**

While, as the crow flies, Mudgee and Orange would appear to be in close proximity the reality is that there are basically no communities of interest between the two centres.

This is mainly because there is no direct quality road link between Mudgee and Orange. The only way Mudgee residents can travel to Orange is through Sofala and Bathurst or Wellington and Molong.

Because of the lack of a direct road link between Mudgee and Orange, Mudgee's communities of interest are far more aligned to communities further north, such as Coolah, Dunedoo and Merriwa.

Until the direct quality road linkage between Mudgee and Orange is established it is not a viable option to move Mudgee into the Calare electorate.

Additionally, in line with The Nationals' argument for minimal change in non-metropolitan boundaries the ALP proposal would appear to be change for changes' sake.



# COMMENTS ON PARKES AND GWYDIR

## Suggestion by ALP and Peter Andren

The ALP and Peter Andren have suggested an unusual shuffle of areas between Parkes and Gwydir. These suggestions encompass transferring Bourke and Brewarrina from Gwydir to Parkes, while transferring Dubbo from Parkes to Gwydir.

## Comments

These unnecessarily drastic suggestions would be problematic for the communities involved.

Given the large number of electors that Parkes is below quota it is essential that Parkes division gain some territory. Due to the size of the current Parkes division it is important that these gains are made, where possible, by uniting communities of interest in higher density populations so as to keep in check the geographic size of the electorate.

Given that Gwydir division is also well below the required quota it seems irrational to shed any major territory from either Parkes or Gwydir when the necessary additions can easily be made in other areas. Two under quota divisions should not swap territory with each other. Rather they should look to other neighbouring divisions with higher enrolments to boost their numbers.

While The Nationals' proposal for the division of Parkes does result in a slight increase in the size of the electorate by 18.5%, it also succeeds in uniting the southern river communities with the Western Division. This was the logical precedent set in the NSW State Boundaries Redistribution.

On the other hand both the ALP proposal and the proposal by Peter Andren increase the size of Parkes Division by 62.2%.

### **Size Comparison – Size of Parkes Division**

Current Situation	270,218 sq. km	
Nationals' Proposal	320,597 sq. km	(increase of 18.5%)
ALP Proposal	438,152 sq. km	(increase of 62.2%)

The ALP and Peter Andren proposals suggest incorporating the Bourke and Brewarrina Shires into Parkes Division. These shires have low population

densities and therefore are not sufficient to make up the required elector numbers.

Rather than gain a small area of high density population from elsewhere these submissions make the strange suggestion to shed territory from Parkes in the form of Dubbo. This change increases the need for Parkes to gain a large number of electors. While the inclusion of the southern river areas into Parkes is a sensible suggestion in these proposals, the change could be limited to this area without the need for further cuts and additions along the Parkes/Gwydir border.

Peter Andren's submission also makes the unusual and unnecessary suggestion of transferring Weddin Shire to the Division of Riverina. Grenfell tends to look to Forbes and Cowra for its major services and should remain aligned with one of these centres. Removing Weddin LGA from Parkes is another example of losing territory from a division that can ill afford to lose population for no community of interest gain.

# COMMENTS ON RIVERINA, HUME AND EDEN-MONARO

## Suggestion by ALP

The ALP has suggested some drastic and needless changes to these divisions. The wide ranging changes it has proposed are:

- Abolishing the Division of Riverina
- Transferring Cowra from Calare to Parkes
- Transferring Temora from Riverina to Hume
- Transferring Wagga Wagga from Riverina to Hume
- Transferring Griffith and Leeton from Riverina to Farrer
- Transferring Hay from Riverina to Parkes
- Transferring Deniliquin, Barham and Moama from Farrer to Parkes
- Transferring Goulburn from Hume to Eden-Monaro

## Comments

The ALP's proposals for Farrer and Hume suggest an incongruous and ill-conceived set of boundaries due to the unnecessary changes they make to create a new seat it has suggested be named "Whitlam". At a time when NSW is being forced to abolish one division due to disparity in State growth rates, any submission suggesting the abolition of two divisions and the creation of one new division is suggesting change for changes' sake. In this case, the ALP's changes are designed to achieve a political, rather than a logical outcome.

The ALP's proposed abolition of Riverina is unnecessary and severely disenfranchises a productive, vibrant and growing region of NSW of a dedicated voice in the Federal Parliament. Riverina is a Federation seat that has a long and proud history of providing this important part of the State with dedicated representation that recognises the strong economic and social bonds that bring together the community of interests in the region that is well known by the same name.

By transferring the western Riverina communities around Griffith, Leeton, Ardlethan and Goolgowi to Farrer, the ALP fundamentally changes the make up of the seat of Farrer and breaks up the geographic region that is known as the Riverina.

The city of Wagga Wagga serves as a media and services headquarters for the Riverina and serves as a logical centre of parliamentary representation for the area. Various NSW Government Departments use Wagga Wagga as the regional headquarters of service delivery for the Riverina region, which includes communities such as Griffith, Leeton, Ardlethan and Goolgowi. Tourism NSW and

the Office of Fair Trading are two such examples of departments that service the communities of Griffith and Leeton from Wagga Wagga.

The Nationals believe that the Riverina communities along the Murrumbidgee River have numerous common interests and should, where possible, remain in the same dedicated Federal division.

The ALP's proposed abolition of Riverina triggers extraneous changes throughout the south of the State. It forces the city of Wagga Wagga to become the largest centre in an ill-conceived District of Hume. This creates the absurd situation where residents of Coolamon, just north of Wagga Wagga, have to drive through the city to eventually reach Albury, where their Federal Representative shall be based, while voters in Crookwell, just north of Goulburn, will have to drive through Goulburn and then continue much further West to Wagga Wagga to reach their Federal representative.

It is difficult to identify a close community of interest between the southern highlands areas along the Wollondilly River and the Riverina communities along the Murrumbidgee River, yet the ALP proposal unites these two communities in Hume.

Another example of extraneous change is the ALP's suggestion of transferring Goulburn from the division of Hume into Eden-Monaro. Goulburn is the logical base of the current Member for Hume as it is central to that division and is conveniently accessible by the communities in the division by road. By transferring the city of Goulburn into Eden-Monaro, the ALP fundamentally alters Hume and fractures the Southern Highlands into three different divisions.

Electoral Commissioners at a State and Federal level have typically used the existing northern boundary of the division of Eden-Monaro as a distinguishing feature that separates those communities to the east of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and those to its north. This logical precedent acknowledges that the two areas have a different focus, with those communities to the north of the ACT typically using Goulburn, Yass and Gunning as service centres while those to its east use Queanbeyan for the same purpose.

The ALP's suggestions would see communities around Lake George in Hume with the main centre of Wagga Wagga, while their main service centre, which is just a short drive along the Hume Highway in Goulburn.

**Distance Comparison - How far Lake George residents have to travel to see their Federal Representative.**

Lake George to Goulburn      63km      (Current Situation & Nationals' submission)

Lake George to Wagga Wagga 279km      (ALP Submission)

This bizarre proposed arrangement ignores the vital role the Hume Highway plays in linking the Southern Highlands, Goulburn and Yass and instead it forces parts of the southern highlands into the same seat as the Murray River.

The Nationals believe that the long-standing northern boundary of Eden-Monaro should remain unchanged, to preserve the character of both Eden-Monaro and Hume. These two divisions have different interests and different centres of commercial and service provisions.

Yet another example of extraneous change is the ALP's transfer of Cowra from Calare to Parkes. Cowra looks north-east for its government, commercial and media services and should remain in the Calare electorate. The Office of Fair Trading and the State Emergency Service that service the residents of Cowra are located in Orange and Bathurst.

**Distance Comparison - How far Cowra residents have to travel to see their Federal Representative.**

Cowra to Bathurst	107km	(Current Situation & Nationals' submission)
Cowra to Deniliquin	501km	(ALP Submission)
Cowra to Broken Hill	944km	(ALP Submission)

The Nationals strongly believe that the Calare electorate does not need any adjustments and should remain a contiguous, contained and logical Central Western district.

### **Suggestion by Liberal Party**

The Liberal Party submission sensibly transfers the communities around Harden from Hume into Riverina. However, the same submission advocates the transfer of Young Shire from Hume into Parkes.

### **Comments**

Young Shire looks south to Wagga Wagga for media, commercial and government services. Young Shire's location in the Federal division of Parkes would be best described as extrinsic. Young is well connected to the city of Wagga Wagga by the Olympic Highway and many residents of the Shire regularly travel south to connect to the Hume Highway. It is important to note that the current population of Young Shire is estimated at nearly 12,000 people.

Under the Nationals' proposal, residents in Young Shire would only have to travel 147kms to access their Federal representative versus 281kms to travel to Dubbo.

**Distance Comparison - How far Young residents have to travel to see their Federal Representative.**

Young to Wagga Wagga	147km	(Nationals' submission)
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Young to Dubbo	281km	(Liberal Party Submission)
Young to Goulburn	179km	(Current Situation)

Young Shire is part of the south west slopes and plains, and has a natural affinity with communities to its south such as Cootamundra and Harden. A boundary arrangement that unites these communities would bring together communities of interest in one dedicated Federal division.

In contrast, the community of Temora has links with communities to both its north and south. The Nationals believe it is best to unite Temora with communities to its immediate north such as Barmedman and West Wyalong. These communities have similar commercial interests and community ties. Both communities have historical links with the gold mining industry. West Wyalong and Temora are linked through many avenues including the Bland/Temora Family Day Care Organisation, which is administered from West Wyalong and provides day care services to both shires. Both councils are also part of the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils.

The Liberal Party's suggested transfer of Hay from the division of Riverina to Farrer. The Nationals agree with this transfer, however believe it is important to unite Hay with the neighbouring communities of Narrandera, Coleambally and Carrathool.

The Liberal Party's transfer of Bungendore from Eden-Monaro again breaks the current demarcation between areas to the east and south of the ACT and those to its north. The Nationals believe such a transfer is superfluous given other minor alterations to the eastern boundary of Eden-Monaro address relevant quota requirements.

**Distance Comparison - How far Bungendore residents have to travel to see their Federal Representative.**

Bungendore to Queanbeyan	26km	(Current Situation & Nationals' submission)
Bungendore to Goulburn	70km	(Liberal Party Submission)

# COMMENTS ON HUME, EDEN-MONARO AND GILMORE

## Suggestion by Peter Andren

Peter Andren has proposed an unnecessary alteration to the location of Braidwood, transferring it from Eden-Monaro to Gilmore.

## Comments

Given the close ties Braidwood has to Queanbeyan and Canberra it is illogical to include Braidwood in Gilmore, a coastal electorate that stretches north to Kiama.

Braidwood falls within the Palerang Council area, which extends to Queanbeyan City to the west.

Many of the services for Braidwood residents are located in Queanbeyan, including government departments such as the Office of Fair Trading and Community Housing, major medical and legal services. It is also a major retail centre for Braidwood.

## Suggestion by ALP

The ALP has suggested moving Moss Vale into the division of Throsby.

## Comments

Moss Vale remains essentially a rural town with a heavy focus on retail and tourism and it is in this vein that The Nationals have chosen to move it into the division of Hume. The Nationals and the Liberal Party's Suggestions are aligned in this respect.

The ALP submission, which moves Moss Vale into Throsby, fails to take into account that Moss Vale and Bowral are just 10km apart and in the same Shire.

It is worth noting that the Southern Highlands tourism website [www.highlandsnsw.com.au](http://www.highlandsnsw.com.au), states that, "Moss Vale has been a major rural centre for most of its life". Despite the fact that gradually Moss Vale has come to focus on retail and tourism it is still the home to one of the largest agricultural shows in the State. This statement clearly suggests a much greater affinity with rural centres such as Goulburn as opposed to the industrial centres to the east in Throsby.

The nearest hospital and dental care for Moss Vale residents is in Bowral while the nearest major shopping centres are in Bowral and Goulburn.

## **Suggestion by ALP**

The ALP proposal moves the Wollondilly LGA from the Hume division to the Macarthur division. The ALP also proposed the transfer of Appin from Hume to Macarthur.

## **Comments**

The largest town in the Shire is Tahmoor with a population of only 4,664 which would make it a country town, thus far more suited to a rural-based electorate than a Sydney fringe electorate.

Wollondilly Shire Council's website states the towns and villages in its area are: "all are a showcase of rural living, surrounded by natural bushland". The local council obviously considers that the area has a rural flavour.

The Nationals have argued for minimal change in non-metropolitan boundaries and in this case we contend that it is not right that these towns are constantly shifted between rural and metropolitan seats as population changes.

Given the growth in south-west Sydney it is likely in the future that country seats will have to absorb excess growth, so the question must be asked why you would needlessly shift country areas into metropolitan seats when they are likely to again be moved at the next redistribution.

## **Suggestion by Liberal Party**

The Nationals and ALP proposals contend that Batemans Bay should be moved to Gilmore as a whole, while the Liberal Party suggests splitting Batemans Bay and North Batemans Bay between Gilmore and Eden-Monaro.

## **Comments**

The Nationals have concerns with splitting a town between two divisions.

Such a split would only create confusion in the minds of Batemans Bay residents as to what division they lived in.

Given community of interest requirements it is preferable to leave a town as a whole within a division.

If the changes proposed by the Liberal Party residents of Batemans Bay would have to travel 136km to reach their federal representative in Queanbeyan while residents just across the Clyde River in North Batemans Bay would be able to travel 115km along the Princes Highway to Nowra.

While both Queanbeyan and Nowra have links with Batemans Bay, it is essential that, where possible, towns remain intact. Given there are several alternate



proposals that have been able to keep Batemans Bay within one division, The Nationals maintain that any such split is gratuitous and clearly avoidable.