



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 3

Name: Ms M W BURKE

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July 3, 2006

Australian Electoral Officer for New South Wales,
Level 1, Roden Cutler House,
24 Campbell Street,
HAYMARKET. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Sir,

I write to you concerning the Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in New South Wales as published in the *Sun-Herald* on July 2, 2006.

I am a resident of Gunnedah in New South Wales and particularly concerned about the redistribution of the boundary which eliminates Gwydir electorate and places most of it in the proposed Parkes electorate. I am not a member of any political party.

I have lived most of my professional life in the Gwydir Electorate. I am a retired Principal of a Secondary School in the electorate and involved in Administration of a large charitable organization. I have been concerned for and worked for social justice for rural Australians. I accept that there has been a significant decline in rural populations in recent times but see some of this as a reflection of Government policies at both State and Federal levels.

I accept the principle that each electorate have equal numbers of electors in each division is the ideal but believe that there are other factors which need to be taken into account when determining boundaries. I consider that making nearly 50% of the area of the state one electorate, does little to encourage involvement of the ordinary person in the democratic process.

Therefore, I protest against the redistribution for the following reasons:

1. It is absolutely incorrect to state that areas such as Moree, Narrabri, Gunnedah [all which I have resided in] have transport and communication links with such places as Broken Hill, Hillston, Condoblin. Your Commission's premise is that this is so. There needs to be a redrawing of the boundaries relevant to these links.
2. It is not possible that one elected representative for the proposed seat of Parkes could possibly know and represent the people of such a far-flung electorate. People who live in this proposed electorate are therefore denied access to the democratic process; people in an electorate covering a smaller physical area have better opportunities of being involved in the democratic process.
3. In my view the Redistribution Committee has erred in abolishing the divisional name of *Gwydir*. Since Federation in 1901 there has been a seat of *Gwydir*. The name of *Parkes* as an electorate division was added after Federation. For a sense of historical continuity in our federal system I believe the name *Gwydir* should be retained.

Yours faithfully,



(Ms M.W. Burke)

