



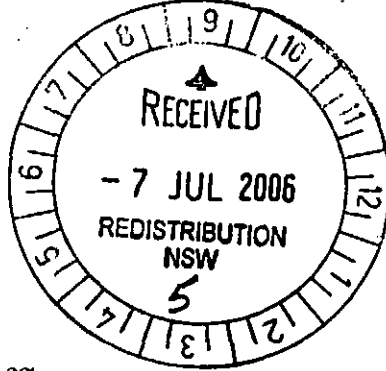
The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 5

Name: Mr D B HURST OAM

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D.B.Hurst
32 Belgravia Street
Moree NSW 2400

Australian Electoral Officer
for New South Wales
Level 1, Roden Cutler House
24 Campbell Street
Haymarket NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

Following the announcement of the proposed redistribution of the Electoral boundary for the seat of Gwydir, I wish to object to the proposal on the following grounds;

1. Having lived and worked in the electorate for most of my life I think I have a good understanding of the needs of this area and the tremendous effort which must be made to try and cover a significant proportion of it in my former occupation as an area manager for a major oil company whilst I was based at Moree.

The area proposed is far too large for one person to manage which would simply mean that the representative would spend a very significant portion of available electorate time in travelling, which to a large extent is virtually unproductive time. This is in spite of the possible use of aircraft to try and get around the electorate with resultant higher costs.

It is my opinion that the area is probably too large as it is but to extend the boundaries along the lines suggested is totally unworkable and impractical. It is very easy to sit in an office and draw lines on a map but this does not take into account the hardships, which will be imposed on those residing in the area.

2. The seat of Gwydir is a Federation seat and has served all those within it very well indeed for over a hundred years. Elected Representatives over the period have been able to meet with their constituents face to face without too much difficulty and it will be this aspect which will be curtailed of necessity if the proposal goes ahead. At least at the present time one can always meet the representative even if it is only at a function. With the extended area it would be almost impossible to do this.

3. I think some thought should be given to the person who is selected to represent. With an area covering over half the State of NSW I believe that

the elected person will have very little home life if he/she is married and has a family.

This then means that a good quality representative may be difficult to persuade to take on the job because it is asking too much for a family to forgo. Pre-selection may in fact mean that the best person for the job may not come forward and as a result a less qualified person is selected simply because they are available.

4. The Gwydir Electorate as it is at the present time includes shires which are generally compatible in the sense that they have similarities. That is they are farming and grazing areas with considerable areas of large scale irrigation. These areas are serviced by towns of a similar size which will grow slowly as costs rise in the cities. Already there are new developments starting such as coal mining, and ethanol production. A very large amount of Australia's cotton production takes place already.

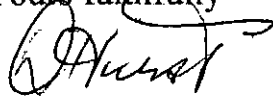
Large retail outlets such as Woolworths and Coles are already in operation or about to start. If these firms have the confidence to go ahead does not this indicate that they have done their sums relating to population and are confident in the future? Any bleeding of the population out of Gwydir has to a large extent been caused by government decisions or lack thereof.

5. Finally, rather than giving the seat of Gwydir to Parkes, why not look at some of the southern seats such as Farrer, Riverina and Calare for example taking a piece of the Western Division lands or shires so that representation can be made more manageable.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposition and I hope that the boundaries as suggested are reviewed along the lines suggested.

The proposal, if it is proceeded with, will in fact have the effect of largely disenfranchising all the residents in Gwydir.

I remain,
Yours faithfully



D.B. Hurst OAM

4th July 2006