



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1016

Name: Mrs B R Battle

Page(s): 2

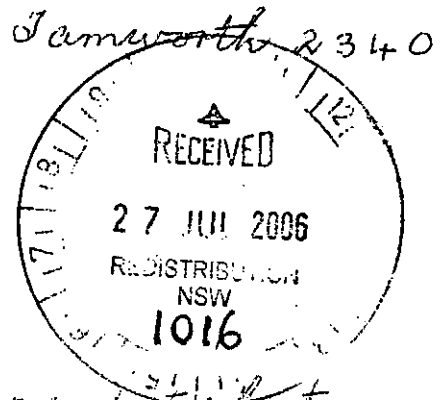
24th July 2006

St Andrews Village,
Tribble St

Redistribution Committee of New South Wales
Australian Electoral Commission (nsw)

P.O. Box 20014

World Square NSW 2002



16 Australian Electoral Commission,

As you know the boundaries for the N.S.W. redistribution (proposed) draft has been released. It is proposed to abolish the seat of Gwydir and merge the electorate into the seat of Parkes. This would mean the loss of a rural seat in the Australian Parliament and the establishment of a mega-seat covering 379,474 square kilometres and 47% of the state.

As a member of the Nationals, I find this proposal insulting and unacceptable to the rural and regional communities of N.S.W. I am writing to the A.E.C. to convey my concern about the proposals and request that the draft boundaries be redrawn.

The abolition of a rural seat has implications not just for the residents of Gwydir and Parkes electorates but rural and regional Australia as a whole with the loss of a voice in our Parliament representing the rural community. One member of Parliament cannot possibly provide adequate representation to each of the 19 local government areas included in the proposed seat of Parkes.

Yours sincerely (Mrs) BR Battle
a/a.

2006 Federal Electoral Redistribution

- Both The Nationals and Liberals argue strongly that there is a case for the abolition of a Sydney Electorate. This would cause far less disruption and be much more equitable than abolishing the Gwydir electorate.
- The estimated growth rates provided by the Australian Electoral Commission do not predict Parkes or Gwydir to have the lowest rates of growth.
- The Australian Electoral Commission's proposal creates a new electorate of Parkes that would be almost 380,000 square kilometres in size, or 47 per cent of NSW. That makes this electorate bigger than Japan and Germany and five and a half times the size of Tasmania.
- By creating such a huge electorate the proposal effectively reduces the voice of country people in the Federal Parliament.
- In Sydney people are often only 10 minutes at the most from their MP's office but in this newly proposed seat of Parkes people will have to drive hours and hours to see their MP.
- It seems that the legislative requirements for communities of interest and the size of the electorates to be considered in the redistribution process have been ignored.
- In the most recent NSW electoral redistribution the Commissioners were mindful of the huge size of the State seat of Murray-Darling and those Commissioners took the opportunity to reduce the size of that electorate. It is perplexing that in this current redistribution such a huge seat would be unnecessarily created.
- The Nationals support the retention of existing boundaries between coastal and inland divisions where possible, so that the Great Dividing Range continues to act as a sensible natural dividing line.