



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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**Public Objection Number: 1019**

**Name: HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL**

**Page(s): 5**

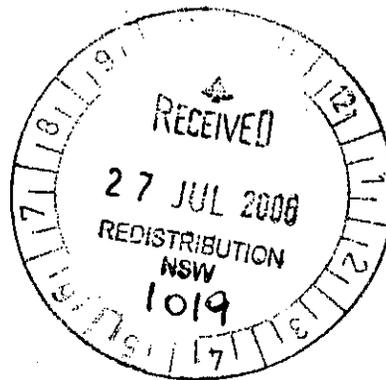
# Hawkesbury City Council

## fax transmission cover sheet



**To:** Chairman  
**Fax:** 9212 2208  
**Company:** Redistribution Committee of NSW  
**Date:** 27 July 2006  
**Sender:** Graeme Faulkner  
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**No. of Pages:** 4  
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**Redistribution Committee of New South Wales**

Dear Chairman,

Please find following a letter and submission from Hawkesbury City Council regarding the redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries.

Regards,

Robyn

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 PLEASE CALL (02) 4560 4444**

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# Hawkesbury City Council

Our Ref: GF060727L1098\_RF.doc

27 July, 2006

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

Dear Chairman,

**RE: Redistribution - Federal Electoral Boundaries**

Please find enclosed a submission from Hawkesbury City Council regarding the proposed redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries.

Should you wish to discuss our submission I can be contacted at Council on (02) 4560 4410. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours faithfully,



Graeme Faulkner  
 General Manager

Direct Line : 4560 4410

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 PO Box 146  
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All communications to be addressed to the General Manager  
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THE FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES

Hawkesbury City Council

27 July, 2006

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

I refer to the Report of the Redistribution Committee for New South Wales concerning the proposed Redistribution of New South Wales into 49 Electoral Divisions and advise that Hawkesbury City Council formally objects to the inclusion of Hawkesbury in the Division of Greenway on the basis that the population projections used are contrary to sections 66(3) and 66(3A) of the Electoral Act.

It is the contention of Hawkesbury City Council that

1. The cohort-component algorithm used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Electoral Commission to develop population projections, specifically in the proposed Federal Seat of Greenway, fails to cater for super population growth initiatives that are to be realised within 3.5 years from the date of the redistribution.
2. The methodology which applies the cohort-component algorithm to project population growth based on CCD growth rates is arguably compromised in circumstances where significant housing developments are realised by a Stated Government within the three year six month time period after the expected date of the final determination of boundaries as envisaged under sections 66(3) and 66(3A).
3. In such circumstances, where reliance on the cohort-component algorithm in population projections has resulted in a situation where the statistical projections differ markedly from those that are realised at the projection time, the result of any outcome could be the subject of dispute with ramifications for all redistribution boundaries previously determined and give rise to general political uncertainty within the population.

**Background**

Sections 66(3) and 66(3A) of the Electoral Act prescribe that;

*(3) In making the proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee:*

- (a) shall, as far as practicable, endeavour to ensure that, if the State or Territory were redistributed in accordance with the proposed redistribution, the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in the state or territory, would not, at the projection*

*time determined under section 63A, be less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment of that State or Territory at that time; and*

- (b) *subject to paragraph (a) shall give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division to:*
- i. *community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division including economic, social and regional interests;*
  - ii. *means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;*
  - iv. *the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division and*
  - v. *the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory and subject there to the quota of electors for the State or Territory shall be the basis for the proposed redistribution, and the Redistribution Committee may adopt a margin of allowance to be used whenever necessary, but in no case shall the quota be departed from to a greater extent than one-tenth more or one-tenth less.*

*3(A) When applying subsection (3), the Redistribution Committee must treat the matter in subparagraph (3) (b) (v) as subordinate to the matters in subparagraphs (3) (b) (i), (ii) and (iv).*

#### **Forward enrolment projections**

The dominant feature of the Federal redistribution process is the use of forward enrolment projections specified in the Commonwealth Electoral Act (CEA). Electoral boundaries are drawn on current enrolment figures which can vary  $\pm 10\%$  from the state average. Additionally, the Redistribution Committee used projected data based on what the enrolment of each census collection district is likely to be in three and a half years being the midpoint of the redistribution. The Australian Bureau of Statistics use an algorithm named the cohort-component methodology as the projection mechanism.

In the 2006 proposed Redistribution of New South Wales, the Australian Bureau of Statistics supplied enrolment projections to the AEC ... "using AEC enrolment data as the base and a cohort-component method to project the enrolment of each CCD to 31 May 2010, being three years and six months after the expected date of the final determination of boundaries.

The projected total enrolment for NSW at 31 May 2010 is 4,581,939 with a projected average enrolment of the 49 divisions of 93,508. The Redistribution Committee has advised that the 3.5% tolerance above and below that average requires that divisions be constructed in the range between 90,236 and 96,780 electives.

The AEC population projections for Greenway vary approximately 7.5% due primarily to adjustments for what Council believes to be medium to long term population projections for growth on the North-West Sectors over the next 5 to 15 years and it is this point that is at issue.

In early July 2006, NSW Planning Minister Frank Sartor announced a four year infrastructure program featuring 23,000 new lots in the designated North-West Growth Centre comprising in part 8,500 lots in Riverstone West covering an area of around 10,000 hectares and which also includes 7000 lots in the Alex Avenue Precinct, 1500 lots in Area 20, and 1000 lots in the Colby Precinct. The North-West growth centre will eventually include 16 precincts

containing around 66,000 new homes. Mr Sartor has indicated that he anticipates the first round of lots to be on the market as early as 2007.

If this is the case then the 7% variance for Greenway may be inadequate and incorrectly reflect potential population increases.

### **Community Interest**

Council notes that there appears to be gross inconsistency in the logic applied to the concept of Community Interest by the Redistribution Committee in its 2006 report. This inconsistency is manifest in paragraphs 51 and 55 of the report.

Summarily it is Council's view that:-

- (I) Paragraph 51 implies a belief on behalf of the Committee (in Council's view) that the Hawkesbury River and its associated bridges prevent communities from becoming homogenous communities.

Council's view is that quite the opposite occurs (i.e) the geographical constraints faced by numerous communities in the Hawkesbury (e.g.) flood risk, give rise to a peculiar autonomy, self reliance and dependence on one another that is absent from metropolitan areas. It is this heightened community interdependence that gives rise to a community of interest far stronger than that normally experienced in the more protected urban environments.

- (II) Paragraph 55 implies a belief on behalf of the Committee (in Council's view) that development of the internet and mobile telephone coverage changes the way in which contemporary society communicates and interacts and the community of interest is diminished in the existing Federal seat of Macquarie. It is Council's contention that geographical risk for a particular population is a dominant force in unifying communities and that the development of the internet and mobile telephone coverage support the development of that particular community interest, rather than deplete it, because the technology is immediately and primarily adapted for risk prevention, be it flood or bushfire. This particularly so, in the existing Macquarie Electoral Division where a strong community of interest based on bush fire risk and recurrent experience has cemented strong inter dependence between Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains residents.

In conclusion, Council is of the view that the population projections based on the cohort-component algorithm have not catered for recently announced State Government development initiations in the North West Sector and consequently the projections may be deficient. Additionally, Council is of the view that there is a lack of understanding on the Redistribution Committees' part as to the real drivers of community interest which have in the context of the existing seat of Macquarie more to do with self reliance and community interdependence arising from sustained geographical risk associated with flooding and bushfire risk and not road or bridge infrastructure.

Accordingly, Council respectfully objects to any change of boundaries in the federal electoral district of Macquarie.