



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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**Public Objection Number: 1023**

**Name: TULLIBIGEAL COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

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## TULLIBIGEAL COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

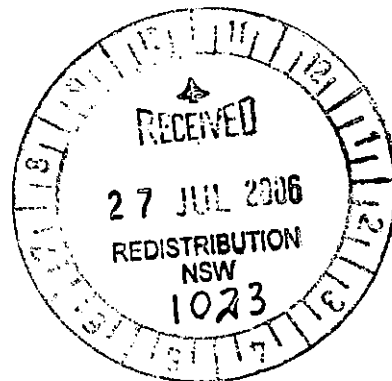
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26 July 2006

Redistribution Committee for New South Wales  
 Australian Electoral Commission (NSW)  
 P.O. Box 20014  
 WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002

Fax. 02 9212 2208

Dear Commission



### Objection: Federal Electoral Redistribution: Gwydir, Parkes Electorates'

On behalf of the concerned members of our branch, our community and district I write to protest the proposal to abolish the seat of Gwydir and merge into the electorate of Parkes.

This would mean the loss of a seat in Federal Parliament, which would have great implications for residents of not only Gwydir and Parkes electorate but for all rural and regional areas of Australia.

One member to represent an area of approx 380,000 square kilometres cannot provide fair and equitable representation to each of the local government areas.

The proposed Parkes Electorate area would included 19 local government areas and would cover 47% of the state of NSW, an area five times larger than Tasmania.

This enormous area would not give electors a fair chance of accessing their political representatives. It could take up to 14 hours to cross by car. A visit to most townships and villages may only be possible once or twice a year considering the other commitments that parliamentary representative are expected to undertake and attend to. This is really not acceptable to any community.

By creating such a huge electorate the proposal would drastically reduces the voice of country people in the Federal Parliament. There would be no doubt that one voice would be lost. This is unacceptable. Rural and regional people have as much right to be heard, as do urban and more closely populated areas. We all have the same needs.

A country MP's workload is such that it would be very difficult to serve the needs of constituents as well as taking on higher office such as a ministry. Surely our rural electors are as deserving as others to have their representative heard in cabinet. This merge would leave it almost impossible for the representative to take on a higher office and to serve the electorate and electors to the utmost capacity.

People in major cities are often only 10 -15 minutes away from the office of their MP's Office but in the newly proposed seat of Parkes people will have to drive hours to see their representative.

Travel costs would increase immensely for country MP's particularly the member for Parkes. Rising fuel prices, vehicle costs, and alternate travel will cause added financial burden to the representative and electorate.

The extra travel would require a huge amount of additional time and would result in losing work time the MP currently has.

It seems that the legislative requirements of interests and size of electorates to be considered in the redistribution process are being ignored in this proposal.

The abolition of a Sydney electorate would cause much less disruption and be more equitable than abolishing the Gwydir electorate and creating the merge with Parkes

Tullibigeal CWA

Ellen Worland President

Anne Loftus Secretary

*Ellen E. Worland*