



**The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES**



Public Objection Number: 1033

Name: Mr Geoff HUSH

Page(s): 4



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27/07/2006 04:15 PM

To nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au
cc
bcc
Subject Changes to Calare

Classification Unclassified

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a file detailing my concerns about the proposed changes to the NSW division of Calare. Could you please acknowledge receipt.

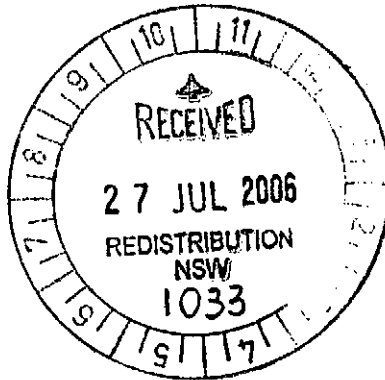
Thanks

Geoff

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Calare objection.pdf



Geoff Hush
1471 Midwestern Highway
Bathurst NSW 2795

26 July 2006

Redistribution Committee for NSW
PO Box 20014
WORLD SQUARE
NSW 2002

Dear Sirs,

Please accept this document as a formal objection to the proposed boundary changes intended for the NSW division of **CALARE**.

I believe that the people of the Central Tablelands will be adversely affected by splitting this distinct geographical and cultural region into two separate electorates. Political representation of the voters of this region would be best served by a single representative to consolidate growth and infrastructure development rather than a divisive "Western Central Tablelands" linked with the Slopes & Plains and the "Eastern Central Tablelands" linked with the Blue Mountains.

I accept the requirement to reduce the number of NSW seats, but disagree with radically changing a seat that currently meets the statistical tolerance requirements, and is a clear geographical and social region. In fact, this region has a higher population growth than the state average, and I believe that this trend will not only continue – but increase.

The reason for sustained growth in this area is because there currently exists a well established community of interest within the Central Tablelands based on the following:

1. Education

Education is the largest employer in the area, with Charles Sturt University – which has a Campus at both Orange, and a concentration of Private Schools, and strong Public Schools in Bathurst & Orange that service young people throughout the region. There are sporting and academic ties

that are centred on Bathurst and Orange. In fact, the Western Region Academy of Sport is based in Bathurst services the entire central west.

2. Transport

The highway & rail infrastructure from Orange, Blayney & Oberon converges on Bathurst before linking with Sydney via the mountains.

The ongoing upgrades to the Great Western Highway have made it more of an expressway across the mountains, and easier to bypass communities in the mountains completely.

Should a major upgrade occur to the Bells Line of Road, this will further decrease contact between people travelling to Sydney from the Central Tablelands and those living in the mountains.

3. Industry

There are major established companies such as Simplot, Devro, Masterfoods in Bathurst, Carter Holt Harvey in Oberon, and Electrolux in Orange that supply direct employment to people throughout the region, plus the supporting contractor groups that service the Central Tablelands Region.

There exists a network of contractors, suppliers and expertise in this region that rivals that in Sydney in all but the most specialised of services. While they may be based in any of the centres, they service business interests in all of the other Central Tablelands Centres.

Any demand for these types of services across the mountains is serviced in the main by Sydney contractors.

4. Health

Development of new Hospitals at Bathurst & Orange with complimentary services.

Existing Private Hospitals at both Bathurst & Orange are referred to by Doctors throughout the region.

Any specialist work not available in either Orange or Bathurst is carried out in Sydney. The Blue Mountains is part of the route to Sydney only – not part of the area health service.

5. Retail

Shoppers regularly commute between Blayney/Bathurst/Orange/Oberon – a clear shopping catchment that would be split in half by the proposed boundary.

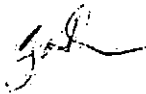
6. LGA

The recent changes to LGA boundaries have tried to reinforce established community interests and this should continue. To split the Bathurst LGA is contradictory to the Report of the Distribution committee that has "sought to keep electors in their existing divisions wherever it could be equitably achieved".

In summary, I view the proposed changes to Calare by placing an electoral boundary through the middle of the Bathurst LGA as being divisive to the voters in the region, and not supportive of a cohesive development of infrastructure and community of interest based around the Central Tablelands region rather than all things focused towards Sydney.

I would also ask the committee to hold a public inquiry at Bathurst, in order to provide voters the opportunity to present their concerns for consideration by the committee.

Yours sincerely,



Geoff Hush