



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



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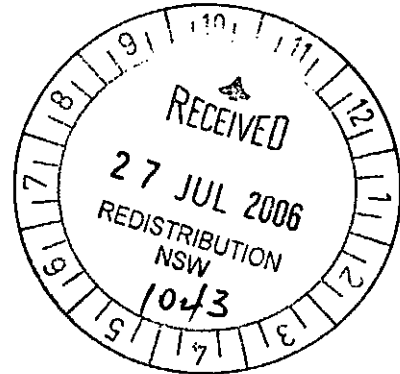
Subject Submission to the New South Wales Federal Electoral
Redistribution Proposal

Classification Unclassified

Please find attached a submission for the NSW Federal Electoral Redistribution Proposal process.

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Regards

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Reliance Credit Union Business Survey Changes to Electoral Boundaries

26 July 2006

Research from the Western Research Institute at Charles Sturt University has shown that businesses in regional NSW are concerned with the proposed changes to electoral boundaries resulting in the loss of one seat in the Federal Parliament for NSW.

Although business is only one of the responsibilities of a Federal Member of Parliament, this report shows that a significant number of businesses believed representation by their Federal Member is important for their business. In particular, businesses are worried that limitations on the Federal Member's time and resources would only allow them to concentrate on the few larger regional cities. It is also significant that a large number of businesses are unaware of the proposed changes.

The Australian Electoral Commission has proposed a reduction in the number of NSW Federal parliamentary seats in regional NSW, with the total number reduced from 50 to 49. This would result in a change of representative for some communities in the Central West and North Western regions, as well as larger electorates.

The Reliance Credit Union Business Survey used data from a survey of 410 businesses in 8 industry sectors in the Central West, North Western, Far West, Mid North Coast, South Eastern, Murray, Murrumbidgee, Richmond-Tweed and Northern regions of NSW. The main results from the survey were:

- 35 % of respondents believe their Federal Member is important for business. Reasons given reflected the view that the Federal Member was approachable, representative and campaigned for and promoted the region.
- 1 in 3 businesses were not aware of the proposed changes to Federal electoral boundaries.
- Just over half of businesses surveyed did not expect the changes to affect their business, while a further 42 % did not know if they would be affected.
- A significant 8% of respondents felt that the changes would affect their business, with almost all believing that the effect would be negative.
- Similar trends were identified in the Central West only, however more businesses, around 72 per cent, were aware of proposed changes.

The WRI asks the Australian Electoral Commission to consider this study when it reconsiders the proposed electoral at the end of this week.

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