



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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**Public Objection Number: 1061**

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**Page(s): 6**



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Federal Member for Calare

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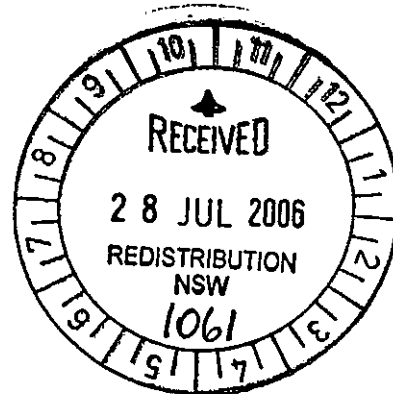
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**FAXED**  
27-7-06

27<sup>th</sup> July 2006

Redistribution Committee for NSW  
PO Box 20014  
WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002



Dear Committee Members,

**RE: SUPPLEMENTARY OBJECTION SUBMISSION**

Please accept this supplementary submission as part of my objection to the NSW Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution of federal electoral boundaries for NSW.

At its ordinary meeting on July 17 the Lithgow Council members were presented with a submission from their general manager detailing quite strong reasons why councillors should reject the proposed boundary changes.

The Labor dominated council, through councillors Councillor McAndrew and Fisher resolved to not take up the carefully considered position of their senior staff, and 'to take no action'.

I believe it is important that the committee is conversant with the considered opinion of the council, rather than the politically-motivated decision of the majority of the councillors.

I include a copy of the relevant council papers, and I have also included two press items from the Lithgow Mercury covering this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**PETER ANDREN**  
Federal Member for Calare



IT was indeed a high level international gathering that lunched at Secret Creek while becoming acquainted with Lithgow

# International assembly unannounced

The impressive line-up of guests included Mr Chinoy, Consul-General of India; Ms Lazaro, Consul-General of the Philippines; Mr Scullion, Consul-General of Ireland; Mr Breznik, honorary Consul-General of the Republic of Slovenia; Mr Obradovic, Consul-General of Serbia and Montenegro; Mr Casserini, Consul-General of Switzerland; Mr Green, Trade Commissioner, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise; Mr Bustamante, Consul-General of Peru accompanied by his wife; Mr Kawada, Consul-General of Japan; Mr and Mrs Cheng, Consul and Consul of the People's Republic of China; Mr Janavel, Consul of Uruguay;

and Mr Velastegui, Consul-General of the Republic of Ecuador.

It was just a high level gathering of diplomats in numbers not previously seen together in Lithgow.

The group, seen pictured leaving Secret Creek, were very impressed with what Lithgow had to offer.

In fact, some were so impressed, that they have already made return visits bringing their families back to Secret Creek.

Perhaps it was the unique ambience of the place that brought them back; perhaps it was the work of the restaurant's talented new French chef, Yohan Simon.

# Loss in garden thefts

... through to ... weeks thou- ... worth of items ... with the ... argeting high

value sandstone products. The haul included garden benches, statues, letterboxes and other items taken late at night. The thieves were so brazen

that some of the items were stolen from the front verandahs at homes while the owners slept a short distance away. The breakthrough came

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# SAINT



## Based on realities?

THERE are plenty of people out there wondering why the members of Lithgow Council dived in so enthusiastically to embrace the proposal that Greater Lithgow should shift from Calare into the uncharted waters of a Blue Mountains based Macquarie electorate. No debate, just a flat rejection of the view put forward by their senior officers supporting the status quo. Some of the arguments just don't stand up to close scrutiny. Case in point the declaration that the investment in Lithgow comes from the east. Investment? What investment? That's something that's a bit hard to find. If they're talking about property development most of that is either locally generated or comes from the west. If we were cynics, which we're not, we might suspect that it was a bid to break the obvious preference of the local area for an independent rather than any of the established political parties. Our voters have clearly indicated they wanted nothing to do with the 'biggies' at Federal level and gave overwhelming support for Peter Andren in the past couple of elections. Now it seems we'll be forced back to a choice between Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

## Damian makes his mark

THERE will be more than just a little local interest on Sunday when a larger than life bronze sculpture is unveiled at the famous Stockmans Hall of Fame in Longreach, Queensland. The statue, a tribute to women of the outback, was commissioned from funds raised by friends of the museum. It's the work of a young Wallerawang artist, Damian Lucas, who gained his early art training while a student at Lithgow High School and later moved to Sydney to continue his learning curve and to pursue his goals in life. Yep, our talents pop up everywhere - even in outback Queensland.

## Better than most

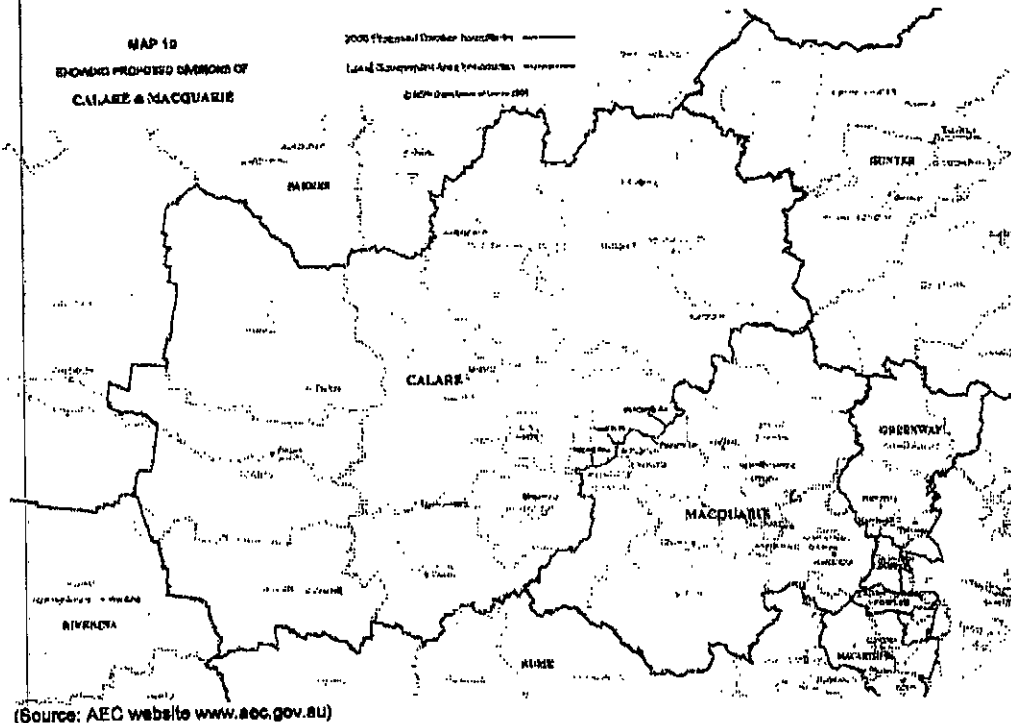
THE downsizing of the Bracey retail activities continues to be the main talking point in Lithgow with many people realising too late just what they will be missing. But there are a couple of relevant facts that have come up in discussion. Bracey is one of only three family owned department stores remaining in NSW; the others are in the Tamworth and Inverell areas and they apparently have also been downsizing. Then it needs to be remembered that Bathurst, with a much larger population, lost its only department store when Grace Brothers (Myer) ceased operations. The same thing happened in Cowra. Mudgee lost their Loneragans operation years ago. At least a significant part of the Bracey operation will be continuing with furniture, whitegoods, electrical goods, bedding and curtains.

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## MINUTES - ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

activities" (p21). It was also noted that major rail and road transport routes linked these LGAs.

- Lithgow was part of the Macquarie division until 1978.



(Source: AEC website www.aec.gov.au)

#### Statutory Requirements for the Making of Proposed Redistribution

The Electoral Act sets out requirements for the redistribution committee when proposing a redistribution. The requirements of most interest include:

- The number of electors enrolled shall be within statistical tolerances.
- The Redistribution Committee shall give due consideration in relation to each proposed division:
  - community of interests within the proposed divisions including economic, social and regional interests;
  - means of communication and travel within the proposed division;
  - the physical features and area of the proposed division; and
  - the boundaries of the existing divisions in the State.

#### Discussion

The task of identifying commonality within the proposed Macquarie division is logical when it comes to transport routes, i.e. Great Western Highway and Main Western Railway. Also physical features such as National Parks are readily identifiable. However, it is considered that the proposed Macquarie division will change the focus and areas of interest for the electors located in the Lithgow LGA. Concerns include the following:

- The current division of Calare consists of regional and rural New South Wales but the proposed division of Macquarie will provide a mixture of transitional urban areas (i.e. Blue Mountains), regional and rural New South Wales.
- The projected enrolment figures for the proposed Macquarie division show a greater population from the current Macquarie and Lindsay divisions compared to the current

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Calare division. Therefore, the Member of Parliament would be under pressure to represent the more highly urbanised parts of the electorate to the east which will be to the detriment of regional and rural areas to the west.

- It is considered that in regional and rural areas, community of interests is best demonstrated by local government boundaries. Whilst the entire Lithgow LGA is proposed to be located within the Macquarie division, this division does not fully consider the established working partnerships between local government authorities such as CENTROC and the recently formed Strategic Alliance between Lithgow, Mid Western and Oberon Councils (Note: Oberon is proposed to be in the Macquarie division).
- Lack of commonality in relation to community of interests exists within the proposed new division. That is, within the proposed Macquarie division there are differing economic, social and philosophical values.
- Conflicts will arise in the proposed Macquarie division due to the diverse communities and access to services. For example mobile phone coverage is generally good when travelling through the Blue Mountains towards Sydney on the Great Western Highway but sporadic when travelling north through the Lithgow LGA on the Castlereagh Highway.
- Lithgow is the logical gateway to central western New South Wales and not the Blue Mountains as suggested in the report.

In conclusion, it will be difficult for the Member for Macquarie in the proposed new division to provide quality service and represent the interests of such a diverse electorate. Therefore, it is suggested that Council provide a formal objection to the proposed Macquarie division based on the concerns expressed above.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate policy implications as a result of this report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** an objection be forwarded to the Australian Electoral Commission in relation to the Lithgow Local Government Area's inclusion in the proposed Macquarie electoral division.

**06-212 RESOLVED**

**THAT** no action be taken on this matter.

**MOVED:** Councillor W McAndrew

**SECONDED:** Councillor H K Fisher.

**CARRIED**



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ON FEDERAL BOUNDARIES COUNCILS ARE ...

# Out of touch with community wishes

The Lithgow and Bathurst Councils are out of touch with the wishes and needs of their communities if they don't vigorously oppose the attempt to force the two cities into the Blue Mountains based federal seat of Macquarie, according to Member for Calare Peter Andren. "Lithgow Councillors overturned a recommendation from their General Manager to oppose the new boundary recommendations, while Bathurst appears only concerned with having its area split between the redrawn electorates of Macquarie and Calare" Mr Andren said. He said he strongly suspects the

Labor-dominated Lithgow Council has fallen into line with instructions from Labor Head Office not to oppose the redrawn boundaries because Labor thinks it has a good

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**BACK  
PAGE**

**Chef's Special Selections**

O'Gradys



**TONIGHT**

**TOMORROW**

vicinity of some of the earlier robberies.

As a result of this information, police this week raided a home at Wentworth Falls where they recovered a number of items, including a Falcon sedan and a large trailer fitted with gated sides.

A 17 year old youth was arrested and was refused bail after appearing in the Children's Court at Katoomba.

Inquiries are being continued by police at Katoomba and Lithgow.

A spokesman said the inquiries were directed at identifying other persons suspected of being involved in the thefts and in the disposal of the stolen property.

# Suspicious of motivation

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chance of winning a seat based on Katoomba and Bathurst.

"Well I warn the major parties that whether it's me or someone else, there's likely to be a strong independent running for Macquarie, whatever its boundaries, at the next election," Mr Andren said.

He said Lithgow Council's General Manager (Paul Anderson), in a report to last week's meeting, clearly stated that 'conflicts will arise in the proposed Macquarie division due to the diverse communities and access to services'.

"Yet the Councillors threw out the recommended objection to the boundary changes and resolved that no action be taken on the matter," he said.

"In Bathurst the Council has effectively given the green light to being lumped in with the city-orientated Blue Mountains area by

failing to object to the redrawn Macquarie boundaries.

"Of course the Electoral Commission should never have suggested splitting the Bathurst Regional Council area between the seats of Macquarie and Calare.

"But Council should also be arguing that its council area remain in the regionally-based seat of Calare and not the metropolitan electorate of Macquarie.

"Both Councils have let down their constituents, many of whom have contacted my office to lodge their complaint about being forced into a new electorate with which they have little if any community of interest."

Mr Andren said he has lodged an objection to the new boundaries and has called for the Boundaries Commission to conduct an inquiry in Bathurst so local people can argue why the AEC's suggested boundaries discrimi-

nate against country voters.

"Not only are Bathurst and Lithgow being forced into a Blue Mountains seat, the suggested new Calare boundaries including seven major towns also has major logistical and community of interest problems for any member, while the abolition of the Gwydir seat is an insult to the bush.

"With the Calare seat split by the suggested changes, I will not decide on where I run until the final boundaries are announced later in the year.

"In the meantime I urge electors in the Bathurst and Lithgow areas and elsewhere in Calare to make their thoughts heard by lodging an objection before close of business tomorrow.

"Concerned residents can contact my office for further details," Mr Andren said.

Two days of TV guides appear today on page 19

## WEATHER

LOCAL WEATHER: Tuesday minimum 4.7, maximum 11.5, rain to 9 am 16mm; Wednesday minimum 0.5, maximum 12.5.

FORECAST: Isolated showers in the east. Fine, partly cloudy elsewhere. Cool to cold day. Light winds.

OUTLOOK: Tomorrow, fine and cool to cold day with northwest winds. Saturday, fine and cool to cold day with northwest to southwest winds.

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