



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1068

Name: Mr and Mrs J and R STRANG

Page(s): 3



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To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject Objection to the Australian Commission

Classification Unclassified

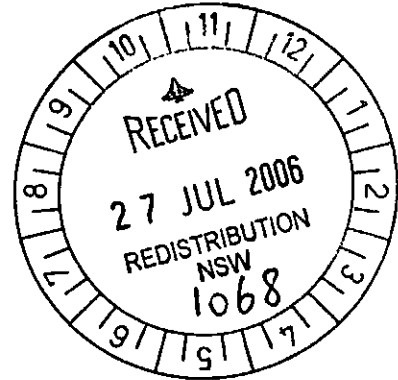
Dear Committee Members
Attached is my letter of objection.

Yours faithfully
Ruth Strang

John & Ruth Strang
Tangaloo



Tambar Springs 2381 OBJECTION TO THE AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION.doc



**THE PROPOSED ABOLITION OF GWYDIR
OBJECTION TO THE AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION**

Ruth Strang
Tangaloo
Tambar Springs
238
26.7.06

Redistribution Committee for N.S.W.
P.O. Box 20014
World Square N.S.W. 2002

Dear Committee Members,

As the Campaign Co-ordinator of the Save Gwydir Campaign, I wish to strongly oppose the intention of the Redistribution Committee to abolish the seat of Gwydir. I know the rural seat of Gwydir extremely well as I have been the Campaign Director for the Hon. John Anderson, Member for Gwydir, for all the campaigns excepting the first By - Election.

We have had redistributions in the past with each one giving us an increased area of responsibility, however, in the previous distributions the integrity of the seat was retained. Gwydir represents the interest of large rural towns in the North West, Upper Hunter and Mudgee. There are 23 larger towns, 6 sizeable towns and 24 smaller towns and villages. It is a highly productive area with diverse agricultural industries and a booming mining industry. Many areas are isolated and as a consequence have problems accessing health services, education, transport options and the large number of government services easily available to our urban counter parts. The Electorate of Gwydir is a true rural seat and does not contain a city. It has a very distinct character, conservative, productive, strong, stoic, and proud.

The intended amalgamation with the seat of Parkes is the equivalent of combining Warringah and Lindsay. Gwydir and Parkes have very different affiliations and regional dissimilarities. Not least of which is transport routes. Gwydir's transport corridor to Sydney is via the north- west highways and Parkes is via the western highways. This is particularly of importance during Federal campaign time for me, for the delivery of campaign material to all the polling booths in the electorate when time is a vital factor. The same would apply to any business in the proposed mega seat of Parkes. All postage would have to be sent from the north west via Sydney , back to the west, and vice versa, this would add considerable time to the delivery of urgent polling materials. To send it by road would be so expensive due to the price of fuel, and the massive distance that are involved. When time is of the essence, all these issues become major factors.

Communication and the mass media would also cause a major problem.

At present in the seat of Gwydir there are

116 Polling Booths, all to be manned on election day

40 Hospitals and Nursing Homes approximately, all to be visited by the mobile AEC team, all of which are accompanied by campaign teams from various political parties.

15 Regional Newspapers, plus many smaller town and village community newspapers, to advertise and inform the voters of your party's political message.

7 Television stations to advertise on as well.

7 Radio Stations to cover the entire length and depth of the electorate.

In the 5 –6 weeks of campaign time at Federal election time it is a very expensive exercise in Gwydir.

To create a Mega seat of Parkes, covering 47% of the state of N.S.W., will make it exorbitant and as I see it, undemocratic. Many smaller political parties, and independent individuals will be severely disadvantaged by the cost of the campaign and the vast distances involved. I would also have grave fears for any person's safety during this extremely stressful time of campaign with such enormous distances to be covered and with so many voters to meet and greet. I have not begun to count the polling booths, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, councils, chambers of commerce, community service organisations, sporting clubs, aboriginal lands councils and volunteer organisations in the proposed new mega seat of Parkes, that the candidates would have to visit.

Also, I have not yet counted the media outlets that would be involved in the mega-seat. I have looked at this proposal from a very specific point of view and only covering a small time frame of 5 to 6 weeks. I get exhausted just thinking about it. How can we expect one individual politician to carry this much responsibility for a full three year term and try to deliver fair and equitable service to all the people in this enormous proposed new electorate?

I felt so strongly about the retention of the seat of Gwydir that I, with an enthusiastic team, have mounted this campaign to fight its abolition. I know that there are other fairer alternatives that will not disadvantage an electorate quite so profoundly. Please reconsider this redistribution proposal and retain the Federation seat of Gwydir.

Yours faithfully

Ruth Strang.

Save Gwydir Campaign Co-ordinator