



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 11

Name: Mr Gerald L BARTLETT

Page(s): 1

Tel. (02) 67 421 288

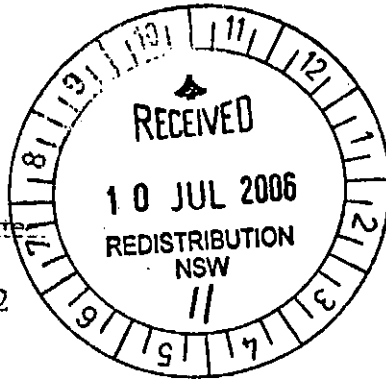
P.O. Box 289

4th July, 2006

The Redistribution Committee

P.O. Box 20214

World Square, N.S.W. 2002



Kappinghat,
Wandobah Road,
Gunnedah 2380.

Dear Sirs,

Re: Elimination of Gwydir/ expansion of Parkes

As a one-time city-dweller who after exploring the world, chose to settle in a small country town, in a large rural federal electorate, I must protest against the proposed boundary changes and the apparent philosophy that guides your committee's actions.

Speaking as a sometime swinging voter, former shire councillor, rotarian, Apex life-member, professional businessman, 43-years married with only one of four offspring able to find local employment sufficient to permit that lucky one to remain in his home town, one knows that this is not party-political.

No matter which party is in power, there will never be a fair redistribution of taxes or benefits to cover all the needs of such a large and diverse area... where the only commonality of interest is solidarity against being bled by the capital cities and their surrounding infrastructure. Perhaps if the electorates related to river catchments and systems, some community of interest might be possible. However, the underlying failure of the system as it is at present comes about because voting power is related not to area of land, nor to relative need but solely to population numbers. Thus the underdeveloped countryside slips ever further away from parity with the large centres of population - for amenities, job variety and opportunity.

Of course, since the total number of electorates remains fixed, it would surely be fairer and less stressful for all concerned to transfer a Sydney suburban quota across the border so to absorb the increased population in Queensland - one fewer suburban spokesperson/ party voting seat will barely impact on the flow of fiscal goodies around a metropolis. But The Bush needs more representatives per 100,000 to nurture it - just to stay in sight of the goal let alone to draw level with our city cousins.

So, let's bring back (where it is appropriate) rural electorates that cover smaller areas and vary more greatly in the numbers of voters as required to constitute a viable and manageable unit (just so long as the major parties have equal chances of winning possession)... so we of The Bush may participate more equitably (since we know we cannot sustain our own New State!).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald L. Bartlett".

Gerald L. Bartlett