



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES

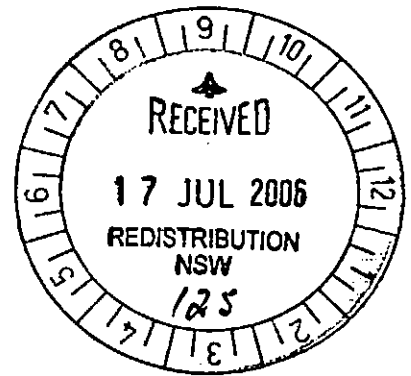


Public Objection Number: 125

Name: Mr Hugh LIVINGSTON

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MOREE,2400 .
8th July, 2006.



Australian Electoral Officer,
Level 1,
Roden Cutler House,
24 Campbell Street,
Haymarket N.S.W. 2000.

Dear Sir,

I wish to lodge my objection to the proposed changes to the electoral boundaries to the seat of Gwydir.

I believe that by incorporating the seats of Gwydir and Parkes you are creating an extremely large and almost unworkable electorate for the Member of Parliament who is trying to represent these people. There are social, economic and regional divisions within the proposed boundaries which I think would hinder fair representation.

The current seat of Gwydir is primarily a dryland farming, irrigation and grazing based economy, these are fairly intensive operations which support a network of loosely related retail and manufacturing industries. There is coal mining planned around the Gunnedah region which will cause a rise in the population.

The community of Gwydir is united by sporting competitions, area health services, schools, rail and road links to major towns such as Moree, Narrabri and Coonamble.

The current electorate of Parkes is another large area in itself and whilst it supports a farming and grazing industry it has a copper mining industry with specific needs. The focus of the Parkes electorate is towns such as Dubbo, Parkes, Cowra and to the west, around Broken Hill, the major city people identify with is Adelaide.

I believe you are creating a non-homogenous electorate, one with differing focus points, little social interaction and a feeling of having very little in common with the constituents of the seat of Parkes in terms of common service points and identity. It is quite possible constituents would feel disenfranchised from their Member should he or she come from an area eight or nine hours drive away from where they live. The size of the area, the Member would need to service, is exceedingly large, requiring long periods of travel and perhaps a need to deal with conflicting needs within the electorate. The work load would be enormous and fair representation difficult. Why choose such a physically large electorate when there are other options available?

I urge you to reconsider the redistribution and perhaps if you have not had the opportunity to do so, drive around the proposed electorate and see for yourself the inevitable problems that will arise should this matter proceed.

Yours faithfully,

Hugh Livingston.