



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



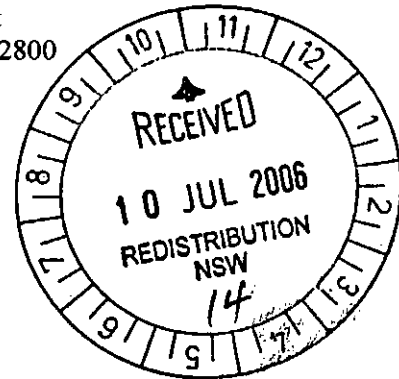
Public Objection Number: 14

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138 Sale Street
Orange NSW 2800

5 July 2006



Redistribution Committee for New South Wales PO Box 20014
World Square
NSW 2002

Dear Committee

Re: Redistribution of NSW electoral boundaries

I write to comment on two aspects of the proposed redistribution of the above boundaries as I understand them.

I believe that in a country with the demographics of Australia, which has the majority of its population clinging to the coastline and a vast and more sparsely populated inland, the notion that the distribution of electorates based only on a roughly equal number of heads is clearly unreasonable and inequitable. Obviously this applies to the State of NSW.

Count heads by all means, but when it comes to country areas also factor in the natural relationships of regions and distances to be covered by elected representatives.

In the case of the electorate of Calare, removing Bathurst and adding Mudgee makes little common sense. People in Bathurst and Orange regularly travel to each other's cities. They trade with one another, many people commute daily from Bathurst to Orange and vice versa for work and for university education, and they continually socialise with one another both culturally and socially. And we share radio and television coverage, It can in no way be said we do very much of any of that at all with Mudgee.

As for the proposed greatly enlarged electorate of Parkes, how can its constituents possibly have the same access to their elected representative as is given to say, the people in the electorate of Waverley? The travel time and costs involved are huge in comparison – and they don't even have good roads, public transport, phone or online facilities! Is this equitable?

I don't know what, if any, electoral laws and regulations need to be changed to achieve the outcomes I suggest, but they certainly are needed. I did have a look at the relevant information on your web page but would have had a much better understanding of what you do had it been written in plain Australian. However I am still left with the distinct notion that head counts are all that matter.

Yours faithfully,

M. P. Crowe

Moya P. Crowe