



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



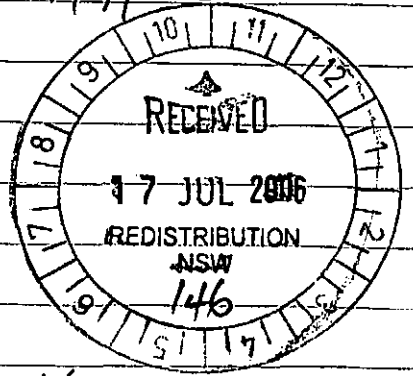
Public Objection Number: 146

Name: Dr Kevin SMITH OAM

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14/7/06

The Secretary
NSW Redistribution Committee
Australian Electoral Commission (NSW)



Dear Sir/Madam,

The Guyddir/Parkes matter gives some cause for concern. I believe the Electoral Commission's proposal warrants serious review and reconsideration.

The unnecessarily large size of the proposed new electorate of Parkes may well reflect certain population statistics but ignores other — more practical — considerations. Not least, regardless of political party representation of the area, the implementation of the proposal would greatly reduce the voice of country people in the Federal Parliament. Your statistical analyses must be weighed in the balance against this important factor of rural community of interest.

Consider too the accessibility of the MP for Parkes if this proposal were to be implemented. His/her office could be hundreds of miles, a long day's drive and an overnight stay for persons wishing to consult or travel as a deputation to their MP. Travel time and expenses for the MP would be

commensurably greater. In a Sydney electorate with which I am familiar the local Federal Member's office is only fifteen minutes walk away from the homes of many constituents, probably thirty minutes by car on a busy morning for the outermost of his constituents. To abolish a Sydney electorate may be statistically a more difficult task, but in terms of community of interest it makes great sense to consolidate several Sydney electorates so as to produce one fewer than at present.

While the Great Dividing Range lies as a useful barrier in terms of travel distance and therefore creates a sensible, practical line between coastal and inland electorates, to abolish Gywydir is not an acceptable solution for the inland. Parkes as proposed would cover almost 50% of NSW! 380,000 sq. km. is just too large, given the alternative options your Committee must surely have available. I am told that such an electorate would be bigger than Germany!

Please, for the sake of truly democratic representation — not just for statistical representation — please re-consider.

Yours sincerely — Kevin R Smith