



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1685

**Name: UPPER NAMOI COTTON GROWERS
ASSOCIATION Inc**

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UPPER NAMOI COTTON GROWERS
ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN 49 160 202 310

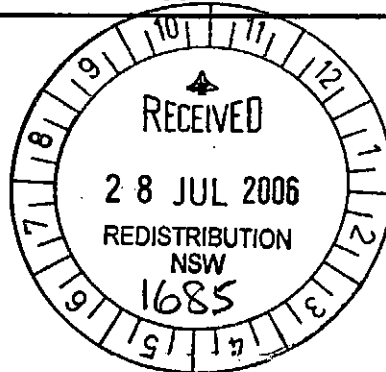
Chairman
Phillip Morgan
Phone: 02 67441212
Fax: 02 67441155

Correspondence to:
P.O. Box 855
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Vice Chairman
John Hamparsum
Phone: 02 67445899
Fax: 02 67445866

25 July 2006

Redistribution Committee for NSW
PO Box 20014
World Square NSW 2002



Dear Commissioners

We are writing to oppose the drafting of the new seat of Parkes, effectively abolishing the seat of Gwydir. Not only is Gwydir a federation seat and a living part of Australia's history, but this abolition will create a mega seat of 379,474 square kilometers – 47% of the state.

This appears to be an attack by people in the city on people in the bush as it reduces the already limited number of country seats. This has implications for the entire population of regional and country Australia.

The electorate will be bigger than Germany, nearly twice the size of Victoria and five and half times the size of Tasmania. This will make it very hard for any Member to be readily available for constituents. It will nearly preclude the Member from holding a senior position within the government, where he/she can really give a powerful voice to rural concerns and still look after the electorate.

The Electoral Act requires that in making any redistribution, due consideration be given to community of interests, means of communication, and travel and geographic features. We argue that those statutory requirements have not been adequately considered.

All the major political parties are consistent in their view that a Sydney metropolitan seat should be abolished. The proposal from the AEC has ignored this, taking a short sighted city-centric approach, at the expense of rural and regional NSW.

Although NSW loses a seat to Queensland because of population changes, there is no need at all to create this mega seat in NSW. It should be a Sydney seat that goes, with much less interruption and loss of representation for voters.

Please do not create this mega seat in NSW.

Yours sincerely,

Phillip Morgan
Chairman
Upper Namoi Cotton Growers Association