



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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**Public Objection Number: 1704**

**Name: Ms Karin KOLBE**

**Page(s): 4**



"Karin Kolbe"  
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To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Submission re Proposed NSW Federal Redistribution  
Classification  Unclassified

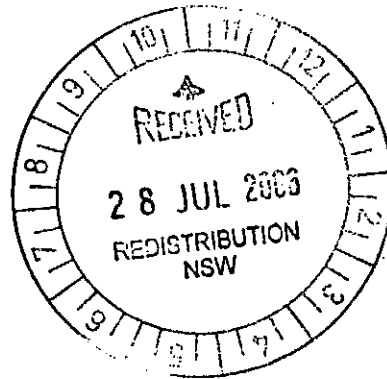
Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached my submission on the proposed electoral redistribution for federal NSW seats.

Regards  
Karin Kolbe



Submission KKolbe Redistribution.doc



001704

**Submission re**  
**NSW Federal Electoral Redistribution 2006**

**Karin Kolbe**  
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**July 2006**

## **Introduction**

Accepting that NSW needs to lose one federal seat to address population changes, I disagree that reducing the number of country electorates will best serve the people of NSW.

The current proposal to discard Gwydir and make all the central western and western seats larger means that the elected members for those seats will be less able to adequately know their electors and thus their ability to represent their constituents will be lessened.

## **Regional, Rural & Remote Divisions**

I have lived in various metropolitan divisions and now live in the regional division of Richmond. The way people operate, the sense of community and the access to services is very different in regional areas as compared with metropolitan. From conversations with rural people I know their concerns are different again.

Given that almost all government services are planned and managed by metropolitan-based staff, the burden of educating the staff on regional and rural matters falls more keenly on the shoulders of members of parliament representing these electorates.

Thus the loss of a regional/rural seat will greatly diminish the adequate representation of the people of NSW.

### **Size of Divisions**

Notwithstanding that the Commission has a legislated requirement to balance the population within each division, the size and geography of a seat must be taken into consideration. As a campaigner for transport services in the relatively small regional division of Richmond, I am acutely aware of the difficulties of travelling great distances, and know how distance is a barrier to communities sharing resources. The proposed seat of Parkes is too large.

### **Boundary between Macquarie and Calare**

The Commission's proposal to move Bathurst and Lithgow—regional towns—from the regional division of Calare into the outer metropolitan division of Macquarie highlights the need to retain all the regional/rural divisions. There are few common concerns shared by the people of Springwood in the Blue Mountains and the people in and around Bathurst. The towns of Orange and Bathurst have much more in common and share media (TV and ABC Radio).

### **Redrawing of Regional, Rural & Remote Divisions**

The submission by Mr Peter Andren, MP in March 2006 details a set of proposed changes to the regional/rural seats. Apart from a very minor change to his assessment of the Page-Richmond boundary, his submission is balanced, well thought out and allows for a fair representation of NSW electors.

## **Division of Richmond**

The AEC's latest proposal for a boundary change between Richmond and Page is sensible. Moving Wollongbar and Alstonville from Richmond into Page sensibly recognises their commonality with the towns of Lismore and Ballina. Moving the villages on the northern half of the Kyogle-Lismore LGA boundary (Dunoon, Rosebank, Nimbin etc) into Richmond not only maintains Richmond's PVP within the acceptable range, but also recognises common community interests.

On a minor point, I note that it is extremely difficult to follow the proposed Richmond-Page boundary on the map provided by the AEC.

## **Conclusion**

I recognise the huge task facing the AEC—balancing many competing needs and interests. As such I applaud your efforts, but argue that the loss of a regional seat is a great loss for NSW and ask you to reconsider the proposed redistribution.