



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1711

Name: CARRATHOOL SHIRE COUNCIL

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26 July 2006

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Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
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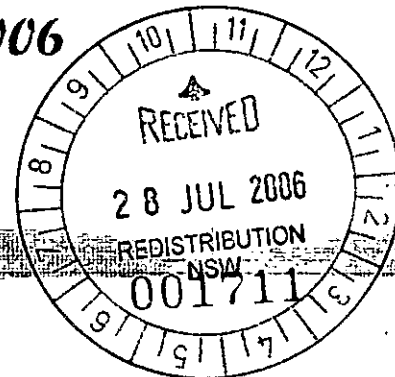


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Celebrating 100 Years in 2006



Dear Sir

OBJECTION NSW FEDERAL ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION

Carrathool Shire Council wishes to formally lodge its objection to the proposed NSW Federal Electoral Redistribution which would result in the loss of the electoral division of Gwydir.

Council acknowledges that a redistribution is required to meet the legislative requirement that the number of electors in each division not deviate by more than 3.5% below or above the State's quota of 93,508 electors. However, Council believes that alterations to the electoral divisions should be adjusted in the metropolitan divisions rather than rural and regional divisions.

Section 66(3)(b)(ii) prescribes that in making the proposed redistribution, factors the Redistribution Committee is required to consider are communities of interest and the means of communication and travel within the proposed electorate.

The proposed new Parkes electorate will cover 48% of the State of New South Wales. The difficulty for a Member of Parliament to travel and meet with constituents and adequately represent their concerns is enormous. Metropolitan electoral divisions are geographically small and adjustment within these divisions does not present the same problems in representing constituents. In addition, far greater communities of interest exist within smaller geographic areas than larger geographic areas. Access to communication services in rural and regional areas are at a distinct disadvantage to services available in metropolitan areas.

Surely, it is far more efficient for a concerned metropolitan constituent to travel, say an additional 10 minutes with public transport readily available in a metropolitan area, than for a rural or regional constituent to traverse almost half the State with little if any public transport available, just to meet with their political representative. The amount of time wasted for a Member of Parliament in simply travelling across an electorate that covers 48% of the State would be enormous. For example, to drive from Tibooburra in the north west to Dubbo in the south east, a distance of 1,089 kms would take 13 hours. Similarly, in the proposed new Farrer electorate it would take over 9 hours to drive a distance of 839 kilometres from Albury in the south east to Broken Hill in the north west.

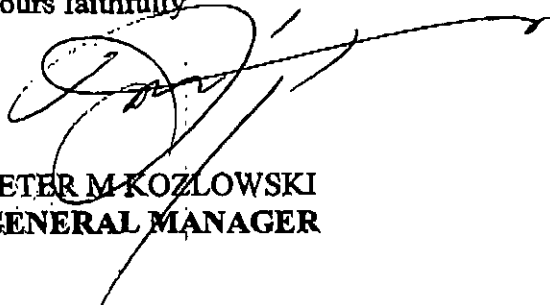
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Rural and regional citizens are already at a distinct disadvantage to their metropolitan counterparts with access to essential services such as health, education, policing, public transport, communication, etc, continually declining. To further diminish representation of rural and regional citizens would be to the detriment of the Nation.

The Council urges the Redistribution Committee to revise its proposed electoral redistribution to ensure that no rural or regional division is eliminated.

Yours faithfully



**PETER M KOZLOWSKI
GENERAL MANAGER**