



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1728

**Name: LIVERPOOL PLAINS LAND MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

Page(s): 3



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To nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au

28/07/2006 01:04 PM

cc

bcc

Subject Objection to NSW Electoral Redistribution

Classification Unclassified

To the Redistribution Committee for New South Wales

The Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee objects to the proposed redistribution for New South Wales.

The grounds for our objection are set out in the attached letter.

Please ensure that the letter is put before the Committee.

Yours faithfully

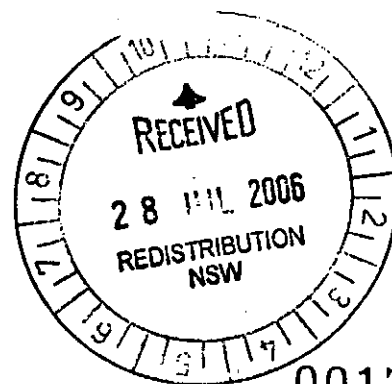
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organisation. Objection to NSW Electoral Redistribution 2006 07 28.pdf



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28 July 2006

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

Email nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au

Dear Sirs/Mesdames

Re: Objection to proposed redistribution for New South Wales

The Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee objects to your current proposal for a redistribution for New South Wales. It would split the Liverpool Plains between two electorates, thereby making the achievement of integrated natural resource management policy and investment across our catchment much more difficult. As well it would significantly reduce the ability of residents of the current seat of Gwydir to access their parliamentary representative, and the ability of that representative to secure services for them.

We believe that there are other alternatives available to your Committee that would enable you to carry out the required redistribution without severely impinging upon the rights that Liverpool Plains residents should have to reasonable access to, and service from, their representative.

The Liverpool Plains is a discrete area, both geographically and in terms of community of interest. It comprises the local government areas of Liverpool Plains Shire, centred on Quirindi, Gunnedah Shire and parts of Narrabri and Warrumbungle Shires. It is currently contained in the seat of Gwydir, and this arrangement provides us with good representation and a local member who understands the catchment issues that confront us.

Your proposed redistribution would see our geographical area split between the seats of Parkes and New England. It would result in the fragmentation of our representation, and severely restrict our ability to get local member backing for our catchment projects.

The Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee is a farmer initiated and managed community group advocating improved agricultural practices and biodiversity conservation across the Liverpool Plains in North West New South Wales.

We act as the umbrella organisation for 47 Landcare groups across the catchment. These groups include approximately 33% of all landholders on the Liverpool Plains.

Membership of the Executive Committee of LPLMC comprises 8 landholders plus representatives of local government, Upper Namoi Water Users, NSW Farmers Association, intensive industries, Department of Natural Resources and NSW Department of Primary Industries. The landholders each represent a group of landcare groups with whom they maintain communication. Representative organisations and landholders are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The committee therefore has strong community commitment and support.

We also have thorough understanding of community dynamics and comprehensive experience in community engagement.

Community networks are particularly important in non-metropolitan areas. Isolation and reductions in services resulting from cutbacks in government budget expenditure impact particularly on residents of rural and remote areas. Unlike many city areas, residents of rural communities tend to know their community leaders personally, at local, state and federal government level. They are familiar with the procedures needed to make contact with their representatives, so that their concerns are heard, and the representatives can secure services for them. In the case of the Gwydir electorate, although it is a huge electorate, residents are generally well satisfied with their access to their local member.

The major disruption to representation that would be imposed by the abolition of the seat, and the requirement that the residents of the Liverpool Plains (and all other electors in Gwydir) will have to become familiar with a completely new representative who will undoubtedly be based in a population centre (Dubbo) completely outside their region will result in a major reduction in their access to that member. This reduction in access will be compounded by the lack of public transport linkages between most of the Gwydir Electorate and Dubbo.

May we suggest that the redistribution that is required for New South Wales would be far more equitable to all NSW electors if it started with the abolition of a metropolitan seat. These electors can be accommodated in adjoining seats without complete disruption to their ability to make contact with their local member. Without doubt the office of their 'new' member will be situated within a few kilometres of their previous member's office.

The need to expand the electorates in western New South Wales could then be achieved by relatively minor movements of electoral boundaries towards the East.

Yours faithfully



David Walker

Executive Officer