



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1763

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Page(s): 3



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28/07/2006 11:50 AM

To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject Objection to Farrer/Eden-Monaro Distribution

Classification Unclassified

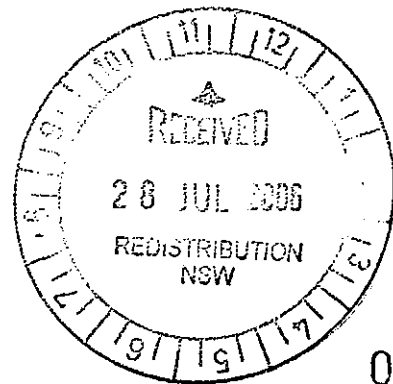
Hi

Please find attached an objection to Tumbarumba being moved from Farrer to Eden-Monaro Electorate.

Regards



Elizabeth Eden-Monaro objection.doc



001763

Elizabeth Campbell
Jingellic Road
Mannus NSW 2653

Friday, 28 July 2006

Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
4th Floor, Roden Cutler House
24 Campbell Street
HAYMARKET NSW 2000

Email: nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au

Farrer and Eden-Monaro boundary changes

I wish to lodge a strong objection to the proposal by the Redistribution Committee to change Tumbarumba from Farrer to the Eden-Monaro electorate.

Tumbarumba has been part of western electorates since Federation. Our political allegiance is with communities to the west of the Snowy Mountains, not the east.

It is proposed that from 2006, Tumbarumba's 2351 enrolled electors won't have any affiliation or sense of belonging to Wagga Wagga in the Riverina electorate, or Albury in the Farrer electorate.

From an elector and resident's perspective, the only alleged commonalities suggested have been created for short-sighted political expediency and convenience, and do not reflect the practical everyday life of voters.

Overnight, electors will be forced to turn their political backs on reality and their economic and social ties.

Whether in Farrer or its predecessor – or Hume or its predecessor – the Great Divide has always been the electorate's eastern border.

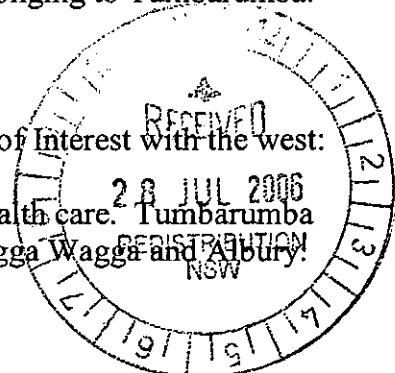
By moving Tumbarumba to Eden-Monaro, the Great Divide will be just that – the ultimate divide – between Tumbarumba and the eastern seaboard.

Even the name Eden-Monaro does not give any sense of belonging to Tumbarumba.

The only community of interest is for a brief beach holiday.

I offer the following overview of Tumbarumba Community of Interest with the west:

- One of the most important aspects of everyday life is health care. Tumbarumba residents have always been referred to specialists in Wagga Wagga and Albury.



- Our Rural Lands Protection Board – a vital support agency for drought and other farming assistance – is located in Albury.
- Apart from the local *Tumbarumba Times* newspaper, our TV, radio and regional newspapers all emanate from Wagga and Albury. Hence, news about our local member from across the mountains would be extremely diminished.
- Most motor vehicles are purchased either brand new or second-hand from Albury or Wagga Wagga.
- Currently, our local Member for Farrer is based in Albury, just one and a half hours drive away.
- The seat of Eden-Monaro is centred at Queanbeyan, about four hours drive from Tumbarumba. The roads through the Kosciuszko National Park from Eden-Monaro to Tumbarumba are prone to snow and ice in winter. The alternative for the proposed Federal member is to drive the Hume Highway with hundreds of interstate trucks. How often will the elected member be able to attend community events given the hazardous roads and the distance to travel?

SUMMARY: Tumbarumba does not have a Community of Interest with Eden-Monaro.

The proposal fails to recognise a major mountain range dividing the proposed electorate, which is not based on the economic and social links Tumbarumba has to the Riverina and Albury.

We feel that we are the victims of political expediency and “pawns of convenience” for electoral mapping.

If the AEC’s proposal is adopted, we will be sent to the dark side of the political landscape.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Campbell

