



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1769

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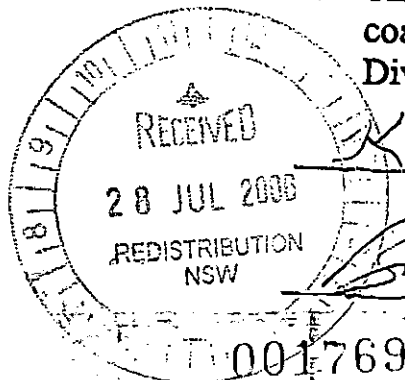
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We, the undersigned, protest strongly at the proposal to abolish the Gwydir electorate.

2006 Federal Electoral Redistribution

- Both The Nationals and Liberals argue strongly that there is a case for the abolition of a Sydney Electorate. This would cause far less disruption and be much more equitable than abolishing the Gwydir electorate.
- The estimated growth rates provided by the Australian Electoral Commission do not predict Parkes or Gwydir to have the lowest rates of growth.
- The Australian Electoral Commission's proposal creates a new electorate of Parkes that would be almost 380,000 square kilometres in size, or 47 per cent of NSW. That makes this electorate bigger than Japan and Germany and five and a half times the size of Tasmania.
- By creating such a huge electorate the proposal effectively reduces the voice of country people in the Federal Parliament.
- In Sydney people are often only 10 minutes at the most from their MP's office but in this newly proposed seat of Parkes people will have to drive hours and hours to see their MP.
- It seems that the legislative requirements for communities of interest and the size of the electorates to be considered in the redistribution process have been ignored.
- In the most recent NSW electoral redistribution the Commissioners were mindful of the huge size of the State seat of Murray-Darling and those Commissioners took the opportunity to reduce the size of that electorate. It is perplexing that in this current redistribution such a huge seat would be unnecessarily created.
- The Nationals support the retention of existing boundaries between coastal and inland divisions where possible, so that the Great Dividing Range continues to act as a sensible natural dividing line.



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