



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1796

Name: LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL

Page(s): 3



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28/07/2006 08:34 AM

To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>
"Reid, Erin (J. Cobb, MP)" <Erin.Reid@aph.gov.au>,
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bcc

Subject Electoral Redistribution in NSW

Classification Unclassified

The Commissioner
Australian Electoral Commission

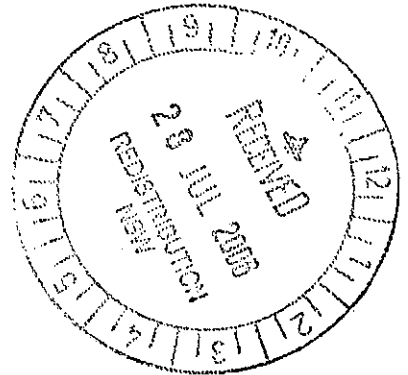
Attached is a submission to the Commission by Mayor Terry Brady in relation to the redistribution of electoral boundaries in NSW.

Regards,

Roger

001796

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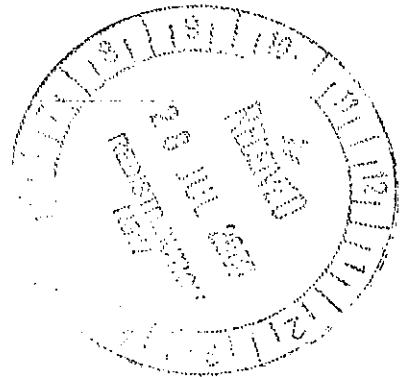


visit <http://www.mci.com> Australian Electoral Commission - Boundaries.doc

July 25, 2006

The Commissioner
Australian Electoral Commission
PO Box 20014
WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002

nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au



Dear Sir

Re Electoral Redistribution in NSW

I refer to your proposal to redistribute the Federal Electoral Boundaries.

I strongly object to the proposal to so significantly enlarge in area the seat of Parkes in NSW and reduce representation in western NSW. The size of this electorate is to become too large, diverse and simply impossible for one local member to effectively cover. If accepted the electorate will be responsible for just under half of the area for the State of NSW and will create a totally unworkable situation.

Representative democracy in the bush will become the victim to a redistribution that chose, unnecessarily, to disable country voters. Likewise western NSW will feel abandoned electorally by a decision to wipe out the seat of Gwydir.

It is difficult to see how rural voters in western NSW can maintain their faith in our democratic institutions when they are treated so poorly.

It would be a terrible situation not only for NSW but for the nation if Australians west of the Divide felt that there could be no real democracy in the bush, for the bush or by the bush.

There must be alternative arrangements that fit within the Act, e.g. retaining Broken Hill in the seat of Parkes, retaining its status as the heartland of outback NSW, rather than splintering it off to Albury in the south east. How the electoral commission think their proposal is consistent with uniting communities of interest under the Act is bewildering.

Like all western NSW seats, Parkes is home to a wide range of industries and organisations and numerous local government areas. These communities call on their federal member to be an active member who is familiar with each local community and the local issues. East of the divide there is high density living, established infrastructure and like issues. The issues in the metropolitan areas are mostly shared by look-alike divisions all round Sydney, and in other capital cities. Yet west of the Blue Mountains many of the issues that need an

people commuting for employment in major local industries that also provide demand for financial, business administration and legal services, commercial transport and apprenticeship and training services throughout this area.

Bathurst, Lithgow and Oberon are also part of the central west regional and rural media footprint, as well as sharing the telecommunications needs and problems – including access to broadband internet – that are unique to regional and rural areas.

Sporting links between these three LGAs are extremely strong, with any number of teams entrenched in Central Tablelands or Central West NSW based competitions, including all forms of football, cricket, field hockey, netball, tennis, athletics and horse racing.

The Western Region Academy of Sport, based in Bathurst, essentially services the entire existing electorate of Calare and some regions further west, recognising the strength of the region's sporting affiliations

There is little significant sporting interaction between the Central Tablelands and Blue Mountains communities.

There is also a very strong community of interest between Bathurst and Orange – which have been separated under this proposal.

Bathurst is the base campus for Charles Sturt University which recently absorbed the former Sydney University campus of Orange, with both campuses working through the post-amalgamation process with the help of a common federal member.

Further, the proposed transfer of this eastern section of Calare to Macquarie splits the Bathurst Regional LGA such that the northern and southern parts will be in separate federal electorates, in blatant contravention of the community of interest principle.

Proposed new seat of Calare

There is very little community of interest between the Weddin Shire in the south-west (centred on Grenfell) and the Mid-Western Regional Shire (centred on Mudgee) in the north-east, yet both are proposed to be included in the new seat of Calare.

The number of large and medium population centres has increased from four (Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange and Cowra) in the existing Calare electorate, to seven (Orange, Mudgee, Wellington, Parkes,

