



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1813

Name: Mr David Walker

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As well, the current situation in the far South West of the State also gives the best outcome for community of interest possible, with electors of that region gravitating towards Albury and Wagga Wagga.

Your proposed changes cut across the practicality and utility of these communities. To change the centre of interest for the people of Broken Hill from Dubbo to Albury will impose a needless inconvenience of them.

The impact upon most of the residents of the current Gwydir electorate will be similarly unfortunate. Their current ease of access to their representative will be completely shattered, with their representative now based in Dubbo, an area of NSW far away from their community, and providing significant difficulties of access through public transport.

The current situation, where the far west of the State is effectively three zones, with Gwydir in the North, Parkes in the centre, and Farrer in the South, gives the best opportunity possible, for representatives to effectively represent their communities, and for citizens to have reasonable access to their local member. This arrangement also allows redistributions, now and in the future if required, to be implemented with least-possible disruption to effective representation. If demographic changes and further relative decreases in outback populations require that these electorates be expanded, then this can be achieved by moving their Eastern boundaries. This would mean that such changes would be incremental, would maintain, to a large extent, the community of interest of those communities, and would not require major upheaval and upset to people who already cope with significant imposts of isolation and declining services.

In this current redistribution, it would mean the abolition of a Sydney metropolitan seat. This would have no impact on the representative's ability to serve his/her constituents, and almost undetectable impact on the access that those constituents had to the member.

Contrast this to the impact of your draft proposal, and you should quickly realise that it is inequitable, inefficient and even incompetent.

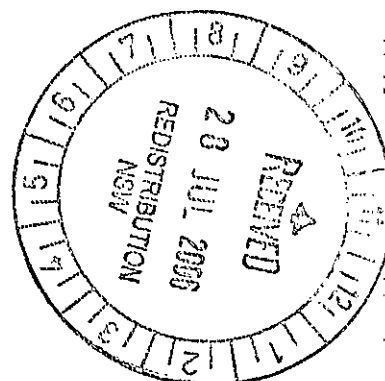
The final point that I wish to make is that the proposed redistribution shows a poor sense of the history of Parliamentary representation in Australia. The seat of Parkes, honouring the 'Father of Federation', though a relatively new seat, has always included the township and Shire of Parkes, for obvious reasons. The seat of Gwydir is a Federation seat, and has a proud tradition of contribution to Australian democracy. Your current proposal takes no account of these important historical perspectives.

Please re-examine the required redistribution, and start again with the abolition of a metropolitan Sydney seat, so that such major disruption to the representation of people in Western New South Wales is avoided.

Yours faithfully



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**Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
PO Box 200014
World Square NSW 2002**

Facsimile 02 9212 2208

Dear Committee Members

I wish to object to your proposed redistribution for New South Wales.

My understanding is that the terms of reference for the operation of your Committee includes a requirement that you set the areas of seats to ensure an equivalent number of electors in each seat, within a 3.5% tolerance, taking into account:

- community interests within the division, including economic, social and regional interests
- means of communication and travel within a division
- physical features and area
- existing boundaries of divisions
- enrolment (both current enrolment and projected enrolment three and a half years after the redistribution).

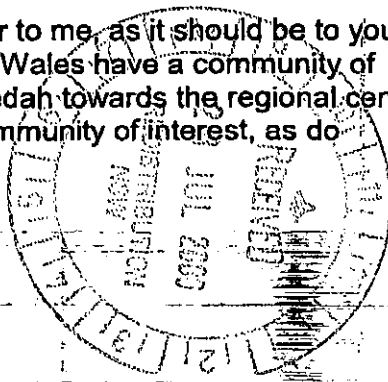
I would suggest that there is also an implied obligation to ensure that all citizens of New South Wales have the best level of representation possible, given the above constraints.

Your proposal to abolish the seat of Gwydir and to markedly increase the area of the seat of Parkes shows scant regard for these requirements. Indeed, it almost seems as if you have gone out of your way to ensure that electors in Western New South Wales have minimal representation, and that access to their elected representative will be as inconvenient as you can make it.

I have spent most of my life living in the seat of Parkes, and I am well aware that the size of the Electorate impacts significantly on the capability of any Representative to adequately service the electors, and for the opportunity for constituents to build a relationship with, and have access to, that Representative. Notwithstanding these difficulties, rural communities operate effectively through the development of strong and supportive networks, and they help to overcome the disadvantages of distance and isolation.

The township of Broken Hill is an excellent illustration. Since the advent of the seat of Parkes, the electors of Broken Hill have built a strong relationship with their local member, with the local member having an effective office in the town. To the extent that the Broken Hill community interacts with the Eastern part of NSW, their community of interest is to the East towards Dubbo (the population 'hub' of the electorate), and then on to Sydney. Transport links operate down this corridor. In this way the current boundaries of the seat of Parkes represent the best outcome possible for this isolated community.

I have recently moved to Gunnedah, and it is clear to me, as it should be to you, that residents of the far North West of New South Wales have a community of interest down through Narrabri, Moree and Gunnedah towards the regional centre of Tamworth. The current boundaries suit this community of interest, as do transport systems.



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