



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1817

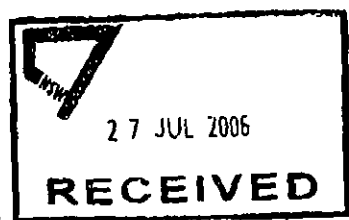
Name: Tumut Shire Council

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Our reference: 13.03.01 cea: jsh

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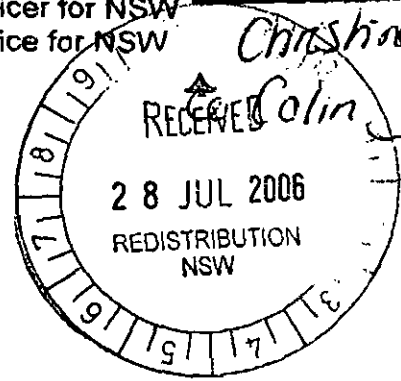
The Australian Electoral Officer for NSW
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001817

Dear Sir

Subject: Submission regarding Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries

As you are aware Tumut Shire is presently in the electorate of Farrer. The current proposal has Tumut Shire moving to the electorate of Eden-Monaro. In 2000, in the previous electoral distribution held in NSW, Tumut Shire was moved from Hume to Farrer.

The citizens of Tumut Shire are entitled to feel that they have become an expendable item that is to be shunted regardless of political whim.

In your report it has been identified that community of interests, means of communication and travel, physical features and area, and boundaries of existing divisions are secondary considerations. The main considerations are based on number of electors.

While this community understands and sympathises with the difficulties faced by the Commission, Council feels that the desired outcomes could have been achieved in a way that better took account of matters of community of interest, physical features and means of communication and travel.

Council wishes to ask that the proposed determination be reconsidered on the following basis:

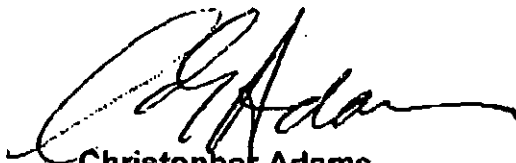
- Tumut Shire (and the adjoining Tumbarumba Shire) is separated from the rest of the proposed Eden-Monaro by the physical barrier of the Snowy Mountains. In a winter with high snow falls, travel and communication across this barrier is problematic and is not conducive to good community links. There is virtually no health, sporting or trading links across this barrier, although it is acknowledged that there are administrative links with the northern part of the new electorate.



- Tumut Shire is adjacent to the major regional centre of Wagga Wagga and there are very strong administrative, health, trading and sporting links. Almost all of these links are with Wagga Wagga and the Riverina generally.
- There are good quality transport and communication links to the Riverina, with transport services, electronic and other regional media coming almost exclusively from this region.
- There are no physical barriers between Tumut Shire and the Riverina, as there are between Tumut Shire and Eden-Monaro
- Due to the excellent communication links between Tumut Shire and the Riverina, there is a high degree of understanding in Tumut Shire of issues across the Riverina and vice versa. Since there are few communication links across the Snowy Mountains there is virtually no understanding in Tumut Shire of Eden-Monaro issues and vice versa. The only means of understanding of what is occurring in Eden-Monaro comes from the National media which understandably only presents a high level view of that electorate.

Accordingly, Council requests that the proposal be reconsidered and that Tumut Shire be placed in the electorate of Riverina.

Yours faithfully



Christopher Adams
General Manager