



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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**Public Objection Number: 1820**

**Name: Mr Roger Fletcher**

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RECEIVED

27 JUL 2006

EC

Electoral Commissioner

Australian Electoral Commission

PO Box 6172

Kingston ACT 2604

24 July 2006

Dear Mr Campbell,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my dismay and displeasure at the Australian Electoral Commission's proposal to redistribute the electoral boundaries of New South Wales. This would further inflate the seat of Parkes, which is already the state's largest electorate. In effect, such a move would mean that literally half the state of New South Wales is represented by 1 person, whilst the other half of the state is serviced by 48 Federal Members.

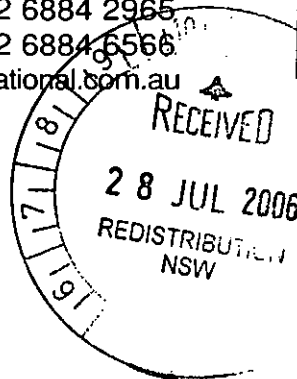
By indiscriminately creating such a sweeping electorate of vast geographical and social differences, the AEC's proposal effectively makes the electorate unserviceable and therefore silences the voice of rural people in Federal Parliament. The Western Region desperately needs greater federal representation.

Secondary industry in regional New South Wales will die without adequate federal representation. With the farming industry changing, red tape and regulation is hamstringing farmers, and we need federal representation to keep this under control. Meanwhile, the region will also struggle to maintain its infrastructure, especially its transport networks, which are central to the survival of primary producers and the affiliated businesses. With little or no rail infrastructure in some parts of the region, and the road system already struggling to cope with the demands of transporting the regions' cotton, livestock, grain, wool and mined minerals, how will the concerns of country people be adequately voiced by one person?

The unique ecology of the western region, with its complex climate conditions and fragile river systems, requires intimate knowledge as the region is often at the mercy of droughts and floods, which in turn affects the regions ability to enjoy the same standards as the rest of Australia.

Indigenous issues – other electorates do not have the capacity to understand the issues and problems that face these communities.

Water shortages, traffic congestion, pollution and rising community tensions; all substantiate former NSW Premier Bob Carr's claim that Sydney is already full, and that its resources are stretched to capacity. Thereby, constituting a sizably consistent drain on the State's resources and funding dollars.



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Primary industry is the lifeblood of our region. As a major employer and producer in the wool and sheep meat industry in Australia, I feel I have a responsibility to look after the many people in the Western Region, and beyond, with regards to their livelihoods. I think it is vital we have access to MP's who have specific knowledge of our areas' industries, to assist us compete in the global economy. That is why I feel I have to write this letter.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the proposal to change the NSW electoral boundaries, and to consider merging some other electorates where the change will not result in having such diminished access to federal representation for the Western Region.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R G Fletcher', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Roger Fletcher  
CEO, Fletcher International Exports Pty Ltd