



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



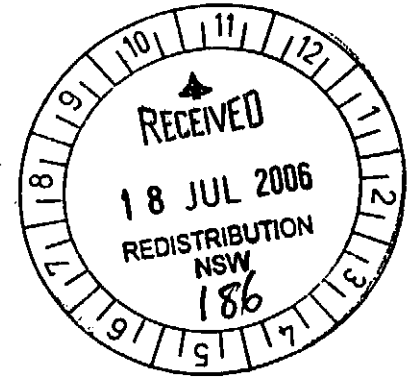
Public Objection Number: 186

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23 Washington St
Kempsey, NSW
2440
17 July 2006

Redistribution Committee for NSW
Australian Electoral Commission
P.O. Box 20014
World Square NSW 2002



Dear Commissioner,

I was both shocked and dismayed to learn that the Australian Electoral Commission has proposed to abolish the seat of Gwydir in the next NSW redistribution. As a constituent of a rural electorate I find this proposal unacceptable. This loss of a member representing a rural and regional NSW electorate will effect the representation of all people who live in rural and regional NSW. It will also have implications on people living in rural and regional areas of other states.

The proposal put forward by the Australian Electoral Commission establishes a new electorate of Parkes which would cover 376 206 square kilometres, or 47% of NSW. This means that this electorate is larger than Germany, and five and a half times the size of Tasmania. An electorate of this size reduces the voice of people living in this electorate, as one Member of Parliament can not possibly provide adequate representation to people spread out over such a vast area. People in Parkes will have to drive many hours to see their MP, compared to many people in Metropolitan electorates who are only minutes away from their MP's office.

The estimated growth rates which are provided by the Australian Electoral Commission do not predict Parkes or Gwydir to have the lowest rates of growth. Gwydir (1.55%) has a higher growth rate than Wentworth (0.03%) and Grayndler (0.48%), while Parkes (2.99%) has a higher growth rate than those already mentioned plus Bennelong (1.86%), Watson (2.51%), Mackellar (2.63%) and Kingsford Smith (2.92%). As well as this, the projected enrolment in Parkes and Gwydir in 2010 does not greatly differ from the projected enrolment in Wentworth and Watson in 2010.

In the most recent NSW electoral redistribution, the opportunity was taken to reduce the huge size of the State seat of Murray-Darling, yet in the current redistribution, the opposite step is being taken, and it is perplexing that such a huge seat would be unnecessarily created. It seems that the size of electorates and the representation of the communities of interest have been ignored in this proposed redistribution.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Slater