



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1889

Name: Mr Charles Armstrong

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001889

Reedy Corner
WARREN NSW
22nd July 2006

The Chairman,
Redistribution Committee for NSW,
Australian Electoral Commission,
P.O. Box 20014,
WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002

SUBMISSION OPPOSING ABOLITION OF GWYDIR
ELECTORATE

Dear Sir.

On behalf of the Nyngan branch members of the National Party I would like to present the following submission.

1. UNDER REPRESENTATION

The proposed change combining the Federal seats of Gwydir and Parkes, being 47% of the state reduces the value of each vote by virtue of Tyranny of distance.

- a) The voter would find it more difficult in some cases impossible to see their MP and
- b) The MP would find it far more difficult and again almost impossible to visit all parts of this huge electorate even once in a year.

Distance creates inequality in representation – only those near major centres would have true representation. Time available to the MP will not allow for the travel required to render this otherwise. On sensitive matters face to face communication with the Member is still necessary and for many electors this would be one or two days travel.

In effect this means the elector suffers injustice by devaluation of his ability to communicate with his Member.

2. DIVERSITY OF INTERESTS

Gwydir and Parkes electorates have different commercial and social interests which have never merged. Irrigation as an industry is important to both but primarily to Gwydir whilst Parkes has a far greater emphasis

on grazing and winter crops. Gwydir is a summer rainfall area and Parkes essentially a winter rainfall area.

In addition the Electoral Commission is asked to consider the value of rural production to Australia's export and trade balance and these are not being truly represented in proportion to the contribution to national prosperity by even further limiting the number of rural Members of Parliament.

3. ALTERNATE CHOICES

Other options for electorate changes are available to the Electoral Commission, such as city areas. By decreasing representation in rural seat numbers, there will be less attraction for potential businesses and expansion of population, who would need contact with local members.

In conclusion I would like to register strong opposition to the abolition of the Federal seat of Gwydir and amalgamation with the seat of Parkes.

Thankyou for considering the above arguments.

Yours sincerely,

Virginia Woodcock, Secretary,

For,

Charles Armstrong, Chairman Nyngan Branch