



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1893

Name: Cotton Catchment Communities

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Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

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001893

Electoral Commission
Redistribution Committee for NSW
PO Box 20014,
World Square NSW 2002

Dear Electoral Commissioner,

The Cotton Catchment Communities Cooperative Research Centre is a non political body with no affiliation to any political party. We have received Federal Funding from both the Liberal and Labour Governments since our inception in 1992. We undertake research, education and training for the cotton industry which is one of the largest rural industries in NSW and we work closely with all the organisations and companies associated with it.

We view the proposed redistribution plan for the federal seat of Gwydir by the Electoral Commission as a real negative for our activities and those of rural NSW. A significant element in the Commonwealth's decision to fund our Centre was based on the recognition of the interdependencies of communities in rural and regional Australia. The loss of these community linkages that will occur with the proposed changes in our Federal representation will make it much more difficult for our Centre and other bodies with a similar interest to foster and build on the interdependencies that are so important for the success, and in some cases the survival of regional communities.

Having ready access to a Federal Member of Parliament nearby is important to effectively engage and report back to Government on progress and benefits of our research activities. This cannot be achieved by posting a letter or sending a report. Face to face interaction with our Federal member and the subsequent access to government officials is essential and will be severely diminished under the proposed plan. The capacity of communities to be responsive to our research and education activities is dependent on adequate integration into the Federal Government sphere. This integration can only come from adequate and local representation.

It is not fair to expect a single Member of Parliament to represent so many diverse communities, industries and resources equitably. Nor is it fair for the community to face such great difficulty in accessing their only member to have their views and differing needs properly understood.

It is essential that logic be applied to the communities of interest that reside in northern NSW, which are very different to those in Dubbo and south of that.

Along with many other community and industry organisations we ask you to re consider this proposal and maintain the electorate of Gwydir closer to its present form.

Yours sincerely

Guy Roth
Chief Executive Officer

26/7/06

Participants

- Australian Cotton Growers Research Association Inc. • Cotton Australia Ltd • Cotton Research and Development Corporation
- Cotton Seed Distributors Ltd. • CSIRO • NSW Department of Primary Industries
- Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries • Department of Agriculture Western Australia
- The University of New England • The University of New South Wales • The University of Sydney
- University of Technology - Sydney

