



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



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Page(s): 5



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Subject objections to NSW redistribution

Classification Unclassified

Dear friends -

Attached is a set of seven objections to the proposed new federal boundaries for New South Wales. Please let me know if there are any problems with the formatting, or if you require any further information.

All the best,

Charles Richardson

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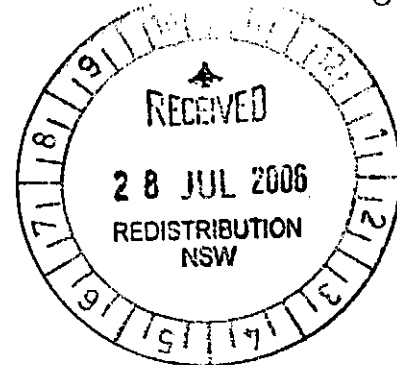
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**OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF
NEW SOUTH WALES FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES**

FROM

CHARLES RICHARDSON

I am grateful for the opportunity to submit the following objections to the proposed redistribution of Federal electoral boundaries in New South Wales. I am an independent writer with a specialist interest in Australian politics and elections; I am not a member of any political party and have no political axe to grind in the redistribution process. Although I am currently a resident of Victoria, I lived in New South Wales for several years and am familiar with its geography. My hope is that some of my ideas might be useful to the Committee in its deliberations.

I recognise that there are different overall approaches the Committee could have taken while still satisfying the statutory criteria for the redistribution, but I assume that the Committee will not be revisiting at this stage the basic arrangement of divisions that it has proposed; nor do I believe that there is any pressing need to do so. My objections are therefore confined to limited areas of change, affecting only small numbers of divisions at a time. They are set out below in alphabetical order of the divisions affected.

BANKS / FOWLER / HUGHES

The Committee proposes to extend the division of **Hughes** further west into the City of Liverpool, crossing the Georges River to take the Liverpool central business district. In justifying this (page 37 of the report), the Committee states that "the existing division of Hughes already contained a significant part of the Liverpool LGA", that "the community of interests between [those] existing Hughes electors ... with Liverpool was long-standing and particularly strong", and that it "did not see a strong community of interests between electors in areas connected by the Alford's Point Bridge."

In reasoning this way I believe that the Committee has not fully appreciated the oddness already present in **Hughes**, with its stretch from the heart of Sutherland Shire to Moorebank and Chipping Norton. The effect of such geographical extensions is cumulative, so adding the Liverpool CBD is a more serious step than it would be if the division were already geographically coherent. Liverpool and Moorebank may sit well together, but they further accentuate the problem already present in the division.

In my view it is time to bite the bullet, remove all of the City of Liverpool territory from **Hughes** and give it instead an area north of Alford's Point Bridge, extending into the City of Bankstown approximately as far as the South Western Motorway. I do not have the detailed enrolment information to work out the consequential changes to **Banks**, **Watson**, **Blaxland** and **Fowler**, but I see no reason to think it would not be possible to move them around in such a fashion as to preserve community of interest reasonably well: none of them would have to take on such a peculiar configuration as is otherwise required of **Hughes**.

BEROWRA / MITCHELL

I appreciate the need for **Mitchell** to cede territory to **Berowra**, but the boundary chosen seems unsatisfactory. It transfers two large sections of Baulkham Hills municipality, while leaving a section of Hornsby municipality in **Mitchell**. I submit it would be better to run the boundary all the way up Cattai Creek and Dooral Dooral Creek to the municipal boundary at Old Northern Road (near Round Corner), and then only transfer to **Berowra** as much of West Pennant Hills as is necessary to make up the numbers. This would keep the whole of the semi-rural localities of Dural, Kenthurst and Annangrove in **Berowra**, rather than splitting them as the proposed boundary does.

CALARE / FARRER / PARKES / RIVERINA

The Committee has received a good deal of adverse public comment for its proposed abolition of **Gwydir**. I have no quarrel with this move in principle, and no sympathy with the argument that rural electors are entitled to more representation than urban ones, but I think that the Committee's move has some unfortunate consequences: the proposed **Farrer** stretches from Albury to Broken Hill, and the proposed **Parkes** includes outback territory that would be detached from its natural service centre and very remote from almost all of the division's population.

I suggest that a better arrangement of these four divisions could be obtained by making the following changes from the Committee's proposal (working roughly north to south):

- * Transfer the SLAs of Gunnedah, Gwydir - Yallaroi, Moree Plains, Narrabri and Warrumbungle from **Parkes** to **Calare**.
- * Transfer Parkes SLA from **Calare** to **Parkes**.
- * Transfer the SLAs of Blayney, Cowra, Forbes and Weddin from **Calare** to **Riverina**.
- * Transfer Carrathool SLA from **Riverina** to **Parkes**.
- * Transfer the SLAs of Balranald, Broken Hill, Hay and Wentworth, plus its share of the unincorporated Far West, plus the northern half of Wakool SLA, from **Farrer** to **Parkes**.
- * Transfer the SLAs of Gundagai, Junee and Wagga Wagga from **Riverina** to **Farrer**.
- * Transfer the SLAs of Berrigan, Conargo, Deniliquin, Jerilderie, Lockhart, Murray, Murrumbidgee and Urana, plus the southern half of Wakool SLA, from **Farrer** to **Riverina**.

This would produce four divisions that are all well within the required enrolment tolerances: the division I describe as "**Calare**" would more closely resemble the old **Gwydir** and should be renamed accordingly, so that **Calare** would become the division to disappear. The split in Wakool SLA is not strictly necessary for enrolment numbers, but I submit that it would make sense in community of interest terms for Moulamein and Tooleybuc to go into **Parkes** and for Barham to go into **Riverina**.

The distinctive feature of this proposal is that Albury and Wagga Wagga would be in the same division; although the two cities are to some extent rivals, they also share obvious common interests and have strong communication links. This allows for a more clearly rural division of **Riverina**, centred on Griffith, and for **Parkes** and **Gwydir** to preserve most of their existing character. While I realise that more electors would change divisions than is the case under the Committee's proposal, I believe this would be a price worth paying for a more defensible set of boundaries.

CHIFLEY / PARRAMATTA / PROSPECT / REID

One of the most troublesome features of the Committee's proposed boundaries is the plan to remove almost all of the suburb of Parramatta, including the Parramatta central business district, from the division of **Parramatta**. This would be highly disruptive and would require extremely strong grounds to justify it, and in my view those grounds do not exist. I confess to difficulty in following the Committee's reasoning here; **Reid** and **Prospect** come towards the end of its presentation, but it appears that decisions concerning them have been allowed to constrain **Parramatta**.

I suggest that the better approach would be to keep the southern boundary of **Parramatta** at the Western Motorway and the municipal boundary, extend **Reid** instead westward further into the City of Holroyd, and rotate **Prospect** and **Chifley** accordingly. Again, lack of detailed information prevents me from suggesting precise boundaries, but I would be surprised if there were any major problems involved. The chief drawback that I can see is that **Prospect** would more conspicuously straddle two different corridors; this is undesirable, but since to some extent it does it already I think it would be permissible to take it north across the Great Western Highway into Mount Druitt and Rooty Hill. **Chifley** would become more elongated, but would be centred on Blacktown and well linked together by the railway.

HUNTER / NEWCASTLE / PATERSON

I appreciate the advantage of keeping the whole of the City of Cessnock in **Hunter**, but I do not believe it is worth the price paid in less natural boundaries for the division of **Newcastle** and, more important, the deeply problematic proposed boundary between **Hunter** and **Paterson**, which would split East Maitland in two. I suggest that **Paterson** should instead follow the municipal boundary in the south: that is, that it should revert to the existing boundary except for keeping the Tarro-Beresfield area in **Newcastle**.

Newcastle would then have to compensate by extending westward into the City of Cessnock, taking from **Hunter** an area around Kurri Kurri. While ideally Kurri Kurri would remain with Cessnock, the east-west links to Newcastle are good, and keeping all of Maitland and East Maitland together is an important gain. Alternatively, if it was thought feasible to involve **Charlton** in the revision, **Newcastle** could simply recover the territory it is proposed to transfer to it (the Wallsend area), and **Charlton** instead could make the gain from **Hunter**.

MACARTHUR / WERRIWA

I am puzzled by the kink at the northern end of the proposed boundary between **Macarthur** and **Werriwa**. It appears that having followed Rileys Creek north from the Camden Valley Way, the boundary deviates from it at the very end to follow Allenby Road. The number of electors involved would be very small, so it would seem more sensible to follow Rileys Creek and South Creek all the way to the municipal boundary, rather than put a small corner of Rossmore into **Macarthur** for no apparent reason.

MITCHELL / PARRAMATTA

I fail to see why the proposed new boundary between these two divisions departs so much from the Baulkham Hills-Parramatta municipal boundary, which is also the existing boundary. It would seem more logical for all of Winston Hills to remain in **Parramatta**, and for **Mitchell** in return to keep the part of Northmead east of Windsor Road.

Respectfully submitted,

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28 July 2006

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