



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1928

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Monday, 24th July 2006

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Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
Australian Electoral Commission (NSW)
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To whom it may concern,

2006 Federal Electoral Redistribution

I would like to present my objection to the proposed federal electoral redistribution.

As a voter based in the rural NSW I am concerned by the implications this redistribution has on effective representation for the citizens of rural NSW. By abolishing Gwydir, the vast western areas of NSW would be represented by only two electorates, which together would hold the vast majority of the states area - *on their own*.

Currently, we entrust our members of parliament from western NSW to represent us in Sydney, a task made more difficult by our location being at the furthest reaches from Sydney. By reducing the number of members representing the diversity of concerns in western NSW, the task is made harder still. Not only are we at a current disadvantage by being at such a distance from our centre of government but also this is compounded by the distance that the many citizens of western NSW are from their elected member and also that the time member has to cover the vastness of our large electorates. The equity of governmental representation should not merely consider the size of populations within electorates - but also - equity in access to government and the elected members.

The current electorates of western NSW have borne the brunt of the drought affecting NSW over the last 5-8 years. This has seen many of the residents of these areas forced to relocate to areas typically towards metropolitan and regional centres and most importantly out of their home regions in western NSW. By creating an electoral redistribution based on this temporary occurrence not only will cause these areas to be underrepresented as seasons pick up, but can also conspire to instil a more Sydney centric governed future for the state, at the expense of the future prosperity of our western regional areas.

In summary, as a voter based in regional western NSW I call for;

- Improved access to our local member, NOT less
- Reduction in sizes of rural electorates wherever possible to achieve the above.
- That consideration is made for the seasonal migration of people from the western NSW due to the impact of the drought.
- That the current electoral representation be retained for western NSW to enable us, as vital part of the state, to return to our feet quickly and also prosperously.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Clancy.