



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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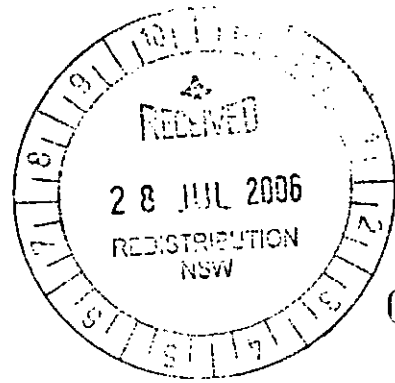
**Public Objection Number: 1944**

**Name: PARKES ELECTORATE COUNCIL THE NATIONALS**

**Page(s): 3**

21<sup>st</sup> July 2006

Mr Ian Campbell  
Chairman  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Redistribution Committee  
Canberra ACT



001944

Mr Chairman and members of the federal electoral redistribution committee.

It is with concern that I write on behalf of over 400 members of The Nationals who have given me authority to represent them in matters concerning those of the western region if NSW.

Firstly we would like to make it clear that the geographical area of the intended new electorate of Parkes is NOT an issue for concern, knowing there are others of a similar geographic dimension.

What is of considerable concern is the population centre location's, size and diversity of environmental and economic influences, that make this intended electorate unique, and leaves its constituents at a disadvantage to all others.

Consideration for environmental and social boundaries should be seriously revisited; particularly the division created by the Goonoo Pilliga forest creating a boundary which takes over an hour to travel through and demarks industry and social issues to its north as quite separate to the remainder of the western division.

It has been identified by successive governments and their agencies at local, state and federal levels, that the Moree-Northern plains and New England are currently serviced by mutually exclusive government service agencies, commercial, social, and environmental managers to those communities south of the Goonoo Pilliga Forest.

We request that the AEC, take into consideration, that whilst the population of the west is likely in decline, the diversity of government service needed and the distance between significant commercial centres should be acknowledge, and whilst the population may be relative (under the rules of redistribution) the commercial income generated to the benefit of the state and nation, through diverse business pursuits over this large area, is very much over representative of its population, as is the diversity of scocio-economics, many communities hold their own unique requirements, and service needs.

We would ask the AEC when considering this to compare this intended super size electorate, with the many very small and scocio-similar electorates located in urban areas, from which redistribution would have minimal impact in respect to representation of issues and in some cases similar levels of population decline.

We question the rationale in the statement that there exists a link between Broken Hill and Wentworth as a community of interest, there is almost none. Broken Hill is an almost exclusively Caucasian community, whilst Wentworth is a community dominated by Aboriginal people whose traditional cultural ties are with the communities Menindee and Wilcannia both intended to remain in the electorate of Parkes and their by severing the traditional link between these communities.

That the link between Broken Hill and Dubbo accounts for approximately 50% of the commerce of Broken Hill and ALL of its government services are administered from Dubbo. This would mean that the new member for Farrer would have to travel to Dubbo to service its second biggest community of Broken Hill, only (in some cases) one street away from the sitting member for Parkes and over a days travel from their own electorate, and still a days travel from the community of Broken Hill.

The same situation would apply in reverse for the member for Parkes who would have two major and exclusive agency centres one in Dubbo and one in Moree to service.

It should be acknowledged that commercial and social interest with Dubbo as the centre of the region, has traditionally been within the region bounded by the communities of Wellington Dunedoo, Mudgee, Cassilis, Coonabarabran, Baradine, Walgett along the Border to South Australia (Cameron's Corner) and South to the Victorian border along to the north of the Sturt highway passing through Hay, West Wyalong, Forbes, Parkes Yeoval and Wellington to complete the region. You will note that many additional communities presently in Gwydir are within this region and we feel confident that this region better reflects the interests of the region.

You will notice that Parkes and Forbes, are in this region, and have held a long standing social and commercial interest with Dubbo, including government services.


We are concerned that local, state and federal agencies, all requiring contact with their respective federal members will be required to inform and negotiate with up to three federal members as the agency regions overlap electoral boundaries. For example the service centre of Dubbo would need to negotiate with the Member for Calare, Member for Parkes and the Member for Farrer. The Moree Service centre agencies will need to negotiate with the Member for New England, member for Calare and Member for Parkes

It should be questioned as to why the very tiny communities and scattered population of the unincorporated region to the north and east of Broken Hill was not considered when the boundary was placed very close to the community of Broken Hill, ALL of these communities have Broken Hill as their main service centre and access to their member, under the new proposal this would be done through Dubbo. Additionally the member for Parkes would still be required to travel to Broken Hill to service these communities without the opportunity of servicing Broken Hill as relevant to them.

In conclusion we the members and residents of the west consider the boundaries as stated above to be of commercial and social interest within a region and that the removal of a member from regional NSW to be an impost to the unique requirements of such a diverse region, without a net gain to the urban seats in decline also. At the same time an increase in inefficiencies imposed on the members of New England, Farrer and Parkes to the very recognisable detriment of the constituents.

We would ask you to identify and mitigate these issues in your final determination.

Mark Horton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Horton', is written over a horizontal line.

Chair - Parkes Electorate Council  
The Nationals