



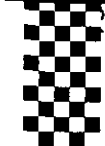
The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 1975

Name: Mr Paul FULLER

Page(s): 3



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Please advise sender if transmission is incomplete!

To: Australian Electoral Commission
Redistribution Committee for NSW
PO Box 20014
World Square
NSW 2002

Phone:

Fax Phone: (02) 9212-2208

- Urgent
- For your review
- Reply ASAP
- Please comment

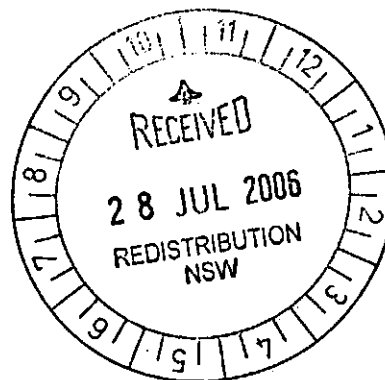
Subject: Objection to NSW Redistribution – Paterson Electorate

Comments:

Please find enclosed my objection to the proposed redistribution

Regards

Paul Fuller



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Friday, 28 July 2006

Redistribution Committee for NSW
PO Box 20014
World Square
NSW 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to register my opposition to the current proposal to redistribute the Paterson electorate, specifically the intention to transfer Raymond Terrace into the Newcastle Electorate.

Paragraph 110 of the Redistribution Committee's report states that "the committee considered that both Raymond Terrace and Williamstown share a strong community of interest with Newcastle". This assumption by the committee is incorrect. While Newcastle is a regional centre for various government services and the target of the occasional shopping trip by Port Stephens residents, this is the extent of any community of interest. Newcastle is an urban electorate separated physically from Raymond Terrace by the Hunter River and linked only by the Pacific Highway. Travelling distance to Newcastle from Raymond Terrace is approximately 30 km. Raymond Terrace lies well outside of the Newcastle LGA boundary and is the hub for a large rural area to the West and North for which it provides services. It is also the administrative centre for the Port Stephens LGA and has more commonality with these areas than it does with urban Newcastle.

One of the services that Raymond Terrace provides is that of a more or less central location within the Paterson electorate for the Member for Paterson's office. Due to the size of the electorate and the geographically diverse population there is no really central location for the electorate office but Raymond Terrace is the best and only real compromise. The last redistribution placed the Member's office in the Hunter electorate and there was a subsequent public outcry demanding he move to somewhere more central to his constituents, so eventually he moved to Raymond Terrace. Removal of Raymond Terrace from the electorate will remove the only central location for his office. There is no other alternative due to the location of the Port Stephens waterways.

Finally, and most importantly, in 2004 the redistribution of NSW state electorates resulted in 2,164 electors being transferred from the Port Stephens electorate to Maitland. Most of these electors live in Raymond Terrace, between 500m and 3km from the CBD. Naturally they have a strong community of interest with Raymond Terrace and therefore they will be directly affected by any transference of Raymond Terrace to the Newcastle electorate. As well as now being a disenfranchised group of voters stuck on the outer edge of the Maitland state electorate they will become a disenfranchised group of voters stuck on the outer edge of the Newcastle electorate. Since both the NSW and federal

Friday, 28 July 2006

election will occur in the same year, the effect of two redistributions so close together is bound to cause significant confusion amongst voters and should be avoided at all cost.

While I acknowledge that there is a need for the redistribution, I believe the proposal to transfer Raymond Terrace from Paterson to Newcastle would create more problems than it would solve, especially for the 2,164 voters already disenfranchised by their transfer to Maitland and accordingly, I request that the committee rethinks this proposal and amend it accordingly.

Sincerely Yours,



Paul Fuller