



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES

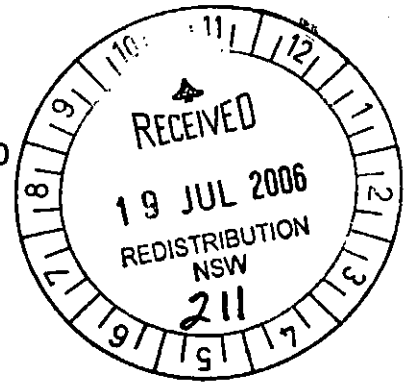


Public Objection Number: 211

Name: Mrs D A MARTYN

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Mrs D.A. Martyn
20 Union Street
Lithgow NSW 2790
14.07.2006



The Redistribution Committee for NSW
PO Box 20014
World Square
NSW 2002

Dear Sir,

I wish to protest against the proposed changes to the Division of Calare in the NSW federal Electoral Redistribution for 2006. As a person of advanced years- I am now 93 years of age- I have had to watch political manoeuvres gradually reducing the rights and conveniences of those of us who choose to live in the country areas, and this change is another part of that erosion.

I understand that the boundaries are based on the number of electors within the area. Why then should Calare boundaries be changed when we fit within the required numbers?

Lithgow has always had a community of interest with our western neighbours, especially Bathurst and Orange. We have close links through education, sporting and commercial interests. Those same links are not evident with the projected extension into the Blue Mountains.

Part of the proposal is to abolish the seat of Gwydir, and make a mega-electorate of Parkes. This will make it extremely difficult for any M.P. to properly service such a seat, and for his/her constituents to have immediate contact. The problems created by distance are very real- our transport facilities leave much to be desired, telephone facilities are being eroded with pressure on land lines and large areas in which mobiles do not work, and those of us on lower incomes cannot afford the luxuries of computer technology, even if we felt confident using them. It is important to us to have reasonable contact with our Parliamentary representatives.

If numbers currently are the major criteria for planning, perhaps it is time to adjust the criteria to allow for the geographic realities of modern country living. We hear a great deal about the need to encourage people to move away from urban living: this redistribution flies in the face of that rhetoric.

I ask that you reconsider the proposed changes to Calare and the other western electorates, which will disrupt long-established alliances, and make the practical work of Government Representation more difficult for both electors and representatives.

Yours sincerely,