



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 212

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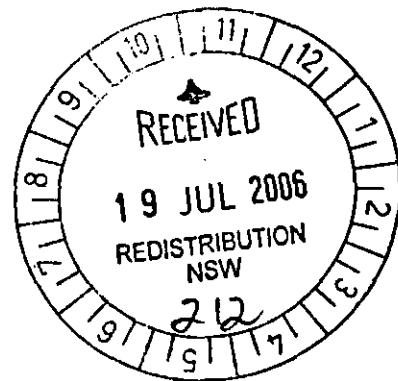
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18 July 2006

The Redistribution Committee of N.S.W
P O Box 20014
World Square
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Dear Sir/Ms.

Please accept the following as a submission to the proposed boundary changes for Federal Electoral Seat of Macquarie.

I am absolutely amazed at the proposal of including the areas of Oberon, Lithgow & Bathurst in Macquarie at the expense of Macquarie. Surely communities of interest should be taken into account in any boundary changes as well as giving the elected member the best possible chance of serving the needs of his/her constituents.

During the 1990's, I served 6 1/2 years as Blue Mountains City Council Councilor representative on the Board of Blue Mountains Tourism and indeed I was the first chairman of the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO). This RTO includes Oberon, Jenolan Caves and Lithgow; however except for Jenolan Caves, tourism plays a very minor role in the economic structure compared to forestry, mining, grazing etc.

On the other hand the Hawkesbury has a very close economic tie with the Blue Mountains. The Hawkesbury is part of the Grand Circular Drive; the big majority of tourists who do this drive do the shorter version leaving the Great Western Highway at Mt Victoria and joining the Bells Line of Road at Bell. The Hawkesbury has a larger area of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in it than even the Blue Mountains has.

Both the Hawkesbury and the Blue Mountains act as dormitory area for people working in Sydney. I am sure you could count on one hand those people from Oberon, Lithgow & Bathurst who work in Sydney.

Except for a small amount of grazing in the Megalong Valley, the Blue Mountains rural industry is in Horticulture (mainly Plant Nurseries). The rural industry in the Hawkesbury River is also mainly Horticulture.

All the run off from the Blue Mountains finds it's way to the Hawkesbury River only some from the Lithgow & Oberon area does the same.

I would suggest that more than 50% of people travelling by road from Lithgow, Bathurst, travel via the Bells Line of Road. There is a huge push from this area & other areas to the west to have a super highway built from Lithgow to Sydney along the same ridge as the Bells Line of Road only bypassing the major towns of the Hawkesbury (Windsor & Richmond). Should this happen it will make a larger gap in the interests of people living in the current electorate of Macquarie and those who live in the proposed additions to the west.

I implore you it is madness to go ahead & split an electorate that works well for both the constituents in the Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury and return to the bad of days when the people of the upper Blue Mountains were in the electorate of Macquarie and virtually didn't know our member let alone see him.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr. R.M. Harris