



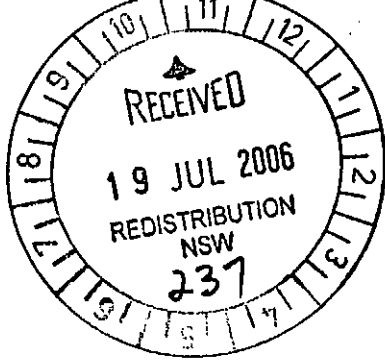
The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 237

Name: Mr and Mrs R and M SIMKUS

Page(s): 2



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15 July 2006.

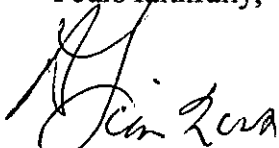
Redistribution Committee for NSW
Australian Electoral Commission (NSW)
PO Box 20014
WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002


Dear Committee Members,

We fully support the attached arguments, which have been forwarded to us, against the abolition of the seat of Gwydir and its merger into the seat of Parkes.

The proposal is yet another example of discrimination against rural communities which should be reversed in order that people are not discouraged from living in the countryside, for the sake of the environment and to ease the strains on city infrastructure.

Yours faithfully,


Robert Simkus


Merle Simkus

2006 Federal Electoral Redistribution

- Both The Nationals and Liberals argue strongly that there is a case for the abolition of a Sydney Electorate. This would cause far less disruption and be much more equitable than abolishing the Gwydir electorate.
- The estimated growth rates provided by the Australian Electoral Commission do not predict Parkes or Gwydir to have the lowest rates of growth.
- The Australian Electoral Commission's proposal creates a new electorate of Parkes that would be almost 380,000 square kilometres in size, or 47 per cent of NSW. That makes this electorate bigger than Japan and Germany and five and a half times the size of Tasmania.
- By creating such a huge electorate the proposal effectively reduces the voice of country people in the Federal Parliament.
- In Sydney people are often only 10 minutes at the most from their MP's office but in this newly proposed seat of Parkes people will have to drive hours and hours to see their MP.
- It seems that the legislative requirements for communities of interest and the size of the electorates to be considered in the redistribution process have been ignored.
- In the most recent NSW electoral redistribution the Commissioners were mindful of the huge size of the State seat of Murray-Darling and those Commissioners took the opportunity to reduce the size of that electorate. It is perplexing that in this current redistribution such a huge seat would be unnecessarily created.
- The Nationals support the retention of existing boundaries between coastal and inland divisions where possible, so that the Great Dividing Range continues to act as a sensible natural dividing line.