



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES

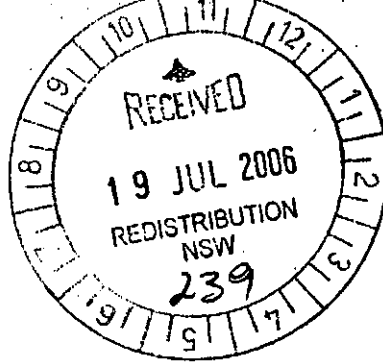


---

**Public Objection Number: 239**

**Name: Ms Glenda SIMPSON**

**Page(s): 2**



274 Russell Street  
Bathurst 2795

17 July 2006

The Secretary  
Redistribution Committee for NSW  
Australian Electoral Commission  
P O Box 20014  
World Square NSW 2002

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Proposed Redistributions of Calare and Macquarie**

I am a resident of Bathurst and am currently enrolled to vote in the Calare electorate. I wish to raise the strongest objection possible to the proposal to transfer Bathurst and its surrounding areas to the Macquarie electorate.

My understanding of the positioning of electorate boundaries is that it is based on a "community of interest". Bathurst does not have a community of interest with the Blue Mountains area of NSW. I am a "local" of this area having been born in the area and I can say Bathurst relates to areas to the north and west of it.

The Committee might consider that Bathurst, Lithgow, Oberon and the Blue Mountains share a community of interest (paragraph 94) but I have seen no evidence of it. My experience is that Bathurst residents travel to Orange, Mudgee and occasionally as far as Dubbo, for shopping and sporting activities. We support fund raising activities in those areas but rarely, if at all, to the east.

It is interesting to note that, as late as 5 July 2006, Lithgow Council has objected strongly to the proposal. I have been active in politics supporting certain candidates in both federal and state elections and am aware of the members for the areas to the west and north of Bathurst but until the local paper ran an article on the member for the Blue Mountains I had never heard of him.

People living to the west of the "sandstone curtain" have very different needs and concerns with people living to the immediate west of Penrith... This approach mixes people from an outer metropolitan region with country people. Bathurst residents, if they do not work locally, travel to Orange or Blayney. Whereas people from the Blue Mountains area work in and identify with the general Sydney area.

Bathurst is part of the Central West. Our television and radio broadcast news items which include Lithgow and to the west and north west. We hear very little, if anything, of the local issues of the Blue Mountains.

In my opinion the Committee have lowered their credibility by what appears to be the bidding of the two major parties to attempt to eliminate the independent member for this area.

Major roads and rail transport traverses the entire continent – it is not a reason in itself to suggest that **all** the communities these transport corridors pass through have some commonality.

I note the Committee's comment that Bathurst, Lithgow and Oberon were previously in the electorate of Macquarie. One presumes that this was altered because there is no community of interest.

Surely, common sense will prevail and the Central West area currently in Calare will remain in that electorate.

Yours sincerely



Glenda Simpson

cc Mr P. Andren, MHR, Member for Calare