



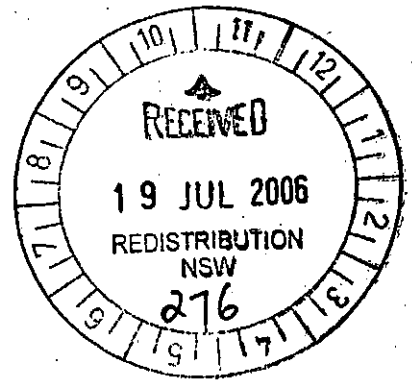
The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 276

Name: Miss Fiona DEWAR

Page(s): 1



Mr Ian Campbell

C:/ Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
PO Box 20014
World Square
NSW 2002.

RE: Proposed Federal electoral boundaries in New South Wales.

Dear Mr Campbell,

I write to express strong objection to the Redistribution Committee's recommendations for proposed new federal electoral boundaries in New South Wales affecting the current Parkes and Gwydir federal electorates.

As a former resident of the Gwydir Electorate, and with the family property in this area, I am appalled by this callous and underhand attempt to destroy the right of voters in this electorate to be adequately represented in federal parliament.

Rural Australia faces unique challenges and has unique needs, needs which in many cases are specific to a local area. Effective local representation can come about only through the maintenance of this electorate and the retention of a federal member to represent it. The proposal contained in your report is therefore intolerable.

I object on the grounds that your proposal would prevent effective representation of all voters in the proposed electorate. I believe this decision discriminates against all rural communities and especially against voters in the electorate.

Your report claims to have examined a number of social, transport and community dynamics, but it is apparent that you have then discarded any considerations for the rural voters in the Gwydir and Parkes electorates. Your proposal would have nearly half of New South Wales represented by a single member – a member expected to cover 379,474 square kilometres! It is simply ridiculous to expect a member of parliament to effectively represent all the concerns of an electorate nearly twice the size of Victoria and five and a half times the size of Tasmania.

Rural communities in this region will be severely disadvantaged by this proposal because the travel arrangements for the member would be extremely difficult – travel required to discuss with voters or to attend meetings or events. Such a travel burden will also make it extremely hard for a member to be an effective voice in government or opposition. It is grossly unfair for voters in this electorate, who will be relegated to a 'second-class' representation when compared to urban voters.

I hope you will retract this proposed redistribution and I look forward to a new set of proposals which do not victimise rural Australia.

Regards,

Fiona Dewar
Formerly of 'Terling Park', Moree