

The Federal Redistribution 2006 NEW SOUTH WALES

Public Objection Number: 361

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

Dear Sirs,

Re: 2006 Federal Electoral Redistribution

I wish to place on record my concerns as to the proposed abolition of the seat of Gwydir and possible merger with the electorate into the seat of Parkes.

Both The Nationals and Liberals urge 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 Australian Electoral Commission's proposal creates a new Electorate of Parkes that would be almost 380,000 square kilometres in size, or 47% 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.

It is with the deepest respect that I request that you reconsider this issue and not proceed with the Redistribution.

Yours sincerely

Garry Burton

