



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 364

Name: The Hon John ANDERSON MP

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Hon John Anderson
Member for Gwydir

11 July 2006

Mr Ian Campbell *to 11/7*
Australian Electoral Commissioner
PO Box E201
Kingston ACT 2604

(Fax : 02 6271 4554)

Dear Mr Campbell

At a meeting last Thursday of the Gwydir Federal Electorate Council of The Nationals held in Gunnedah, a resolution was passed to invite you into the electorate to hear first hand from local individuals and groups as to reasons why the seat should be maintained.

I write as the current Member for the seat of Gwydir, as a former Deputy Prime Minister, and as a deeply concerned regional Australian, to officially request you and all members of your Redistribution Committee for New South Wales to visit my electorate and hear the views of local people and organisations regarding the redistribution plan proposing the abolition of the seat of Gwydir, which we would regard as a disastrous outcome.

This issue affects individuals and organisations from across the Gwydir electorate and the wider regional community. Among those I would expect to send representatives to address you personally when you visit would be local Councils, community and service groups, chambers of commerce, sporting clubs, members of various political parties, indigenous communities and other organisations who view the proposal as unnecessarily creating a mega-seat that would be enormously hard to service adequately.

It is widely understood that, in some cases, electorates are necessarily huge, but certainly my view and the general view among country political representatives is that this should be avoided where possible. In this case, I am strongly of the view that other options can and should be pursued.

As you would be aware, Section 72 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act of 1918 requires the Commission to hold a public inquiry into a particular objection, considering submissions made on that objection.

Clearly, the option that we wish to pursue is to hold a public inquiry into objections over the proposed abolition of Gwydir within the geographic area of the electorate so that those most affected are given a better opportunity to personally attend the inquiry and voice their concerns directly to the Commission.

I look forward to your positive response to the abovementioned request.

Yours sincerely


JOHN ANDERSON