



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 369

Name: GUNNEDAH DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD Inc

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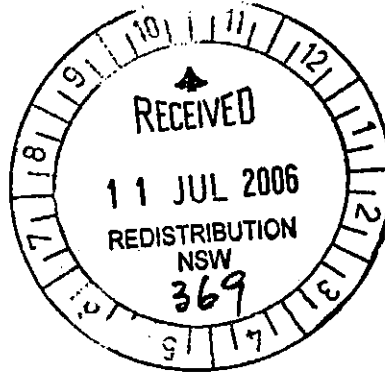


**Gunnedah District
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Redistribution Committee for NSW
PO Box 20014
WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002



18 July 2006

Dear Sir/Madam

Gwydir Electorate

We are a member-based organisation and for the year 2005/2006 we had 120 businesses as members.

We engage in regular consultation with those members to source their opinions and their opinions in relation to the proposed boundary changes for our electorate are strong. Since the announcement of the proposed changes we can advise that not one business we have spoken to (member and non-member) has supported the changes and in fact are very against the proposed changes.

We list below points that have come forward from our networks which formulate our reasons why the proposed changes be rejected and a fairer distribution for rural NSW be devised:-

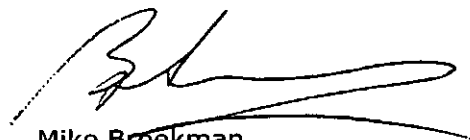
- we don't want our federal voice to be muzzled
- we don't want to be part of a federal electorate that is too huge for any one person to keep in touch with
- we don't want the Gwydir electorate (one of the originals from 105 years ago!) to be discarded in the modern Australian Electoral system??
- we don't want our 'redistributed' federal seat to be almost half the size of all New South Wales
- with fuel prices only set to get worse, aren't there going to be millions of \$\$ wasted for the Parkes representative to cover this huge area??
- every person in Australia deserves access to their elected member. How can this particular member deliver a service that every other constitute has access to Australia wide
- our city counterparts only have to commute one or two suburbs to access their member for individual issues. We would have to drive hundreds of kilometres or more at huge personal cost given that rural NSW has little public transport available

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- every community has the right to have their local member support their social activities, awards, school functions, eisteddfods, rallies etc. How would this member be able to service each one of the communities in this enormous proposed electorate
- the elected representative may have exceptional skills in the political arena and may be considered for front bench duties however with the size of the electorate, the member would not be able to take on those extra responsibilities and would be hugely disadvantaged in their political career
- the infrastructure required that is part of the federal government's responsibilities would be enormous. Many of these infrastructural projects take many hours of lobbying to bring that project to the top of the priority list. With the amount of individual projects that would require the member's attention for lobbying over such a vast area, it would be geographically impossible compared to a city counterpart and the member's constituents would again be disadvantaged
- how is a member supposed to put themselves in a position to be re-elected when a lot of the people voting, won't even have seen or heard from them??
- our Namoi Valley area is going through an economic surge at present and into the future and as our area makes up a fair portion of the present electorate, Namoi Valley has offered huge economic boosts to the Australian economic wealth through its agriculture, mining and soon, ethanol and agricultural related industries. These industries require and deserve the best representation so that the economic advantages can be gained for all of Australia
- rural Australia has no easy access to most of the government departments and many of our negotiations have to be done electronically and over the phone. Face-to-face consultation with heads of departments doesn't happen so we heavily rely on our federal member and his/her office to support our endeavours. The larger the electoral area and the more isolated and distant the member, the lesser the impact of the consultation opportunities for the constituents of this new mega-electorate

Once the objections are received and considered, a decision will be made. Please consider our member's views before making a final decision and think about the effect your decision will have on a huge portion of Australian and in particular, New South Wales voters.

Yours sincerely



Mike Broekman
President

cc. The Hon John Anderson