



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES

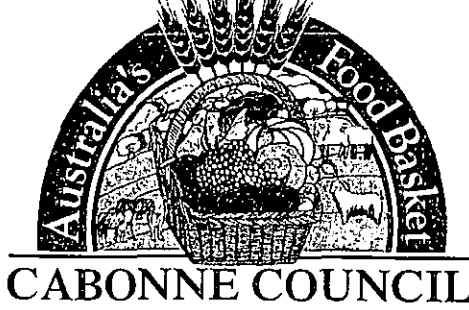


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**Public Objection Number: 392**

**Name: CABONNE COUNCIL**

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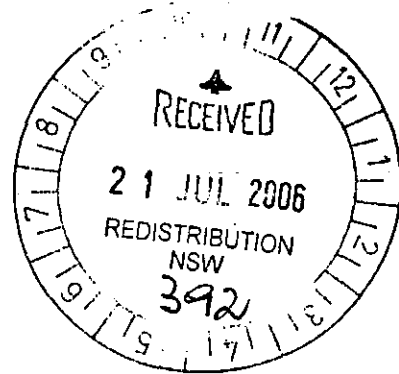
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19 July 2006

Redistribution Committee for NSW  
PO Box 20014  
WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002



Dear Chairman

Council refers to your recent redistribution proposal and would like to object to it based on Council's belief that the proposal is a detrimental to Country people and the representation they receive in Federal Parliament.

Council appreciates that redistribution is necessary and understands that there may be ways to redistribute by redrawing the 25 non metropolitan Sydney seats without the loss of any of the 7 country seats. Enclosed are copies of submissions by our Federal Member for Calare, Mr Peter Andren of which, Council fully supports.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully

S.J. Harding  
**Director of Finance & Corporate Services**

**DRAFT: PETER ANDREN SUBMISSION: OBJECTIONS TO REDISTRIBUTION**

The proposed redistribution should be rejected on several grounds:

**Abolition of Gwydir**

- 1.1 The suggested elimination of the seat of Gwydir reduces country representation from NSW by one seat, when this could have been avoided by following the suggested boundary options outlined in my submission (*Public Suggestion No.18*).
- 1.2 This would have acknowledged the inevitability of a diminishing rural population over time, but still allowed for a gradual 'outer-urbanisation' of one of those country seats (Hume) along the most logical of available corridors: the Hume Highway from the Southern Tablelands into Camden LGA.
- 1.3 As proposed, the new boundaries for rural NSW seats have prematurely abolished one electorate when a more gradual approach to this eventual outcome should have been adopted over the next several redistributions.
- 1.4 A long-established principle, retaining the names of federation seats, has been broken with the loss of Gwydir.

**Lithgow, Oberon & part-Bathurst Regional LGAs to proposed Macquarie**

- 2.1 The incorporation of the eastern half of the current Calare electorate into a redrawn Macquarie electorate defies any community of interest, apart from the Great Western Highway.
- 2.2 Macquarie is an outer Sydney electorate, while the Lithgow-Bathurst region is a rural/ regional area. Such a wedding of two geographically and socially incompatible areas defies the Electoral Commission's own stated position over many years that the western escarpment of the Great Divide provides a natural barrier to any community of interest between the two areas.
- 2.3 Apart from that another benchmark of 'community of interest', the local television and radio footprints, don't apply to the Blue Mountains portion of the new Macquarie boundaries.

**Bathurst Regional LGA**

- 3.1 Again defying established guidelines the northern section of Bathurst Regional Council area has been crudely excised and retained within the new Calare boundaries.
- 3.2 This has further emphasised the essentially artificial nature of the new Macquarie boundaries and their defiance of community of interest.

**Proposed Calare**

- 4.1 The proposed boundaries of the revised Calare electorate have also been forced to incorporate incompatible elements.
- 4.2 There is very little community of interest between Weddin Shire and the Mid-Western Regional Shire area.
- 4.3 The number of large and medium centres has gone from four (Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange, Cowra) to seven (Orange, Mudgee, Wellington, Parkes, Forbes, Cowra, Grenfell) making it difficult to provide the level of service to all towns and villages currently enjoyed by the constituents in the current seat.

- 4.4 I doubt any electorate in the state or the Commonwealth would have as many major and minor population centres, which each require a minimum of two days a month visitation for any adequate representation.
- 4.5 The electorate office centre (currently Bathurst) requires a substantial presence of probably 20 days a month.
- 4.6 I challenge any party representative to match this level of face-to-face communication, which I believe is an absolute minimum. Yet such a level of constituent contact in the Calare electorate would require 34 days a month, without 20 weeks of Parliamentary sittings! Impossible!
- 4.7 Compare that with the mileage and suburban constituent contact commitments of city electorates.

#### **Proposed Parkes**

- 5.1 The amalgamated Gwydir/Parkes electorate appears to be 'what remains' after all other seats have been allocated their quota. It thus emerges as an absolute nightmare of a seat wrapped around the north-west corner of the state with no apparent logic or community of interest. Sometimes, as with Grey and Kalgoorlie, large electorates need to be created when there is no other option.
- 5.2 There are other options for NSW and they are spelt out in submissions made to the Committee, options that don't abolish a country seat. I again refer Committee members to my submission (*Public Suggestion No.18*).

#### **Three Connective Corridors Strategy**

- 6.1 The Committee's 'three linking regions' strategy is flawed, in that it rejects using *only* the more logical Southern Highlands connective corridor between rural and urban NSW considering also the Hunter and Blue Mountains regions.
- 6.2 At paragraph 56 of its report the Redistribution Committee says: "*modern methods of communication and travel continue to unite these communities on either side of the urban/rural divide. This is evident in the way that development has continued to the southwest of greater Sydney, along the Hume corridor*".
- 6.3 For all the reasons outlined in point 2 above, the Blue Mountains approach is flawed. The Committee did not have to 'look beyond' its historical approach, as my submission detailed.
- 6.4 There are no 'existing social' and few 'communications' linkages' apart from rail and road between the Blue Mountains and Lithgow-Bathurst. They may as well be Austria and Switzerland.
- 6.5 The Liberal Party suggested such a seat in the 1998 redistribution process, in an apparent attempt to improve its political chances. The suggestion was firmly rejected.
- 6.6 No amount of 'communications improvements' in that time have made enough difference to warrant a complete turnaround in this assessment.
- 6.7 At paragraph 79 of the AEC booklet the committee states: "*the committee was able to maintain the number of divisions with major rural composition, despite a declining enrolment share*".
- 6.8 This may be true, but in doing so the committee has distorted that composition by needlessly forcing the artificial connecting of the Blue Mountains with the eastern portion of the Central Tablelands, when the far more logical Hume/Southern Tablelands corridor should have been used.
- 6.9 The Hume/Southern Tablelands corridor delivers true community of interest, for example: Camden, The Oaks and Oakdale are still in the Group 6 Rugby

League competition, which also includes Bowral, Mittagong, Picton, Robertson and Moss Vale.

- 6.10 Bathurst wouldn't know or care if Katoomba played tiddlywinks, and vice versa. True *community of interest* is not delivered via a Blue Mountains "connective corridor".

#### **Rural & Regional Perspective**

- 7.1 The 1998 redistribution committee included the then Surveyor General Don Grant who was based in Bathurst and had a deep appreciation of the relative communities of interest in various rural electorates.
- 7.2 I believe that understanding played a crucial role in the sensible rejection of the Liberal Party's "Macquarie option" at that time, which closely resembles the most recent proposal.
- 7.3 With the greatest respect I believe the now urban-centric committee has lost that rural perspective, hence its acceptance now of an option rejected quite recently (the last redistribution) for very valid reasons.

#### **Conclusion**

- 8.1 Finally, I would urge the committee to hold a public inquiry in Bathurst so the concerns I have raised, along with those of community organisations and individuals, can be properly aired and scrutinised by a public that believes there is little real prospect of significant changes to the proposed boundaries.
- 8.2 My suggested changes would be to reconsider the electoral boundaries for rural NSW along the lines of those I suggested in my original submission.

# **New South Wales Federal Electoral Redistribution 2006**

**Submission from Peter Andren MP, Member for Calare**

**24 March 2006**

## New South Wales Federal Electoral Redistribution 2006

**INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This submission determines new electoral boundaries for 25 non-metropolitan seats in New South Wales, according to the voter population quotas established by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).
- 1.2 Of these 25 seats, the primary intention of this submission is the **retention of seven 'country' seats** west of the Great Divide.
- 1.3 The seats described comply with the projected voter population (PVP) quota of 93,508 with a permitted variation of 3.5%. Each suggested seat falls within the acceptable range of 90,236 to 96,780 voters.
- 1.4 The remaining PVP of 2,247,059 provides neatly for 24 seats in the Sydney metropolitan area ( $2,247,059 \div 93,508 = 24.03$ ).
- 1.5 The vast majority of the revised electoral boundaries in this submission follow the existing local government area (LGA) borders, and where this has not been possible it prioritises locality borders and existing federal electorate boundaries.
- 1.6 The accompanying maps illustrate the extent of the boundary changes described in this submission.
- 1.7 To clearly and accurately describe the boundary changes proposed in this submission, the state has been divided into six regions: North-Eastern Coastal Region, Central Inland Region, Sydney Metropolitan Region, South-Eastern Coastal Region, South-Western Inland Region and North-Western Inland Region.

**NORTH-EASTERN COASTAL REGION**

- 2.1 This region describes the federal seats on the north and central coast of NSW from Richmond at the Queensland border to the seat of Robertson, bordering the Sydney metropolitan area. On the whole, these seats remain unchanged.
- 2.2 The minor changes to these electorates are described below.

**Richmond**

- 2.3 The existing boundaries of Richmond remain largely unchanged; the south-eastern boundary to the coast has been altered slightly to bring the seat within the PVP range.
- 2.4 Richmond PVP: 95,062.

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**Page**

- 2.4 The existing boundaries of Page also remain largely unchanged save for its southern border at the coast. This border has been moved south to include Yamba, which despite being separated by a significant body of water, shares a strong community of interest with Iluka, which is currently located in the Page electorate.
- 2.5 Iluka and Yamba are within the same local government area, share the same local newspapers and general media 'footprint', and residents of both towns regularly commute to the other for work and/or shopping.
- 2.6 This change puts Page just short of the PVP quota.
- 2.7 Page PVP: 93,097.

**Cowper**

- 2.7 The seat of Cowper is changed only at its northern and southern boundaries.
- 2.8 On the northern boundary, Yamba is proposed to be included in Page as described above.
- 2.9 In the south, the boundary is proposed to follow the Macleay River, further than it currently does, to include Kempsey within Cowper.
- 2.10 Cowper PVP: 94,491.

**Lyne**

- 2.11 The seat of Lyne is changed only by the movement of its northern border to the south, to include Kempsey in Cowper as described above, which will place Hat Head (and its access road from the Pacific Highway) in the electorate of Lyne.
- 2.12 Lyne PVP: 93,202

**Paterson**

- 2.13 The boundaries of Paterson are unchanged.
- 2.14 Paterson PVP: 92,816.

**Newcastle, Charlton, Shortland, Dobell & Robertson**

- 2.15 Local changes have been made to the seats of Newcastle, Charlton, Shortland, Dobell and Robertson to bring them within the accepted PVP range.



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2.16 Newcastle PVP: 92,810; Charlton PVP: 94,273; Shortland PVP: 93,721;  
Dobell PVP: 93,506; Robertson PVP: 93,030.

**CENTRAL INLAND REGION**

3.1 This region describes the seats of Hunter, Calare, and Hume.

**Hunter**

3.2 The seat of Hunter remains largely unchanged in this proposal.

3.3 The northern boundary of the seat between Aberdeen and the existing boundary of the seat of Paterson is extended northward into the Upper Hunter LGA. This change puts the PVP just over the quota.

3.4 Hunter PVP: 93,872.

**Calare**

3.5 The seat of Calare is largely unchanged as its PVP is comfortably within the required range.

3.6 The only change is to extend the boundary of the seat in the north-eastern corner to match recent changes to the border of the City of Lithgow LGA. This brings the localities of Glen Alice and Bogee into Calare from the seat of Gwydir.

3.7 Calare PVP: 92,895.

**Hume**

3.8 Hume has been moved significantly to the east to accommodate PVP requirements. The proposed seat will retain the name Hume, as it still incorporates the centres of Bowral, Mittagong and Berrima along the Hume Highway.

3.9 The boundary in the north-east of Hume will be redrawn to take in almost the whole of the Camden LGA. This provides a strong population growth centre for the seat, as well as ensuring Hume maintains as much regional-rural area as possible, with strong community of interest ties along the Hume Highway and Southern Highlands.

3.10 The southern boundary will also be moved further south to incorporate Moss Vale and Sutton Forrest along the locality borders. These areas have a strong community of interest with Bowral and Mittagong.

3.11 Hume PVP: 93,285.

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**SYDNEY METROPOLITAN REGION**

- 4.1 The detail of this submission is focused on the formation of 25 non-metropolitan seats, especially the retention of the seven 'country' seats west of the Great Divide.
- 4.2 As expressed in 1.4, the 25 seats defined in this submission provides for a Sydney metropolitan based PVP of 2,247,059 which divides neatly into the remaining 24 seats required in this redistribution.
- 4.3 This area is defined to the north by the existing boundaries of the seats of Hunter and Robertson, and to the west by the existing boundary of Calare.
- 4.4 The southern boundaries of the metropolitan area are changed by this submission to accommodate the PVP needs of the seats border this area.
- 4.5 The boundary change to Hume, extending it into the Camden LGA, has necessitated a significant change to the seat of Macarthur.

**Macarthur**

- 4.6 Macarthur is proposed to encompass, almost entirely, the Campbelltown LGA, which singularly contains a PVP well within the required range. The proposed borders follow the Campbelltown LGA and the name Macarthur is retained.

4.7 Macarthur PVP: 92,438

**SOUTH-EASTERN COASTAL REGION**

- 5.1 The existing seats to the south of the Sydney metropolitan area and down the southern NSW coast present a problem in that their current and PVP figures are significantly below the required quota. The existing seats of Hughes, Cook, Cunningham, Throsby and Gilmore face this situation.

**Hughes, Cook, Cunningham & Throsby**

- 5.2 Local changes have been made to these seats to bring each seat within the required PVP range. These changes have been made along LGA and locality borders where possible.
- 5.3 The seat of Hughes is bounded in the west and north by the Georges River, so the only rational course of action to ensure it has the required PVP is to move into the neighbouring electorate of Cook.
- 5.4 This has a 'knock-on' effect with each seat moving into its neighbour seat: Cook into Cunningham; Cunningham into Throsby.

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**Gilmore**

- 5.5 The 'knock-on' effect described above sees the southern boundary of Throsby moved into the northern area of Gilmore as it currently exists. This means the shared Throsby-Gilmore boundary follows the northern Shoalhaven LGA border.
- 5.6 The remainder of the northern border is shared with the redrawn seat of Hume as proposed previously in this submission.
- 5.7 The western boundary will extend to the western border of the Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA to include Goulburn in Gilmore, providing it with a solid population centre.
- 5.8 Such a move has a strong historical precedent in that Goulburn was located in seats linked to the NSW south coast between 1934 and 1998. The most recent of these being Eden-Monaro between 1997 and 1984, and then with the declaration of Gilmore in 1984, within that seat until 1998. The 1988 NSW redistribution broke Goulburn's link to the coast.
- 5.9 The southern boundary of Gilmore follows the existing shared boundary with Eden-Monaro from the coast to the eastern border of the Palerang LGA, and then moves into Eden-Monaro to include Mongarlowe, Braidwood, Monga, Majors Creek, Araluen, Jinglemoney, Doughboy and Charleyong. This movement brings the proposed seat of Gilmore above the PVP quota.
- 5.10 Gilmore PVP: 94,320.

**Eden-Monaro**

- 5.11 Eden-Monaro is changed only by the modifications to Gilmore described above, and in the west of the electorate part of its boundary with the seat of Farrer will be pulled back to follow the Cooma-Monaro LGA border between Williamsdale and the Tumut LGA's eastern border.
- 5.12 Eden-Monaro was well above the PVP targets, and these changes have brought it to within the required range, allowing population numbers to be redistributed where needed in the coastal seats to its north.

**SOUTH-WESTERN INLAND REGION**

- 6.1 For the purpose of this submission this region covers the seats of Riverina and Farrer.

**Riverina**

- 6.2 The changes to the existing seat of Riverina in this submission will require the seat to be renamed. On the accompanying map the seat is still marked as Riverina to allow for a clear comparison of the changes proposed.

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- 6.3 The seat has been moved eastward into the existing seat of Hume, such that the current eastern boundary of Riverina will run through the centre of the new seat.
- 6.4 The new seat will centre on Wagga Wagga as its major population hub.
- 6.5 The western boundary follows the borders of the Wagga Wagga and Coolamon LGAs.
- 6.6 The northern boundary follows the existing southern boundary of Parkes along the northern borders of the Coolamon and Temora LGAs, then moves north into Parkes (as it currently stands) to include the Weddin LGA, and then follows the existing southern boundary of Calare.
- 6.7 The new eastern boundary for the seat follows the old border of the Upper Lachlan LGA (currently under revision according to the Geographic Names Board) and the existing border of the Goulburn Mulwaree LGA.
- 6.8 The southern boundary will follow the existing boundary of the seat of Farrer, save for the most eastern corner of the new seat which will be moved south to Bungendore.
- 6.9 These movements bring the new seat up to the PVP quota.
- 6.10 New seat (ex-Riverina) PVP: 93,814.

**Farrer**

- 6.12 Farrer retains much of its existing electorate boundaries.
- 6.13 The eastern boundary has been extended to the border of the Australian Capital Territory and to accommodate the change to Eden-Monaro boundary described previously.
- 6.14 The northern boundary is pushed up into the existing seat of Parkes to follow the northern borders of the Hay and Murrumbidgee LGAs where it currently follows their southern borders.
- 6.15 These changes bring Farrer within the required PVP range.
- 6.16 Farrer PVP: 92,897.

## New South Wales Federal Electoral Redistribution 2006

**NORTH-WESTERN INLAND REGION**

7.1 This region describes the seats of Parkes, Gwydir and New England. The proposed changes to Parkes and Gwydir are significant, with minor redrawing of the southern boundary of New England to bring each of these seats within the required PVP range.

**Parkes**

7.2 The southern boundary of Parkes follows the existing shared boundary with Farrer to the eastern border of the Balranald LGA, from which point it follows the northern borders of the Hay and Murrumbidgee LGAs until it again meets the existing shared border with Farrer.

7.3 This boundary change brings Carrathool, Griffith, Leeton and Narranderra LGAs into Parkes, with the eastern border Narranderra LGA forming a new boundary for Parkes with the redrawn and renamed existing seat of Riverina. Much of this territory is currently located in the existing seat of Riverina, and provides Parkes with the population centres of Griffith and Leeton.

7.4 The eastern boundary of Parkes will be redrawn to situate the Dubbo LGA within Gwydir, and along the eastern borders of the Narromine, Warren, Coonamble and Walgett LGAs. This also incorporates Brewarrina and Bourke LGAs into Parkes, bringing it well within the PVP range.

7.5 Parkes PVP: 93,188.

**Gwydir**

7.6 The major change to Gwydir is the inclusion of the Dubbo LGA in the proposed seat at the western boundary, which restores a much needed growth centre to the seat. The boundary change follows the Dubbo LGA western border.

7.7 There is a historical precedent for this change as Dubbo has been situated in Gwydir as recently 1976.

7.8 The western boundary has been moved eastward with the changes to the shared Parkes boundary detailed above.

7.9 The eastern boundary will follow the existing shared electorate boundary with New England to Werris Creek, and then continues due south (instead of east along the existing boundary) along locality/census collection district borders to the Upper Hunter LGA, and then west to the New England Highway which it follows south to the Muswellbrook LGA where it rejoins the existing Gwydir-Hunter shared electorate boundary.

7.10 These boundary changes include the centres of Scone and Aberdeen within Gwydir.

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7.11 Gwydir PVP: 92,721.

**New England**

7.12 The eastern boundary of New England is unchanged where it is shared with the seats of Page, Cowper and Lyne. This submission proposes to extend this boundary along the western border of Paterson into the Upper Hunter LGA.

7.13 The western boundary of New England is modified to accommodate the changes to the seat of Gwydir described above. The extension of this south-western boundary will bring Quirindi, Wallabadah, Braefield, Willow Tree, Murrurundi, Blandford, Timor, Ellerston, Moonan Flat, Moonan Brook and Woolooma into New England, bringing the proposed seat well into the PVP range.

7.14 New England PVP: 92,810.