



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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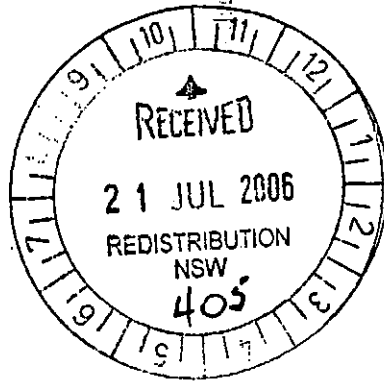
**Public Objection Number: 405**

**Name: Mr Robert J HYLTON-CUMMINS**

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Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Redistribution Committee for New South Wales  
PO Box 20014  
World Square NSW 2002

**RE: Elimination of seat of Gwydir as part of Electoral Boundaries Redistribution in NSW**

I am opposed to the currently proposed redistribution in NSW to do away with the seat of Gwydir.

Having looked at the AEC's website I note that redistributions are based largely on changes to population in each state. I believe that there is much more to representation than population alone.

It seems to me that representation is significantly affected when large areas have to be covered by the representative or constituents to allow them to converse with each other. Despite much improved means of communication such as telephone, email and so on real communication often comes down to the ability to meet face to face.

An electorate the size of the proposed Parkes electorate will significantly reduce the ability of people in that area to have their voices heard in parliament. This being the case they have lost part of their democratic right in our country.

I understand that there are some seats in metropolitan NSW that have lower populations than the required numbers.

It would appear to me that people in metropolitan areas have an unfair advantage in their ability to exercise their democratic rights to be heard in parliament. The much smaller physical size of metropolitan seats already means that constituents there can much more easily contact their representative by local phone call, public transport or a short drive than can their country counterparts. If anyone should have an advantage it should surely be those in areas of the state that are widely separated by distance.

The amount of time available to a representative of constituents in regional areas to actually represent his/her constituents compared with travelling time to reach them is vastly different to the time available for representatives of constituents in metropolitan seats.

It appears to me that this redistribution proposal has been made without due regard to the real matter of proper representation. To go ahead with a redistribution of this nature would be as much a gerrymander as we previously saw in other states in the past. I believe that the matter of redistribution needs to be looked at again with a view to modifying smaller city seats to include nearby country areas and expanding that process outwards across the state rather than the current unworkable proposal.

I urge you to re-consider this proposal and make changes that are more appropriate to all concerned.

Yours faithfully

Robert John Hylton-Cummins