



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 428

Name: Mr and Mrs B and I ATKINSON

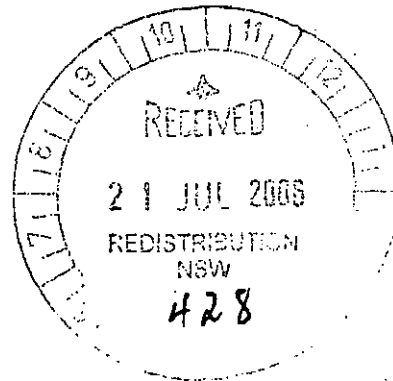
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Brian & Iris Atkinson

Australian

Electoral Officer
Redistribution Committee for NSW
A E C
PO Box 20014
World Square
Sydney 2002



17th July 2006

Dear Sir,

We are extremely concerned about the proposed changes to the electoral boundaries of Calare and the proposal to include Bathurst in the electorate of Macquarie. We believe that this proposal is flawed. There is a natural geographic divide between Bathurst and the Blue Mountains preventing common community interests whereas, communities west of the Great Divide share common interests and are served by local radio, television and newspapers. There is no "community of interest" with Bathurst and the Blue Mountains Residents.

The Central West is largely a self-contained region with people commuting daily from one centre to another, e.g. Bathurst to Orange, Blayney to Bathurst., Oberon to Bathurst etc., while few commute to Sydney or the mountains. Regular Cityrail services stop at Lithgow, so the Great Western Highway is the only strong link between Bathurst and the Blue Mountains electorate.

The proposed changes would fragment the natural cohesion shared by Central West communities who share common interests, objectives and concerns. Our local economy is largely based on rural productivity and allied business. Bathurst's heritage is inextricably linked to the land. Removing Bathurst from Calare would result in an uncomfortable fit, leading to a lack of identity and common motivation.

We strongly urge you to reconsider this plan and allow Bathurst to stay in Calare and continue to be associated with the Central West where it lies naturally.

Yours sincerely

Brian & Iris Atkinson