



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 502

Name: Mr Ron LOWDER

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MEMBER BCA (NSW)



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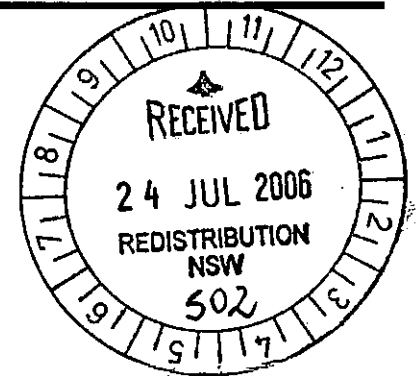
NARRABRI DEPOT

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18th July 2006

Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
Australian Electoral Commission (NSW)
PO Box 20014
World Square NSW 2002



To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to protest in the strongest possible terms the intention of the AEC to abolish the seat of Gwydir and merge the electorate into the seat of Parkes on the following grounds:

- It could be argued strongly that there is a case for the abolition of a Sydney Electorate. This would cause far less disruption and be much more equitable than abolishing the Gwydir electorate.
- The estimated growth rates provided by the Australian Electoral Commission do not predict Parkes or Gwydir to have the lowest rates of growth.
- The Australian Electoral Commission's proposal creates a new electorate of Parkes that would be almost 380,000 square kilometres in size, or 47 percent of NSW. That makes this electorate bigger than Japan and Germany and five and a half times the size of Tasmania.
- By creating such a huge electorate the proposal effectively reduces the voice of country people in the Federal Parliament.
- In Sydney people are often only 10 minutes at the most from their MP's office but in this newly proposed seat of Parkes people will have to drive hours and hours to see their MP.
- It seems that the legislative requirements for communities of interest and the size of the electorates to be considered in the redistribution process have been ignored.
- In the most recent NSW electoral redistribution the Commissioners were mindful of the huge size of the State seat of Murray-Darling and those Commissioners took the opportunity to reduce the size of that electorate. It is perplexing that in this current redistribution such a huge seat would be unnecessarily created.
- I support the retention of existing boundaries between coastal and inland divisions where possible, so that the Great Dividing Range continues to act as a sensible natural dividing line.



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- Criteria for setting Electoral Boundaries should not only be population based – consideration needs to be given to:
 - Contribution to GDP
 - Productivity and ‘export dollars’
 - Area of the Electorate and demographics
 - How do people in Wee Waa, for example, identify with Parkes 420kms away?
- The Gwydir Electorate is on the threshold of growth on the back of the emerging coal and gas industries in the Electorate.
- City based populations and the Eastern Seaboard are already over represented compared to the rest of the state.
- Many City Electorates are mere dormitories contributing little to GDP.
- Change would be ‘City Centric’ supporting centralisation rather than decentralisation → by providing services & opportunities in the bush we can reverse the population shift.

Yours sincerely

Ron Lowder.