

The Federal Redistribution 2006 NEW SOUTH WALES

Public Objection Number: 637

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To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>

"Anderson, John \(MP\)"

cc <John.Anderson.MP@aph.gov.au>, "Cobb, John \(MP\)"

<John.Cobb.MP@aph.gov.au>

bcc

Subject We oppose the Abolition of the Gwydir Electorate

Classification

Unclassified
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To the Australian Electoral Commission:

I would like to record my vehement **opposition** to the proposed amalgamation of the Gwydir and Parkes Federal Electorates and the resulting loss of a member of Parliament in country NSW.

As a Western Division landholder, Shire Councillor and candidate for the state seat of Murray Darling in the 2002 election (which encompassed 44% of NSW), I know all too well what a challenge it is--logistically--for one single individual to not only get around and reach the far flung constituents in the electorate, but also to efficiently and effectively serve their constituent's wide ranging needs. Our sitting members have done a marvellous job under these trying circumstances. However, making it possible does not make it right.

I hold a B.A in Political Science and have twenty years career experience in public administration. It is with this background that I would strongly contend that combining two electorates that are already larger than most foreign countries is a classic case study in disenfranchisement.

We must establish a new formula for rural representation that takes into account not only population but also the size of the area involved, the type and character of the industries located there, the number of local governments which exist, and the historical and current investment in infrastructure and social capital.

Please urgently reconsider your alternatives and help us maintain what little voice we have left in Western NSW. Look at the map. Come out and drive from Balranald to Moree or from Tibboburra to Gunnedah and you will soon understand why we need to keep both the seat of Parkes and the seat of Gwydir and their elected members.

Your serious consideration of this position will be appreciated.

Marsha M. Isbester Marigold Station Nymagee NSW 2831

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