



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 656

Name: THE NATIONALS – BROKEN HILL BRANCH

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NATIONALS

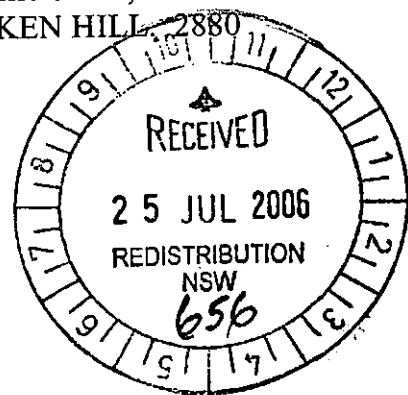
BROKEN HILL BRANCH

Chairman: Geoff O'Connor

Secretary: Leeann James
65 Burke Street,
BROKEN HILL 2880

17 July 2006

Redistribution Committee of NSW
P.O. Box 20014
World Square
SYDNEY. 2002



Dear Members

RE: THE REDISTRUBUTION OF THE FEDERAL ELECTORATE OF PARKES

We wish to strongly oppose and object to the changes to the boundary which will see the city of Broken Hill move from Parkes into the electorate of Farrer.

There are many reasons for our objections, the main one being that in arriving at the proposed changes, it seems that the committee has deviated from their prescribed criteria, i.e. The estimated growth rates provided by the Australian Electoral Commission do not predict Parkes or Gwydir to have the lowest rates of growth, and the social and economic ties.

Following are what we as a National Party Branch in Broken Hill see as flaws in the proposed changes.

- We strongly believe that if a seat had to be eliminated from NSW it should be a seat on the Eastern side of the Great Divide. Eliminating Gwydir and thus enlarging Parkes leaves the best part, if not all of the Western division with only one representative.*
- We wonder what importance you placed on the fact that Broken Hill is connected to Wentworth via the Silver City Highway. This may be so but Broken Hill is also connected to Tibooburra, Milparinka, and all the remote outback areas to the north (by the same highway). We stress that people from all these remote outback areas to the North, travel to Broken Hill for many reasons, for medical appointments, social events, school of the air events and their shopping. Broken Hill is their main town/city.*
- It seems absurd that Broken Hill, which gets its water supply from Menindee Lakes would be removed from the electorate and slotted in to another which draws its water from the Murray. Broken Hill would then be the only city in NSW being supplied by the Darling, not in the electorate of Parkes. Here in*

Broken Hill we have a stronger link to Menindee, for the obvious reason, water as well as social and economic. Broken Hill people have shacks at Menindee and a good portion of our fresh fruit and vegetables are transported in from Menindee.

- *Constituents in the inner Sydney area, can in many cases travel to their members office within 10-30 mins. This proposal would see people in the remote NSW area having to travel for hours to see their MP and days of travel for the MP to get around the electorate. It is absurd that the current member for Parkes could be landing in Broken Hill, hiring a car to get to the far flung areas of the electorate, and pass the member for Farrer at the airport as he/she flies in to see Broken Hill people.
With the price of fuel and the kilometres the Member for Farrer and the Member for Parkes would be expected to do, Members passing each other in their travels seems to be a ridiculous proposition coming from an ill conceived proposal.*
- *In the recent NSW redistribution the commissioners took the opportunity to reduce the size of Murray Darling. It therefore seems a bit odd that with this proposal Parkes is actually increasing in size, something that is worrying to the people in the electorate.*
- *Broken Hill has the Royal Flying Doctor Service at the airport which services the remote outback area. People travel to the city for RFDS meetings and fundraising events.*

We urge you to reconsider this proposal. It is logical that Broken Hill should remain in the Parkes Electorate. Broken Hill has more in common with the remote Far West area of NSW than Wentworth.

As stated people from the remote areas travel to Broken Hill for medical reasons, shopping, and social events. Broken Hill people also have links to Menindee, i.e. recreation, the same water problems, and economy.

We sincerely hope that when deciding on the final plan, the Commission will see the logic in leaving Broken Hill in Parks for the reasons mentioned, and retain the seat of Gwydir. The outback area would be disadvantaged with this proposal and the extra pressure on the Member for Parkes and Member for Farrer in getting to see their constituents would be enormous.

We understand the need to lose a NSW seat, but feel strongly that for the reasons mentioned it is not in the best interests of the people in the remote outback area or indeed the Members for Parkes and Farrer, to eliminate a "country" electorate like Gwydir.

Thank you for allowing us to lodge our objections and we await your final decision.

Yours etc

Leeann James.

Leeann James

Secretary of The Nationals – Broken Hill Branch