



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 657

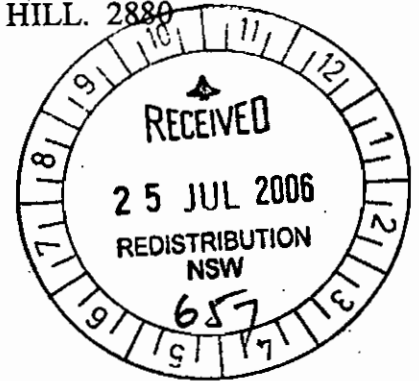
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17 July 2006

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



Dear Committee Members

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed boundary changes at the next federal election.

Broken Hill is considered the "centre" of the remote Far West area of N.S.W. The population of Tibooburra, Milparinka, Wilcannia, White Cliffs and Menindee, use Broken Hill for business, health, socialising, supply of goods and services. Broken Hill is the centre of regional tourism, houses the Royal Flying Doctor Base and the School of the Air both servicing the remote Far West.

To imply that there is a strong link between Wentworth and Broken Hill – in the form of the Silver City Highway – shows a lack of fundamental research into the remote Far West Region. There is no rail, bus or air transport to Wentworth and certainly no one in Broken Hill uses areas in the Electorate of Farrer where it is proposed Broken Hill will find itself. This same Silver City Highway services a strong link to the villages in the remote Far West that use Broken Hill as their Centre and although small villages, the population added together should be considered as a whole.

Broken Hill has a strong and important link with Central Darling Shire for it is within this shire that Broken Hill sources its water supply i.e. the Menindee Lakes/Darling River. Not being a river town, Broken Hill's water is "pumped" via a pipeline, 120 kms from Menindee. A much more important link than the Silver City Highway. The Electorate of Farrer sources its water supply from the Snowy Hydro and the Murray River.

The intention to "split" the Unincorporated Area of remote Far West NSW must not occur. This area, with no Local Government and probably National Parkes being the only government service, needs to be represented as a "whole" area along with the rest of the remote Far West. Although sparse in population these people need to be represented as a single area.

Following is an extract from the NSW Department of State and Regional Development's website, which should be considered when considering the remote Far West. *It states the region is well served with excellent medical, recreational and other community facilities based at Broken Hill.*

The majestic outback of NSW

i Fact Box

Population: 24,603
Area: 147,142 sq km

Major city: Broken Hill

INFRASTRUCTURE

The region is well served with excellent medical, recreational and other community facilities based at Broken Hill.

Transport

The transport infrastructure of this region includes:

- Broken Hill Airport
- highways from Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide
- a direct rail link to Sydney, Adelaide and Perth.

Major educational facilities

- School of the Air
- Western Institute of TAFE.

Graziers living north of Broken Hill own homes in Broken Hill, some purchased to educate their children in Broken Hill or for overnight accommodation because of huge distances travelled in this remote area, to carry out business, etc., in Broken Hill. In what electorate would these people register?

With the redistribution of Parkes and Farrer both M.P.s would need to travel to Broken Hill to service the remote Far West. The member for Parkes would need to fly into Broken Hill, and then hire a vehicle to service the small remote villages. This being less time consuming than travelling from other areas in the proposed redistribution. The member for Farrer would need to fly in to service Broken Hill, Silverton and a section of the Unincorporated Area. This would be a lot of "double handling" and a huge waste of Taxpayers money.

I have worked for 4 M.P.s in Broken Hill while they serviced these huge electorates. I worked for the Member for Riverina-Darling who lost his wife in a terrible accident in 1988, servicing a huge electorate, including the remote far west of N.S.W., on unsealed roads, that in wet weather are closed because they are so slippery, and in drought and often in summer, these roads are just "bull dust" or rocks and no water truck to wet them down.

Prior to this, the previous Member for Lyne lost his wife in a car accident while servicing the electorate.

I knew a State MLC who was spokesperson for a huge area who had a horrific accident, killing one person, because of the time of day, sun in the eyes and sheer exhaustion of driving long hours, on a road that needed attention.

The previous Member for Farrer and then Deputy Prime Minister had a horrific accident servicing his electorate which resulted in a married couple losing their lives.

These were all representing the National Party and servicing huge country seats.

These road conditions are no different today. These areas can only be serviced by road – the M.P.s charter would not anywhere near cover the cost.

I have worked for a M.P. who has driven from Canberra to Wilcannia, overnight, across poor roads that are covered with kangaroos and emus, in order to be at a promised function the next day. That's 10.5 hours after a day that had not been scheduled, sitting in Parliament. Many times one of the M.P.s has started off on these poor, kangaroo infested roads at 4 or 5 in the morning, or driven late into the evening after a full day or two in the Far West, to get back to Dubbo or to an appointment in the electorate.

Now it is intended to put more mileage on the Member for Parkes and the Member for Farrer, who already drive these roads to their limit. Is this a safe practice?

You have M.P.s in Sydney and the coast who can get from one side of their electorate to the other less than 1 hour, yet the members in the remote areas are expected to travel days, under poor conditions to make sure they represent their constituents. And these constituents deserve to be represented just as much or more than people who live in the eastern areas of N.S.W.

Country M.P.s are diminishing, yet it is from these regions that a great deal of produce and trade comes.

The areas of Gwydir, Farrer and Parkes are diverse and should be represented fairly.

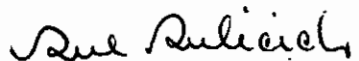
The people of Gwydir need to be represented by their own Member of Parliament, not put into another country seat that will cover 47% of N.S.W.

The electorate of Parkes as it stands, is already huge and time consuming to service. To expect the Member for Parkes to service the new proposed seat which is combined with Gwydir **is an accident ready to happen!**

In these days of Occupational Health and Safety regulations for all workforces, shouldn't this be taken into account also for Members of Parliaments servicing their electorates?

There are better ways to do this redistribution for the 2007 election.

Yours sincerely



Mrs. Suzanne Sulicich