



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



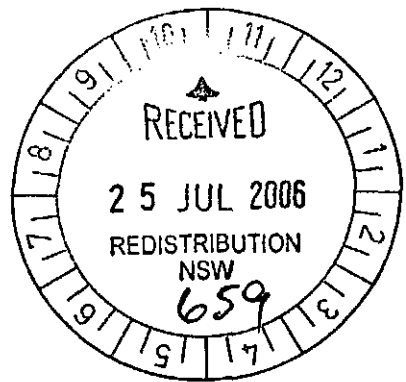
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**Public Objection Number: 659**

**Name: Mr Noel HICKS**

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Chairman  
Redistribution Committee of NSW.  
P.O. Box 20014  
Meads Square  
Sydney 2002.



Dear Sir/Madam,

I, a former Member of the Federal Electorate of Riverina, as Riverina-Darling I am writing to strongly protest at the elimination of the Electorate of Guyra and the enlargement and changes to the Electorates of Forbes and Ferrer.

When first elected to Riverina in 1980 I represented large proportions of both of the now proposed enlarged seats of Forbes & Ferrer and while I am aware that neither seat will be the largest in Australia it appears incongruous to me that rather than readjusting boundaries in the more densely populated areas towards Guyra and on the poor rural seats extending to become even larger to the detriment of isolated constituents as well as parliamentary members trying to serve those areas.

From my experience of serving a large electorate, even with the most up to date communication systems, the constituents feel ill-served.

During my term in the Parliament I visited many outlying areas by light aircraft limited by a budget which is still, probably, the case.

While constituents made you welcome they made it clear that they would prefer I to have my car over the road system they had to endure & that I knew first hand of its condition. As a result in one eleven year period I travelled over one million kilometres by car. This took an immense amount of time & not to mention the inherent danger of bad roads with the added hazard of native fauna and farm stock. As a parliamentarian often arriving at a destination I would be expected to be bright alert & wide alert. I would imagine the situation to not change.

One of the great inequities that should be balanced to what can be, is that in large rural seats the Member would rarely be home whereas in city and smaller electorates the member may be home most nights.

Review my submissions general in nature, as a former Mayor of Port Hill I believe its exclusion from much of the immediate surrounding area is undeniable given its importance as the centre of the region. There is very little community of interest for example between Brentwood and Port Hill.

There are many issues that I could raise that will no doubt be covered by others and I recognise the difficulty of providing for sparse populations. However I request that the Commission revisit their work and if the electorates cannot be made smaller then at least take into consideration the community of

interests of those areas when relocating  
the boundaries.

Thanking you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely

Bill Hicks

P.O. Box 706  
Chippewa 2680

20th July 2006