



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES

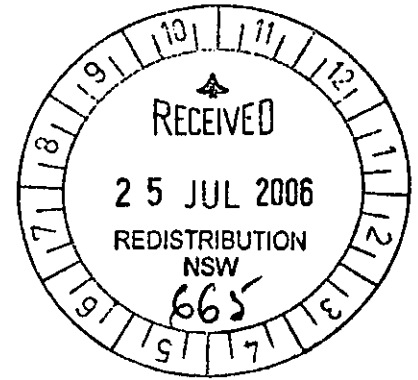


Public Objection Number: 665

Name: Mr Ian PALMER

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Ian Palmer
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17th July 2006

Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
PO Box 20014
World Square
NSW 2002

Re: Redistribution of Macquarie

Dear Commission Members

This letter is in opposition to the proposed changes to the boundaries for Macquarie.

The proposed changes will severely disrupt and disadvantage the community of interest established in this electorate. The proposed boundary changes will for the first time ignore the physical barrier created by the mountain range itself. This natural boundary creates an effective wall which divides radio and TV broadcasts into east and west of the range.

If the proposed changes go ahead the electorate will be split between country TV and radio stations. No one part of the electorate will be serviced by both city and country TV or radio local news and talk back.

How is a local member expected to service the community when the physical properties of the electorate would prohibit simply watching the local TV news for one half of the electorate or the other? Is there any other seat in Australia where the local member can't even watch the local TV news or listen to community talkback radio? If the local member is physically unable to stay in touch with something as basic as local radio or TV news for the electorate, how does the AEC see that the community of interest is being served?

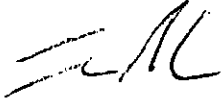
Radio stations and community talk back shows are very strong example of a community in action. Yet the proposed redistribution would force a local media blackout on one half of the electorate or the other and force the local member to be out of touch with half of the proposed "artificial" community.

Modern transport may have overcome the geological divide of the mountains, but to TV and radio it is as real today as ever before.

TV and Radio broadcasts are at the heart of any community. To physically block a local member from the ability to keep in touch with the community will disrupt and disadvantage the community of interest severely. Almost every aspect of community life in the Blue Mountains has links to the Greater Sydney area, not Western NSW.

The AEC needs to go back to the drawing board and ensure that Macquarie is not unduly disadvantaged by a geographically induced communications blackout.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'I. Palmer', written in a cursive style.

Ian Palmer