



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 679

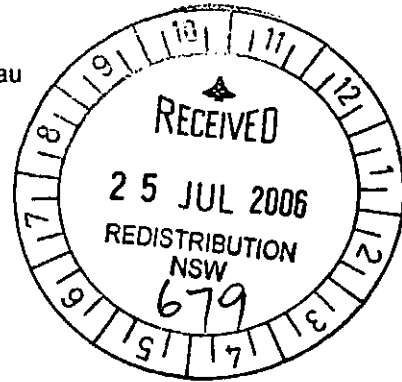
Name: Mr Malcolm MACKERRAS

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Malcolm Mackerras
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 25/07/2006 01:40 PM

To nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au
 cc
 bcc
 Subject Comment on proposals
 Classification Unclassified



Dear Members of the Committee

I have studied your proposals and I find very little about them to which I object. Indeed I have defended your proposals in radio broadcasts and in articles submitted to newspapers.

However, there are some minor things I have noticed to which I think I should draw your attention.

The first feature I have noticed is that the present Division of Riverina includes the whole of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. That, in my opinion, is sensible.

However, your proposal would have the effect of splitting the MIA. That would occur through the transfer of the Murrumbidgee local government area (including the town of Coleambally) from Riverina to Farrer. My suggestion is that the area in question should be restored to Riverina.

Only 1,549 electors are involved. If no other changes were made this would merely reduce the number of Farrer electors by 1,549.

However, I have another suggestion, namely to place the entire area known as "Unincorporated Far West" into Farrer. That would mean adding a further 387 electors to Farrer.

So I would reduce the number of Farrer electors by a net 1,162, reduce the number of Gwydir-Parkes electors by 387 and increase the number of Riverina electors by 1,549.

Finally I believe that the name "Parkes" should be eliminated and the name "Gwydir" should be retained.

My grounds are two-fold.

First, the number of electors from the old Gwydir exceeds the number from the old Parkes, both at present and as projected to May 2010.

Second, while both names are Federation names there is a difference. Gwydir is an original Federation Division and Parkes is not, or not in the same sense. The Parkes which went out of existence at the 1969 general election was a metropolitan seat. By contrast the Parkes which came back into existence at the 1984 general election is at the other end of New South Wales. Since Gwydir has continuously existed since Federation in broadly the same area it is clear that Gwydir is a Federation Division in a sense not the case with Parkes.

I found the defence of your name "Parkes" on page 27 of your report very unpersuasive.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Mackerras
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