



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 683

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To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>
cc
bcc
Subject Gwyder Redistribution

Classification Unclassified

Dear Sirs

Surely your decision to remove forever the seat of Gwyder and subsume it into Parkes has to be one of the most incredible, poorly considered decisions I have seen in my 45 years as a voter. My biggest problem is that I just can't understand the logic of it. I have lived a large part of my life in the Gwyder electorate, in both Gunnedah and Moree and I can only assume that the redistribution board has no member that has ever lived in, or visited, rural north western or western NSW!

My husband spent many years of his (and my!) life as a beef cattle advisor for the NSW government, covering an area that was essentially equal to Gwyder and New England, and I know how impossible, physically and effectively, it was for him to cover that area, let alone an electorate the size of a Gwyder and Parkes combined. How do you expect a person to effectively meet the needs and aspirations of his electorate voters and their children if he can't get around to meet them and hear of their personal, family, town and regional concerns and hopes.

I am told that the area of the new Parkes is bigger than Germany, or Japan, or Tasmania! Yet it is my understanding that there are seats around western Sydney, easy to cover because of their small size, that are every bit as marginal in voter numbers as these country electorates. Surely it is both sensible and practical to amalgamate in that area???

I passionately believe that your decision is a further erosion of the regional folk's representation in Parliament and has no reasonable argument to support it. I urge you to reconsider this ridiculous decision and come up with an alternative that doesn't disenfranchise the rural voter further. Folks living in remote areas, such as are regularly found in both Gwyder and Parkes, have enough difficulties in obtaining a fair representation as it is, simply through the problems of communication and long distance travel, without you making it virtually impossible through this puzzling and indefensible decision. Please reconsider and, for a change, let city dwellers feel the might of your decision-making!

Your sincerely

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