



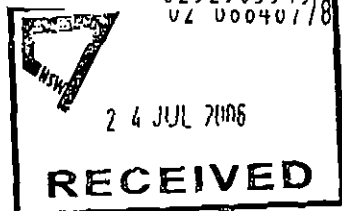
The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



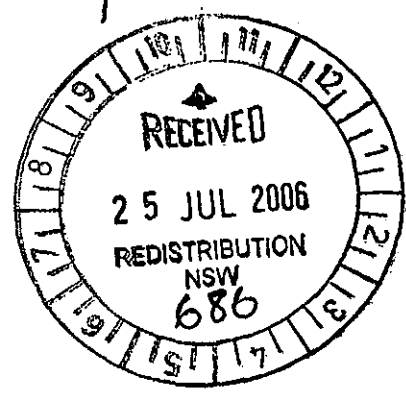
Public Objection Number: 686

Name: Councillor Richard MUTTON

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Id No C483/06



1 Waverley Drive
Dubbo 2830
20th July 2006

Australian Electoral Commissioner
PO Box 6172
Kingston ACT 2604

Colin Barry
cc - Christine Hamstead

Dear Sir

I wish to object to your proposal to abolish the seat of Gwydir as being completely unreasonable, not only to the electors of Gwydir but also to the electors to the proposed enlarged seat of Parkes.

Will you justify to me how you arrived at the figures that indicate such low rates of growth for both seats, Parkes and Gwydir?

Will you tell me how one member of parliament can cover an area the bigger than the size of Germany or Japan? I realise there is an electorate in Western Australia that appears to be bigger however most of it is unpopulated desert.

Increasing the size of the Parkes electorate reduces our voice in the Federal Parliament; do you see this as fair?

Why are you forcing country people to drive for hours to see their local member when it could only take someone in Sydney 10 minutes or less? Not all contact can be done via phone or email. I also note that some parts of the newly proposed electorate have no email and a very poor landline phone service. Mobile phones don't work in all parts of the electorate either. Satellite phones despite the subsidy are expensive and not as reliable as some would have us believe.

Why have you ignored the legislative requirements for communities of interest? The Great Dividing Range has always been the natural division between coast and inland so why change it?

Why have you not taken into consideration the size of the electorate in making this proposal? I understand this is a legislative requirement of the Act as well?

Are you aware that the NSW electoral commissioners recently reduced the size of the State Seat of Murray Darling because of its unmanageable size?

Finally, it appears to me that all political parties and independents are opposing this proposal which makes sense to me because there is no way any sensible person would nominate to take on such an impossible job. I await your reply.

Yours Sincerely

Richard Mutton

Councillor Richard Mutton Dubbo City Council.