Public Objection Number: 691

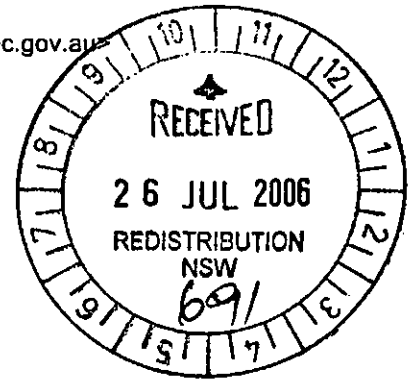Name: Mr Quentin M J SCHNEIDER

Page(s): 1

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To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject The Seat of Gwydir

Classification   ☒ Unclassified

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Dear Committee members,

RE: THE SEAT OF GWYDIR

We all know that NSW has to lose one electorate to Queensland in current redistributions. However it is not the eligible voters of Gwydir who have fled to Queensland! It is largely Metropolitan and coastal eligible voters who have moved there. Accordingly, in justice any "lost seat" should try to be in those regions where many eligible voters have moved to that State which may be gaining a seat in the redistribution. Whilst some eligible voters in Gwydir may certainly have relocated to metropolitan or coastal areas of NSW, there naturally may have to be some expansion of the electoral boundaries of Gwydir and other surrounding rural electorates, and perhaps the consequent geographical shrinking of some non-rural electorate boundaries, and with that the shrinking of one of those smaller geographical electorates to nothing.

It is far easier to determine how to 'lose' an electorate in a redistribution by 'shrinking' it out of existence, rather than ever expanding electorates having to get 'popped' or 'bursted' out of existence. The latter method simply escalates geographically enforced isolation from democratic representation. Such a scenario is certainly not what the AEC could ever have been established for. The elimination of the seat of Gwydir can all to easily end up appearing like an offence to the very principles of democratic representation for which the AEC stands.

Yours sincerely,

Quentin M J Schneider

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