



**The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES**



Public Objection Number: 692

Name: Mr Michael PAAG

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"Michael Paag"
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25/07/2006 05:27 PM

Please respond to
<mpaag@boroughmazars.com.au>

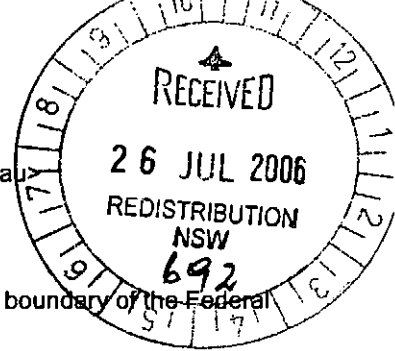
To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject Submission re changes to the boundary of the Federal Seat of Macquarie

Classification Unclassified



Dear Redistribution Committee,

Please find attached my submission in relation to the proposed plan to change the boundary of the Federal Seat of Macquarie to encompass the City of Bathurst and its surrounding agricultural areas.

Should you have any questions in relation to the attached submission then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Paag
28 Rodriguez Avenue
Blackheath NSW 2785

Telephone:
(w) 02 9920 7729
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Michael Paag
28 Rodriguez Avenue
Blackheath NSW 2785

25 July 2006

Redistribution Committee for NSW
PO Box 20014
World Square
NSW 2002

Dear Sir

Submission re change of boundary for the Federal Seat of Macquarie

I am writing to you in relation to the proposal to shift the boundary of the Federal Seat of Macquarie to encompass the city of Bathurst and its surrounding agricultural districts.

Combining the Blue Mountains and the city of Bathurst and its surrounding agricultural districts into one Federal Seat will not serve the interests of the residents of the Blue Mountains for a number of reasons.

My wife and I live in Blackheath and work in the city of Sydney. Each day we travel by train to work in the city. We either shop in the Blue Mountains or the fringe of the Sydney metropolitan area, namely the Windsor Richmond or Penrith Valley districts. All our business and affairs are conducted either in the Blue Mountains or the city or the fringe of the Sydney metropolitan area.

My parents live in Mt Victoria and my father travels to Sydney to work. They never travel to Bathurst.

The Blue Mountains is a world heritage area, the majority of its population either work in the Blue Mountains, mostly in tourism dependent small businesses, which depend on the natural heritage of the Blue Mountains, or commute to Sydney for work. Yet I know of no one who lives in the Blue Mountains and either works, shops or conducts their affairs in Bathurst. I know of numerous people who live in Lithgow and either work and or conduct their affairs in Sydney.

The Blue Mountains is a fringe area of Sydney. Unlike the city of Bathurst and surrounding agricultural areas, the Blue Mountains is mostly national park with small villages along the ridge that connects Sydney to Lithgow. Its economy depends on either tourism from Sydney or employment opportunities in Sydney for its residents.

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Nearly all Blue Mountains residents travel to Sydney for medical services that are not provided in the Blue Mountains. They don't travel to Bathurst or areas to the west of the Blue Mountains to access such medical services.

Electorate Office Location

What about the location of an electorate office? My parents don't have a car and use the train to visit the current member's office in Springwood. How will they be able to visit their member of parliament if his or her office was in Bathurst? Under the current standard of public transport it takes my parents at least 5 hours of travelling and waiting time to visit Bathurst. And this is assuming they can conduct their business at a time that fits in with the very restrictive train timetable.

The current arrangements whereby the Federal Member has an office in Springwood works well. However should the boundary be changed and the federal member decides to have an office in Bathurst then many Blue Mountains residents would be greatly disadvantaged, with some being forced to drive a 3½ to 4 hour round trip to get to Bathurst to visit their member of parliament.

What about those Blue Mountains residents who work in Sydney, how are they going to be able to visit their member? Under current arrangements we can make an appointment to visit the member at his Springwood office in the late afternoon. How are we suppose to see our member if he decides to have an office in Bathurst? When you go to visit your member you need privacy and confidentiality and convenience. So without an office in the Blue Mountains how are we supposed to visit our member to raise confidential and private issues? To take this away would be to downgrade the existing standard of representation and disadvantage many, in particular the elderly and those who work in Sydney which is not what Australian Democracy is supposed to be about.

Clearly the needs of the city of Bathurst and its surrounding agricultural areas differ greatly from those of the Blue Mountains. There are many different and conflicting needs and markedly different issues between the Blue Mountains and the city of Bathurst and its surrounding agricultural areas.

Therefore I believe once the issues I have highlighted above are considered the Redistribution Committee will maintain the existing boundaries for the Federal Seat of Macquarie.

My wife and I are more than willing to make an appearance before any hearing should the Committee require.

Michael Paag
28 Rodriguez Avenue
Blackheath NSW 2785

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Please do not hesitate to contact me on either 02 9930 7729 or 0423 596 240 should you wish to either discuss any aspect of the above or arrange for my wife and I to attend a Committee hearing.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Paag