



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 714

Name: COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION of NSW

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Country Women's Association of N.S.W.

*Incorporated in 1931 by an Act of NSW Parliament
Constituent Society of the Associated Country Women of the World*

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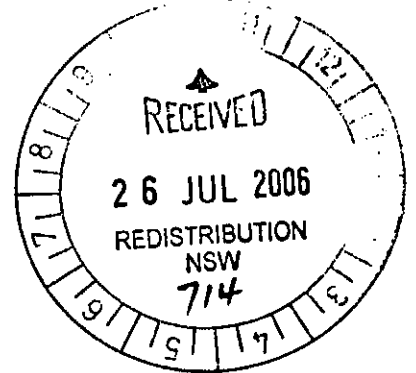
Address all communications to "THE GENERAL MANAGER"

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25 July 2006

P.O. BOX 15, POTTS POINT, N.S.W. 1335

Redistribution Committee for NSW
Australian Electoral Commission (NSW)
P.O. Box 20014
WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002



To whom it may Concern

The Country Women's Association of NSW would like to voice its concern over the proposal to abolish the rural seat of Gwydir.

It is stated that the Gwydir electorate is to be largely absorbed into the existing electorate of Parkes, creating a "mega seat" of approximately 380,000 square kilometres (47% of NSW).

It is extremely important that the Redistribution Committee reconsiders this proposal for a number of reasons, but most importantly because it will result in the loss of a rural seat, effectively reducing the voice of country people in Parliament. Other reasons include:

- It will be virtually impossible for even the most conscientious and dedicated Member to be available to their constituents and also maintain a powerful voice for rural concerns
- Individuals and community groups will find it extremely difficult to access their local Member to discuss their issues
- The total area of the proposed new electorate will be five and a half times the size of Tasmania
- In the most recent NSW electoral redistribution the Commissioners were mindful of the size of electorates, and took the opportunity to reduce the size of the State seat of Murray-Darling.

It is imperative that rural Australians be represented in Parliament in order for their issues to be heard. Any proposal to reduce this political voice must be avoided, and we ask that alternatives be considered.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Judy Richardson'.

Judy Richardson
State President