



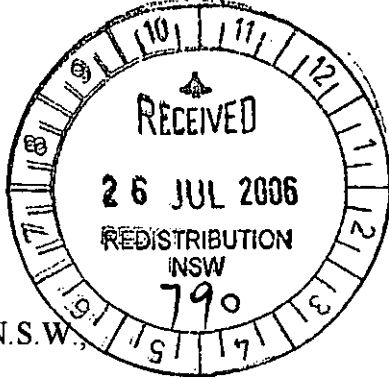
The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 790

Name: Mr P W CLARKE

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2 Henry Street,
GUNNEDAH.
24th July, 2006.

Redistribution Committee for N.S.W.,
P.O. Box 20014,
World Square. N.S.W., 2002

Sirs,

I wish to object in the strongest possible way to the current proposal for the redistribution of the Federal Electorates of N.S.W., and in particular to the proposal to eliminate the existing Federal seat of Gwydir and incorporate its area into the proposed seat of Parkes. I do so on the following bases:-

1. The elimination of the existing seat of Gwydir and the incorporation of its area into the proposed seat of Parkes creates an impossibly large seat in area. The proposed seat increases the area of the electorate from 185000 sq. kms. in Gwydir to 380000 sq. kms. in the proposed seat of Parkes. This will mean that the proposed seat will cover 47% of the area of the State of N.S.W., and will have just one (1) parliamentary representative. This is an impossibly large area for one representative to service. It also has the effect of reducing the representation of 47% of the country area of N.S.W. to one (1) parliamentary representative and it is essential for balanced national development that rural politicians have a strong voice in Parliament.
2. The existing seat of Gwydir has, unfortunately, experienced a reduction in population in recent years. However, this reduction has been turned around recently and the area has increased in population and will continue to increase in that aspect. The towns of Gunnedah and Boggabri have recently experienced the opening-up of significant coalmines and the proposed commencement of an ethanol plant will increase the population further. The towns of Narrabri and Moree are thriving and increase in population is established. This will mean that in a future redistribution based on the then population of the area, the quota for the proposed seat of Parkes will be increased to the extent that a further redistribution is required.
3. Gwydir has been a Federal seat since the formation of the first National Parliament in 1901. Its abolition will mean that a significant part of our heritage is lost. The great pity is that in a subsequent redistribution, the situation will have to be reversed, but the damage to our heritage will have been done.
4. The proposal is undemocratic in that it does not fit the criteria for redistributions. Such an enormous electorate which is proposed does not

give an elector a fair chance to access the parliamentary representative. Rural communities which have a community of interest should be kept in the same electorate. They should not be combined with other centres of population which do not have the same interests or are so far away from other centres that they cannot effectively experience one community of interest.

It is, therefore, essential that the seat of Gwydir be retained. If that means that the boundaries of that seat have to be re-drawn to achieve a quota and still retain a reasonable community of interest, so be it. But to eliminate the seat of Gwydir and incorporate it into the proposed huge seat of Parkes is not the answer.

I therefore request that the current proposal be re-examined and the matter rectified.

Yours faithfully,



P. W. Clarke.