



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 810

Name: ZONTA CLUB of GUNNEDAH

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INTERNATIONAL

Zonta Club Of Gunnedah

To: The Australian Electoral Commission

18th July, 2006

Dear Sirs,

The Zonta Club of Gunnedah resoundingly objects to the abolition of the Federal Seat of Gwydir. We are outraged by this proposal. We feel that the creation of a 'mega seat' covering 379,474 square kilometres will be impossible to adequately service for the local member and impossible for the constituents views to be adequately represented in the proposed seat of Parkes. Issues can vary over such a wide tract of land. We feel this will mean some views will not be represented or there will be a 'watering down' effect of views and issues partitioned by the constituents. The proposed widening of the Parkes electorate will mean it will be impossible for the elected member to carry ministerial responsibilities owing to the greater work load in their own electorate. We find this very disturbing and extremely disappointing.

The Gunnedah Zonta club objects to the merger of the seats of Gwydir and Parkes because it will drastically reduce the political voice and representation of rural women in the effected electorates.


We feel an alteration to a Sydney seat will be far less disruptive and will not result in consequential loss of representation than the proposed changes to the Gwydir electorate. Country People seek direct contact with their local member. They tend to present issues of concern actively and directly with their local member. This will be nearly impossible if the seats are merged, as the proposed new electorate will be 379,474 square kilometres. This is 47% of the state.

We feel the proposed changes are totally unfair and absurd and that a fairer redistribution system based on 1) Population demographics and 2) Communities of interest, must be sort.

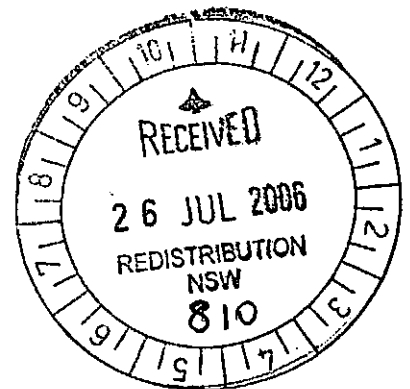
We cannot accept these changes and feel that to propose such a change highlight's a lack of understanding of the way the country areas operate.

We trust you will review this situation. We welcome you contacting us for more information.

Yours sincerely,


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