



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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**Public Objection Number: 828**

**Name: COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION of NSW  
ROWENA BRANCH**

**Page(s): 1**



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

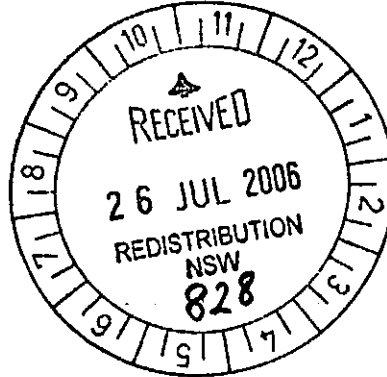
Incorporated in 1931 by an Act of NSW Parliament

All Communications to be addressed to the "Secretary" .....

Rowena

Branch/Group

ABN 82 318 909 926



"Wooloonoon"  
Rowena 2387  
Ph/Fax: 02 67965166  
21.7.06

Redistribution Committee for NSW  
PO Box 20014  
World Square 2002

Dear Sir/Madam

I write on behalf of the members of the Rowena Branch of CWA of NSW, regarding the proposed abolition of the Federal seat of Gwydir. Rowena is located in this seat & our members are very concerned at the planned abolition of it & the planned creation of the much enlarged seat of Parkes. We would like to protest in the strongest terms at this planned redistribution & especially the abolition of the seat of Gwydir, an electorate which has existed since Federation, a period of 105 years.

This planned redistribution, if it comes to fruition, will reduce the number of country representatives in the Federal Parliament and as a result, diminish the political voice of regional people. We, as rural Australians, have the right to proper political representation & if Gwydir is abolished & we become constituents of the seat of Parkes, we will not have that. Instead of having two MPs representing this area, we will only have one – why should we have to be the ones who have the strength of our vote reduced? The size of the proposed seat is massive, taking up 47% of the state of NSW. How could any one MP fairly represent the people of an electorate of that size? The task would be made even more difficult if the MP was a member of the Ministry & had even less time to devote to his constituents. The sheer distance across the proposed seat is huge & the logistics of trying to serve the people who live in such a huge area would be hard to imagine. Even if the MP was lucky enough to live anywhere near the middle of the proposed mega-seat, the distances required to be travelled would be very large.

The seat of Gwydir is not the only Federal seat in NSW which is under the population quota – it is one of 23. Why could not any of the other 22 seats have been earmarked for abolition? This redistribution just seems totally ridiculous – another example of a decision being made in Sydney which will impact severely on regional residents, without the decision-makers considering, or perhaps realising, the extent of that impact. If this proposed redistribution occurs, it will be very difficult to convince potential parliamentarians to nominate for election – who would want to take on such a mammoth job?

Our members urge your Committee to reconsider its decision to create the mega-seat of Parkes & abolish the seat of Gwydir.

Sincerely

Jocelyn Cameron  
Hon. Secretary, Rowena Branch of CWA