



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



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ASTRONOMY DIGITAL
DIGITAL COLLECTOR

21 July, 2006

Redistribution Committee for NSW,
PO Box 20014,
WORLD SQUARE, NSW, 2002

SUBMISSION - Re: Proposed abolition of the Federal seat of Gwydir in electoral re-distribution

Dear Sirs,

I was astounded to learn of the proposal to abolish the Federal seat of Gwydir with the majority to be absorbed into the 'mega-seat' of Parkes.

Undoubtedly, the commission will be inundated with objections to what I consider to be a decision typical of city-based bureaucrats with little or no understanding of what lies beyond the capital cities of this country. As many arguments can and will be raised against this proposal, I will remain brief and highlight just a few which I feel are glaringly obvious.

It has been documented that the new seat will cover 379,474 square kilometres, or 47 per cent of the State of New South Wales. This is an area that is bigger than Japan and Germany, nearly twice the size of Victoria and five and half times the size of Tasmania.

I had to have a chuckle when looking at the advertised map indicating 'the proposed boundaries in your local area'. From Coonabarabran, it is over 300 kilometres to the nearest northern boundary (Queensland, at Goondiwindi); it is over 800 kilometres to the western boundary (South Australia) and around 110 to the east; and around 500 to the south when drawing a line between Lake Cargelligo and Hillston.

'Local' in the bush is considered around 40-50 kms away; 'regional' up to about 200 kms away.

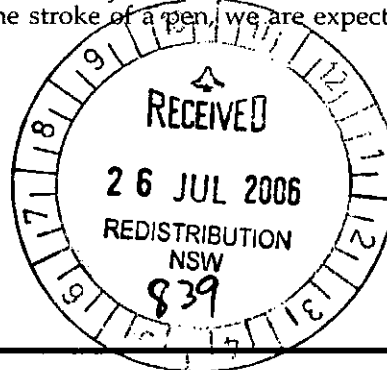
How can a Member of Parliament possibly be expected to represent an electorate of this size?

From the point of view of this newspaper, good contact has been possible with the current and previous Members for Gwydir. In relation to the current Member, John Anderson, he has remained easily contactable and willing to assist where necessary, and on his regular visits to our town calls in to catch up with not only us, but many business, government and private constituents. Obviously, this will not be possible for anyone representing the proposed large area, and thus be unable to keep fully informed of local issues of concern.

In conclusion, I must point out that in recent years our country towns have lost countless services in terms of health, policing, transport and more. Now, due to the stroke of a pen, we are expected to lose worthwhile representation on a Federal level, and wear that too.

Yours sincerely,

R. R. Duggan,
Managing Editor.



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