



**The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES**



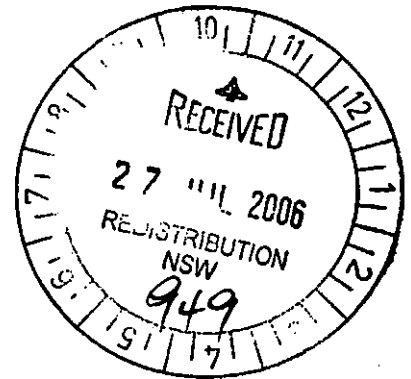
Public Objection Number: 949

Name: Mr Peter R Stark

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“Turon Valley”
4419 Sofala Road
Sofala. NSW. 2795.

The Presiding Member
Redistribution Committee for NSW
PO Box 20014
WORLD SQUARE. NSW. 2002.



26th July 2006.

Dear Sir,

NSW Redistribution

I wish to make the following comments on the proposed new boundaries for the NSW Federal divisions, particularly as they impact on the division in which I live, Calare.

Community of interest

Aside from the need for each electorate to be numerically similar, it seems that the proposed new electorates will totally ignore the other criteria set down in the Act.

There is a very slender “community of interest” between the Blue Mountains and the eastern part of Calare. The committee stated that “these regions shared communities of interest amongst each other and with the Blue Mountains centred on domestic & international tourism, national parks, wilderness and weekend recreational activities.” On this untested assertion rests the argument to gratuitously divide a cohesive local government area – Bathurst Regional Council LGA.

The national parks and wilderness serve to divide these disparate areas more than they unite them.

Such a unsubstantiated statement regarding tourism and recreation could equally apply between any parts of the state or the country for that matter.

Means of communication & travel

The main western rail line and the road links pass through the Blue Mountains to Bathurst and beyond. The fact that physical travel is possible to Sydney cannot be a reason for connecting the areas electorally – there are also road links to the north and south of Bathurst, but there is no argument to link Bathurst with Newcastle or Wollongong !

With rugged country and national parks lying between the west and the coastal fringe there are natural “funnels” of communication between east and west. Only one of these is through the Blue Mountains

Electronic communications in areas to the west of the Blue Mountains are of a lower standard than in the Blue Mountains owing mainly to the distances involved. Again,

the differences between the two areas underline the distinctiveness of each. An MP representing the proposed Macquarie area would have to deal with disparate sets of problems.

Physical features and area

The proposed Macquarie electorate will encompass vastly different physical features and resultant land uses. Agricultural areas in the Blue Mountains are almost non-existent, aside from orchards in the Bilpin area. The present area of Calare is predominantly agricultural with some industry, whilst the present Macquarie electorate is predominantly residential.

General

I question the committee's statement (Page 17, para 68) "*....that it must link the relative low and high growth areas of rural and coastal NSW.*"

Why? This is not a requirement of the Act and by using it as a criterion the purposes of the Act are subverted.

Generally I am opposed to the abolition of a country electorate, Gwydir, creating a huge increase in an already large electorate, Parkes. If the democratic ideal of having good representation is followed, then this will not be achieved – and will even be defeated – by the present proposal.

Paragraphs 73 & 74 on page 18 also draw my attention: I believe that the committee should continue to be "be reluctant to utilise these alternatives". Transport and communications corridors/linkages do not substitute for lack of community of interest!

With modern technology one can always "get there from here" – either physically or electronically. The means of communication are irrelevant.

I hope the committee will reconsider their recommendations and consider adjusting divisions within metropolitan Sydney where good representation will not be jeopardised by the redrawing of boundaries.

Yours sincerely,



Peter R Stark