



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



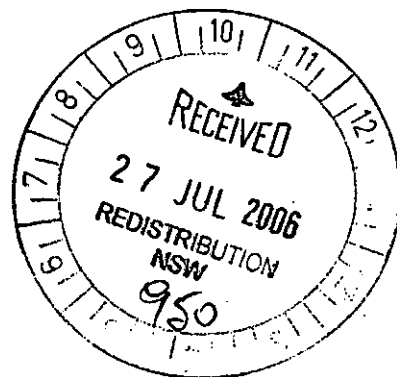
Public Objection Number: 950

Name: Ms Gretchen Sleeman

Page(s): 2

Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
Australian Electoral Commission
PO Box 20014
WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002

24th July, 2006



Dear Sirs,

As a long time resident of NSW, I write to voice my objection to the proposal to abolish the current Federal seat of Gwydir, which would amalgamate the majority of its present area into the already enormous Parliamentary seat of Parkes.

What is proposed is that one Parliamentary representative should be the people's voice in 47% of the state. How any person/committee purporting to have the best interests of the "people" in mind could contemplate such a situation is beyond belief! It is blatant unfairness in the mind of the most simplistic of observers.

Yet what is indicated by your Committee is exactly that!

Instead of adjusting the boundaries of a number of electorates to meet the parameters prescribed by the Redistribution regulations, a sweepingly simplistic decision has been announced, one that effectively disenfranchises the residents of nearly half the entire state of NSW.

Where in this proposal is any consideration of the potential future of the western area of the state?

Although your deliberations may meet the exact and rigidly defined requirements of the Act, what does the proposal indicate?

What it indicates to me, as an observer, is that the Redistribution Committee is very good at allowing the computer predictions of present population to draw lines on a map, and then the Committee gives the resulting pattern the stamp of approval.

Is that what you are paid for?

Why is there no consideration for any social responsibility to the potential future of the state? Is bureaucratic correctness the only standard that has to be met?

We have a situation where the fortunes of geographic areas outside the "precious" coastal regions actually could have a future, given the developments that are in the pipeline. This is despite the best efforts of government bureaucratic boffins based in metropolitan Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong, (NSW for the uninitiated), who have

amply demonstrated in the past that they do not have one single whit of understanding of the needs and potential of these areas.

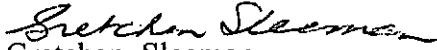
But instead of giving these areas a fighting chance, nearly half the state is now to be consigned to the care of one Federal Parliamentary representative, who is being asked to look after constituents resident in 19 NSW local government areas.

Is it possible that any sensible person can consider that this proposal will result in an equal and fair representation of the needs and aspirations of residents of the most populous state in the whole of Australia? I don't believe so.

Physical numbers are not the point here. What is important is that residents of this large physical area are entitled to a fair hearing as their share of the government of Australia. They should have a federal member who is reasonably accessible to hear their voices.

The current proposals deny this natural justice.

Yours truly,


Gretchen Sleeman

25 Benedict Ave
San Isidore
NSW 2650