



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



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**Public Objection Number: 975**

**Name: Mr B Gibson and Miss J Driessen**

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Redistribution Committee for NSW  
PO Box 20014  
World Square NSW 2002

Dear committee Members

**Submission opposing the abolition of the Federal seat of Gwydir**

We the undersigned are strongly oppose the AEC's plan to abolish the Federal seat of Gwydir as part of the latest redistribution of NSW Federal electorates. We do so for the following reasons :

- At 47% of the total area of NSW, the proposed new seat would be too big to allow a Member to equitably and fairly service his or her constituents, and/or serve in a Ministerial position.
- The proposal for the seat of Parkes to absorb most of the Gwydir electorate also means voters will be further removed from their local member. Voters would have to cross the equivalent of several European countries to see their federal member, yet in Sydney, constituents might have to travel one or two suburbs.
- The loss of Gwydir, a Federation seat, would reduce the number of country representatives in the Federal Parliament, thereby diminishing the political voice of regional Australians. It gives the bush just 28% of the State's voting power in Federal Parliament.
- The proposal is a reflection of the government's marginalisation of country Australia by reducing the voting capacity of country people. It would leave only six federal electoral divisions west of the Great Dividing Range.
- The proposal is wrongly based on population growths. The decline in rural areas is due to poor political representation which has a detrimental effect on farmers, the services provided to them and assistance to rural economies. The proposal should be based on equity of representation to help maintain population within rural Australia and prevent the drift away from the country to the city.
- The proposal ignores longstanding geographic and community interests provisions. It creates areas of culturally and economically diverse communities – clearly not in keeping the AEC's main considerations of ease of communications and travel between voters and their representatives, and to combine "communities of interest" within each seat.

It is vitally important that rural people have a strong voice in all levels of government. We need an electoral system which guarantees a certain percentage of representatives in country areas.

Yours sincerely,



Brad Gibson



Jane Driessen

