



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES

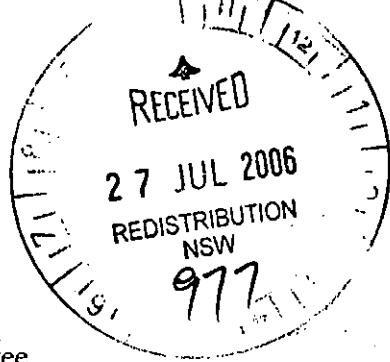


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**Public Objection Number: 977**

**Name: Mr Bruce Breckenridge**

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Bruce Breckenridge,  
Mt Ulamambri,  
Coonabarabran,  
NSW,  
26 Jul 2006.

Redistribution Committee,  
Australian Electoral Office,  
PO Box 20014,  
World Square,  
NSW 2002

Dear Committee,

I wish to object to the proposed dissolution of my Federal Electorate of Gwydir.

Your guide lines regarding population density governing electorate size are applied quite fairly I believe but as we are all aware the population in rural areas has generally declined due to mechanization of the cropping side of rural industry though if one looks at the age of farmers in general it shows an aging population. Though I have made the statement that country electorates are falling in numbers both Parkes and Gwydir have shown an increase of approximately 5,000 and 10,000 respectively since the last referendum. This is based on statistics gained from your website but my internet connections (no broadband) are so slow that I have difficulty gleaning information from the site.

We choose to live in the country electorates and we suffer deprivation of services compared to city electorates. We often have to travel great distances to seek specialist medical services, pregnant women are severely disadvantaged with only birthing and gynaecologist services being only available at regional centers. Conversely city electorates have more than adequate services in all areas and often redevelop areas of federation style housing areas into huge complexes that require the demolition of perfectly good sewage, water and electrical services to be replaced with larger pipes and wires to cater for the increased population. These redistributions affect country dwellers in both State and Federal badly as there is no real policy to decentralise. We see enormous amounts of our budgets being spent on urban transport and roads and the urban spread continues about our capital cities and along the coastal fringe.

Both Gwydir and Parkes are only about 169,000 and 269,000 square kilometers respectively and its difficult for any elected representative to cater to constituents. When one compares this to electorates of the city areas which start at 26 square kilometers and yet it would seem to be fair to you: to make Parkes larger and dissolve Gwydir. We need to increase population in country electorates and the solution offered by redistribution will not help. We need to encourage both industry and people into country areas and financial assistance is required; which could be solved by giving taxation zone allowances based on electoral area. This is not in your charter but it needs to be political decision.

Yours faithfully,

  
Bruce Breckenridge.

Copy: Hon J. Anderson MP

