

The Federal Redistribution 2006 NEW SOUTH WALES

Public Objection Number: 981

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Redistribution Committee for New South Wales Australian Electoral Commission (NSW) P.O. Box 20014 WORLD SQUARE NSW 2000

PENRITH

RE PROPOSED ABOLISHMENT OF THE NSW SEAT OF GWYDIR.

Dear Committee,

I am a resident of the Electorate of Gwydir and am alarmed and extremely disappointed at the proposed Abolishment and Redistribution of this seat being merged into the seat of Parkes. Parkes would become a completely unwieldy and unworkable seat for any Member to service effectively. I believe, we, the residents of Gwydir would be disfranchised.

The total area of the greatly enlarged new seat would be 379,474 square kilometres, which amounts to 47% of the State of NSW. The electorate would be bigger than both Japan and Germany, twice the size of Victoria and five and a half times the size of Tasmania.

By creating such a huge electorate the proposal effectively reduces the voice of country people in the Federal Parliament.

Surely two seats in a city such as Sydney could be merged into one with very little inconvenience to those residents, as their MP in these areas would still be readily available.

In the most recent NSW electoral redistribution, the Commissioners were mindful of the huge size of the State seat of Murray-Darling and those Commissioners took the opportunity to reduce the size of that Electorate. It is perplexing, that in this current redistribution such a huge seat would be unnecessarily created.

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I believe this is a matter that crosses party lines and is above politics, as the real issue is the lack of proper political representation for people living in the Electorate. This proposed outcome was not recommended by any of the parties and would ultimately result in the loss of a representative for rural Australia in the Federal Parliament.

Hopefully, you will note my comments and consider changing your recommendation to create such a huge Electorate.

Yours Sincerely.

(Mrs Fran Allen)

fran allen.