



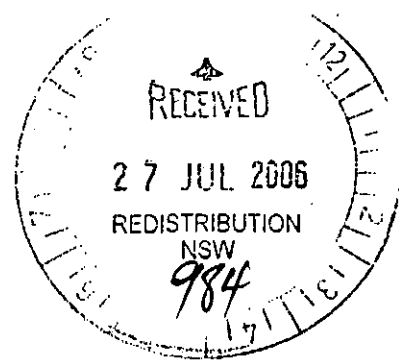
The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Objection Number: 984

Name: Southern Riverina Irrigators

Page(s): 1



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Incorporating:
Berriquin Irrigators' Central Council
Wakool Landholders' Assoc.
Deniboota Landholders' Assoc.
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2006 Federal Electoral Redistribution

SRI is a peak lobby organisation of five landholder associations, representing 1600 irrigators in the NSW Murray Valley.

Our organisation wishes to lodge my objection to the current redistribution proposal for NSW.

In particular, I wish to oppose the inclusion of Broken Hill in the Farrer Electorate and the lack of consideration to the increasing size of electorates west of the divide.

I understand it is a legislative requirement to consider size of electorate and communities of interest; this appears to have been overlooked.

The Farrer electorate in its current form has a distinct community of shared interests along the Murray River, Irrigation and farming communities with similar issues such as cross border anomalies. This is shown by local coalitions of local councils such as Murray Regional Organisation of Councils which formed to share resources in fighting for common issues

In Sydney people are often only 10 minutes at the most from their MP's office but in this newly proposed seat of Farrer people will have to drive hours and hours to see their MP.

By creating such a huge electorate with 13 shire councils the proposal effectively reduces the voice of country people in the Federal Parliament.

There is a case for the abolition of a Sydney Electorate which has lower growth rates (i.e. Wentworth). This would cause far less disruption and be much more equitable than abolishing the rural electorate of Gwydir and significantly enlarging the remaining seats west of the divide.

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.

Any queries contact SRI CEO Richard Hyett on 0428 842110