



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Comments on Public Objections – Comment No: 1

Name: Mr John CHERRY

Page(s): 8



"John Cherry"
<john@qff.org.au>
04/08/2006 11:49 AM

To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject Comment on NSW redistribtuion objections

Classification Unclassified

Please find attached my comments on the objections to the NSW redistribution. If you require any further information, please contact me on 0408066 105.

Regards,

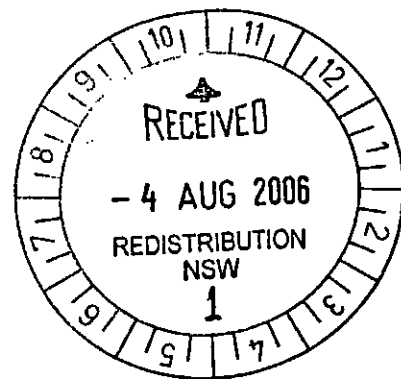
John Cherry



objection nsw.doc

3 August 2006

Mr John Cherry
PO Box 12009
Brisbane Q 4003



Secretary
NSW Redistribution Committee
PO Box 20014
World Square NSW 2002

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a comment on the 1989 objections raised to the Commission's proposals for redistribution of NSW electorates.

I am a former Senator, having served as a Democrats Senator for Queensland from 2001-5. I also acted as the party's adviser on electoral statistics from 1994 to 2001, and have monitored redistributions for some years.

Overall, I think the Committee should be commended on the proposals of what is always a difficult exercise. However, the Committee's proposals have generated a great deal of controversy, with the vast majority of submissions objecting to the abolition of the seat of Gwydir. In general terms, I think your approach is generally quite sensible. The issue of where to abolish a seat is always contentious. The Committee has made a judgement call that it should be a rural seat rather than an urban seat, and the Committee's argument is not unreasonable. After accounting for the transfer of Upper Hunter LGA back to Hunter, the seven 'western divisions' of New England, Gwydir, Parkes, Calare, Macquarie, Farrer and Riverina are 46,393 short of seven quotas in 2010, which would require major changes in Hume or Greenway/Lindsay to fix.

My suggestions cover seven adjoining rural seats, and eight metropolitan seats. No comment is offered on the other 34 electorate proposals, other than general support.

1. Rural NSW seats

Having decided that a regional seat should be abolished, I would suggest an alternative to the Committee's approach to achieving that. The abolition of Gwydir and the creation of a new seat of Parkes covering 47% of the state seems a very dramatic solution. The vast majority of objections are presented objecting to the abolition of Gwydir.

I would argue that it is line ball whether Parkes, Gwydir or Calare should have been abolished given the massive changes made to all three seats. On community of interest grounds, I would submit it would probably have made more sense to retain Gwydir and Parkes and abolish Calare. This would have involved less dramatic changes to Parkes and minimal or less dramatic changes to Riverina, Farrer, Eden-Monaro and Gilmore. This could have been achieved as follows:

GWYDIR

	2005	2010
Existing	81268	82525
Lose – Upper Hunter (Hunter)	9039	9322
Lose – Liverpool Plains (New England)	4023	3997
Lose – Bourke (Parkes)	1919	1997
Lose – Lithgow (Macquarie)	158	154
Gain – Dubbo (Parkes)	24376	26204
<i>Proposed</i>	90505	93105

PARKES

	2005	2010
Existing	80410	82811
Lose – Dubbo (Gwydir)	24376	26204
Lose – Carrathool (part) (Riverina)	1133	1188
Gain – Bourke (Gwydir)	1919	1997
Gain – Orange (Calare)	24047	25707
Gain – Carbonne (Calare)	8868	9351
Gain – Bathurst Reg. (Part) (Calare)	1355	1384
<i>Proposed</i>	91090	93858

RIVERINA

	2005	2010
Existing	87423	92196
Lose – Carrathool (part) (Parkes)	1133	1188
<i>Proposed</i>	88556	93384

FARRER

	2005	2010
Existing	84668	88740
Gain – Snowy River, Tumut (pt) (Eden-Monaro)	4120	4355
<i>Proposed</i>	88788	93095

EDEN MONARO

	2005	2010
Existing	92397	100916
Lose – Snowy River (Farrer)	4120	4355
Lose – Yass Valley (part) (Hume)	855	853
Lose – Palerang (part) (Hume)	2374	2533
<i>Proposed</i>	85048	94028

GILMORE

	2005	2010
Existing	87267	96055
Lose – Kiama (part) (Throsby)	5624	5866

Gain – Wingecarribee (part) (Hume)	2700	2900
-------------------------------------	------	------

HUME

	2005	2010
Existing	89537	97176
Lose – Wollondilly (Macarthur)	11773	13818
Lose – Wollondilly (Fowler)	3068	3317
Lose– Wingecarribee (part) (Gilmore)	2700	2900
Gain – Yass Valley (part) (Eden-Monaro)	855	853
Gain – Palerang (part) (Eden-Monaro)	2374	2533
Gain – Cowra (Calare)	8951	9492
Gain – Blayney (Calare)	4575	4893
Proposed	88751	94912

The advantages of this proposal over that of the Committee is as follows:

- It meets the concern of the majority of objectors about the abolition of the seat of Gwydir, with the proposed seats of Gwydir and Parkes considerably smaller in geographic area than that of Parkes as proposed by the Commission.
- It meets the concerns of the City of Broken Hill (objection 1724) amplified by the National Party branch of Broken Hill (objection 656), which argued its community of interest lay with the western-orientated seat of Parkes rather than the Albury-orientated seat of Farrer;
- It meets the concerns of Hay Shire (objection 4) and Murrumbidgee Shire (objection 1801) which argued that their community of interest lay more with Riverina than Farrer;
- It meets the concerns of Tumut shire (objection 1817) and the ALP (objection 1953) which argued that there was little or no community of interest between Tumut and the electorate of Eden-Monaro;
- It retains the current border between Eden-Monaro and Gilmore utilizing the Eurobadalla Shire border. This preserves the transport link between Queanbeyan and Bateman's Bay along the Kings Highway. Gilmore would take in more of the Southern Highlands towns of Berrima and Marulan to bring it up to quota. The inclusion of the Snowy River Shire in Farrer would bring that seat up to quota with minimal changes, recognizing the transport, economic and environmental links between the Snowy Mountains and the Murray Valley.

Significantly, while meeting the concerns of various objections and better meeting the community of interest criteria in section 66, this proposal would result in substantially fewer transfers of electors.

Across the eight rural electorates (including Calare) affected, the number of electors transferred in 2010 would fall from 228,240 under the Commission's proposals to 169,189 under these suggestions, with 59,051 electors able to stay in their current electorates.

2. Metropolitan seats

The Committee's strategy in metropolitan Sydney consists of feeding electors into the outer seats of Greenway in the west and Macarthur in the south from rural seats, and progressively distributing the electors into the under quota city seats. This involves major changes to many seats.

My concern is primarily with the seat of Parramatta. It is disappointing that the seat of Parramatta, a longstanding 'federation' seat, will see the Parramatta CBD spilt into the seats of Parramatta and Reid. This fundamentally fails the community of interest criteria of section 66, and should be avoided if possible as pointed out by the Parramatta Chamber of Commerce in their objection (objection 218). A better result will aim for minimal changes to Parramatta, with surplus voters from Greenway distributed more to Prospect than to Parramatta, and with the northern border of Parramatta to Mitchell continuing to respect the Parramatta City border. This leaves the City of Parramatta confined to three electorates rather than having a small part placed in a fourth (Mitchell). The seat of Reid, instead of extending north, would shed more of Parramatta and Holroyd to Parramatta (Granville and Merrylands North) would take in the rest of Holroyd from Prospect. Holroyd would be split between just two seats (Parramatta and Reid) rather than four (as proposed by the Commission), with the seat of Blaxland contained within Banks and Fairfield, and Prospect between Fairfield, Penrith and Blacktown. Blacktown would be split between three seats rather than four. The small transfer of the rest of Fairfield from Reid to Blaxland also establishes a strong border between the two seats, and reduces the seats into which Fairfield is split. The ALP's proposal to shift all of Strathfield back to Lowe makes sense on the same grounds in terms of respecting local authority boundaries as much as possible. Even in urban areas, people know what local authority they are in, and the boundaries do reflect important political communities of interest.

PARRAMATTA

	2005	2010
Existing	87077	91133
Lose - Parramatta (part) (Bennelong)	5535	5591
Gain- Parramatta (part) (Reid)	5600	5700
Gain - Holroyd (part) (Reid)	1400	1500
Proposed	88542	92742
<i>(border with Reid formed by Pitt Rd, Merrylands Road, John Street, Fifth Avenue, Duck River and the Western Freeway</i>		

BENNELONG

	2005	2010
Existing	85444	87031
Gain - Parramatta (part) (Parramatta)	5535	5591
Proposed	90979	92622

BEROWRA

	2005	2010
Existing	86586	91187
Lose – Hornsby (part) (Bradfield)	9982	11228
Gain – Baulkham Hills (part) (Mitchell)	12148	12513
Gain – Hornsby (part) (Mitchell)	739	738
Proposed	89491	93210

MITCHELL

	2005	2010
Existing	96276	108464
Lose – Baulkham Hills (part) (Berowra)	12148	12513
Lose – Hornsby (part) (Berowra)	739	738
Proposed	83389	95213

REID

	2005	2010
Existing	78811	85458
Lose - Fairfield (part) (Blaxland)	2074	2148
Lose- Parramatta (part) (Parramatta)	5600	5700
Lose – Holroyd (part) (Parramatta)	1400	1500
Gain - Holroyd (part) (Prospect)	14590	16884
Gain – Strathfield (part) (Lowe)	306	442
Proposed	84633	93436

BLAXLAND

	2005	2010
Existing	82590	86325
Lose – Bankstown (Banks)	16187	17244
Lose – Strathfield (Lowe)	2767	2861
Lose – Canterbury (Watson)	5851	5926
Gain - Fairfield (part) (Reid)	2074	2148
Gain – Strathfield (Lowe)	122	130
Gain – Fairfield (Fowler)	24982	25538
Gain – Fairfield (Prospect)	4800	5000
Proposed	89763	93110

(New border with Reid to follow northern border of Fairfield City, along rail line, and follow rail line into Prospect, along Hamilton Road and Cumberland Highway)

PROSPECT

	2005	2010
Existing	88117	93083
Lose – Fairfield (Fowler)	12667	12960
Lose – Fairfield (Blaxland)	4800	5000
Lose - Holroyd (part) (Reid)	14590	16884

Gain – Blacktown – South West (Chifley)	3170	3381
Gain – Blacktown –South East (Greenway)	31600	33000
Proposed	90830	94620

CHIFLEY

	2005	2010
Existing	84136	90186
Lose– Blacktown – South West (Prospect)	3170	3381
Lose – Penrith (Lindsay)	14781	15595
Lose – Blacktown North (Greenway)	487	532
Gain – Blacktown South East (Greenway)	8173	8558
Gain – Blacktown North (Greenway)	12808	13683
Proposed	86679	92919

These proposal result in local government areas being divided between fewer seats, and also in fewer transfers of electors.

The number of electors across the eight electorates falls from 136,465 under the Committee’s proposals to 119,851 under this submission, with 16,594 more electors staying in their existing electorates.

In terms of local authorities, the community of interest is improved by fewer splits of authorities between electorates.

Local Authority	Electorates under Commission proposal	Electorates under this submission
Parramatta	Parramatta Bennelong Reid Mitchell	Parramatta Bennelong Reid
Holroyd	Parramatta Reid Prospect Blaxland	Parramatta Reid
Blacktown	Greenway Chifley Prospect Parramatta	Greenwat Chifley Prospect
Fairfield	Fowler Prospect Blaxland	Fowler Prospect Blaxland

In summary, I submit that the Commission can meet most of the concerns expressed by objections to the redistribution in a way which improves community of interest

considerations (and hence better fits the criteria of section 66) and results in the transfer of fewer electors between divisions.

Please feel free to contact me on 0408 066 105 should you require any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Cherry', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

John Cherry