



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Comments on Public Objections – Comment No: 103

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Moree 2400

Redistribution Committee for NSW
PO Box 20014
World Square
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19 July, 2006

Dear Committee Members,

re; Objection to the abolition of the Federal electorate of Gwydir

As a constituent of the Federal electorate of Gwydir I strongly object to the abolition of this seat and the proposed boundary changes. The proposed seat of Parkes takes in 43% of NSW which is unworkable and unfair both for the people and the member of the electorate. Already rural voters are disadvantaged by distance and population density, we have little voice in Parliament now, without any further erosion of our representatives.

The distances involved in the new electorate of Parkes are huge, the roads in the many cases, are unsealed, rough and isolated. Thousands of kilometers of travel are involved. Accommodation is in the nearest large centre necessitating members to take days just to visit their constituents let alone understand the diverse range of issues involved. Contrast this with people living in the smaller electorates in urban areas with public transport and their member's office centrally located and easily accessed.

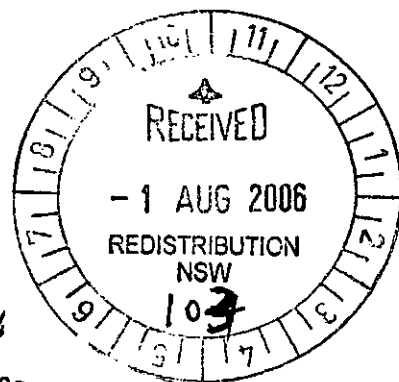
Tasmania which is 1/5th the size of the proposed new electorate of Parkes, is guaranteed five representatives in the federal Government. This means that the people of Tasmania's votes are worth 29% more than those of us in rural NSW. There is no equitable or practical representation in this for the people in the "super" seat of Parkes.

The issues facing people the North of the state around Moree are different from those at Parkes and completely different to those in the far west of the state. Everyone has the right to have timely access to their member and this proposal absolutely negates any possibility of that for the majority of the electorate.

I object strongly to the reduction of seats in the parliament for Rural NSW, for too long, population density has been used to erode the representation and voice of the people west of the divide and this has to stop. We deserve to have a realistic and practical sized electorate. Gwydir must be retained.

Yours truly,

L L Blackburn



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