



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Comments on Public Objections – Comment No: 24

Name: KNIGHTS of the SOUTHERN CROSS (NSW) Inc

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Friday, 28 July 2006

Objections to New South Wales Federal Electoral Redistribution Proposal
- Division of Gwydir

The Knights of the Southern Cross (NSW) Inc is a non-party political organization of Catholic Men living in all areas of NSW.

Representations have been received from affected members regarding the amalgamation (& loss of) the Division of Gwydir within the Division of Parkes.

Our members concerns centre on the following issues:

- maintaining the level of representation of country NSW and regional Australia in the Federal Parliament
- concerns that the seat will be so big as to make it very hard for any member to be readily available for constituents
- undermines the community of interest principle which is supposed to underpin electoral boundaries
- runs counter to the democratic right to effective representation
- fair and equal representation is reduced from an ideal to a mere numerical calculation

Charles Sturt University politics and history lecturer Dr Troy Whitford is reported to have noted: "the loss of a country seat was a blow for rural NSW. It's a real travesty for country people at a time when rural areas are already paranoid about lack of representation of the country and the sense of city-centric government that prevails in rural communities."

This opinion concurs with those expressed by our affected membership. We ask that another viable alternative be considered where the Division of Gwydir can be retained in some form.

Yours sincerely

Greg Briscoe-Hough
State Secretary - Knights of the Southern Cross (NSW) Inc

