



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



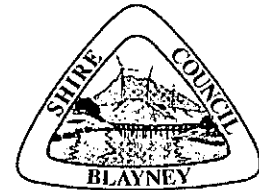
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**Comments on Public Objections – Comment No: 64**

**Name: Cr Ted WILSON, MAYOR  
of BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL**

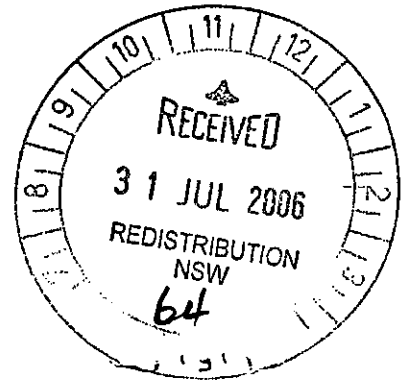
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# Blayney Shire Council



28<sup>th</sup> July 2006

The Secretary  
Redistribution Committee for NSW  
PO Box 20014  
WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002



Dear Sir/Madam

## **RE: NSW ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION 2006**

I write to strongly object to the dissolution of a rural seat and the significant changes to our existing federal seat of Calare, and provide the following reasons:

### **Abolition of Gwydir**

- The suggested elimination of the seat of Gwydir reduces country representation from NSW by one seat, when this could have been avoided by following the suggested boundary options.
- As proposed, the new boundaries for rural NSW seats have prematurely abolished one electorate when a more gradual approach to this eventual outcome should have been adopted over the next several redistributions.
- A long-established principle, retaining the names of federation seats, has been broken with the loss of Gwydir.

### **Lithgow, Oberon & part-Bathurst Regional LGAs to proposed Macquarie**

- The incorporation of the eastern half of the current Calare electorate into a redrawn Macquarie electorate defies any community of interest, apart from the Great Western Highway.
- Macquarie is an outer Sydney electorate, while the Lithgow-Bathurst region is a rural/regional area. Such a wedding of two geographically and socially incompatible areas defies the Electoral Commission's own stated provision over many years that the western escarpment of the Great Divide provides a natural barrier to any community of interest between the two areas.
- Apart from that another benchmark of 'community of interest', the local television and radio footprints, don't apply to the Blue Mountains portion of the new Macquarie boundaries.

### **Bathurst Regional LGA**

- Again, defying established guidelines the northern section of Bathurst Regional Council area has been crudely excised and retained within the new Calare boundaries.
- This has further emphasised the essentially artificial nature of the new Macquarie boundaries and their defiance of community of interest.

### **Proposed Calare**

- The proposed boundaries of the revised Calare electorate have also been forced to incorporate incompatible elements.
- The number of large and medium centres has gone from four (Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange, Cowra) to seven (Orange, Mudgee, Wellington, Parkes, Forbes, Cowra, Grenfell) making it difficult to provide the level of service to all towns and villages currently enjoyed by the constituents in the current seat.
- I doubt any electorate in the state or the Commonwealth would have as many major and minor population centres, which each require a minimum of two days a month visitation for any adequate representation.

Finally, I would urge the committee to hold a public inquiry in Bathurst so the concerns I have raised, along with those of community organisations and individuals, can be properly aired and scrutinised by a public that believes there is little real prospect of significant changes to the proposed boundaries.

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Once again, the rural sector will be disadvantaged by the redistribution of electoral boundaries with very little consultation with those that matter.

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Yours faithfully



Cr Ted Wilson  
**MAYOR**