



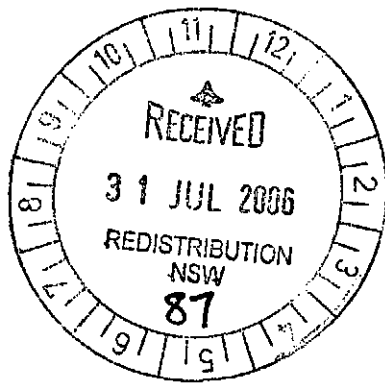
The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Comments on Public Objections – Comment No: 87

Name: Ms Sue PRICE

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PO Box 30
MUNGINDI NSW 2404
24/7/06

Redistribution Committee for NSW,
PO Box 20014
World Square NSW 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Amalgamation of Gwydir federal electorate

I refer to the abovementioned matter and wish to express my deep concerns over the proposed amalgamation of my current federal electorate, Gwydir, with others in NSW.

The Gwydir electorate has existed since federation and has long been an important rural electorate. It is one of the few purely rural electorates left. Rural areas have very distinct interests that need to be represented in Federal Parliament. The Gwydir area, in particular, has specific needs many of which are different to those of the other communities in the proposed amalgamation. How can an elected representative fairly represent the best interests of their constituents when their best interests differ in such a way?

The proposed amalgamation will mean that the total area of the electorate is 379,474 km². Expecting that a Member will have the time, resources and ability to cover this area adequately is absurd. Parliamentary Members need to be familiar with the issues in their local areas, however, the size of the proposed electorate will make this impossible. How can people who live such great distances apart and who rely on a wide range of services be expected to have the same concerns? They cannot.

In every electorate there is always the possibility that those on the edges or in smaller communities will miss out on having the opportunity to have their issues heard. Increasing the size of the electorate only makes larger edges and more minorities that will not be represented.

I accept the fact that due to populations changes NSW must lose a seat in the Federal Parliament, however, it would seem more appropriate to adjust an urban seat where at least the constituents reside in closer proximity and have similar concerns.

I hope that the concerns listed above, along with the others I am confident you have received are taken into consideration.

Yours Sincerely

Sue Price