



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



Public Suggestion Number: 10

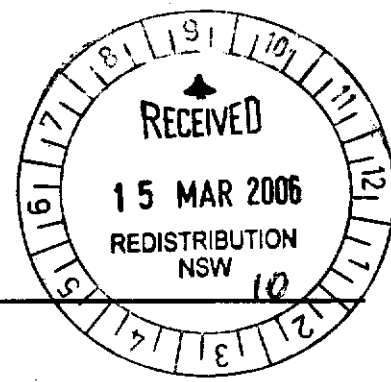
Name: HAY SHIRE COUNCIL

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Ref: G06/385

Contact: M Rutledge

7 March 2006

Australian Electoral Commissioner
Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
PO Box 20014
World Square NSW 2002

Dear Commissioner,

NSW Electoral Redistribution

Hay Shire Council would like to express its opinion on the proposal to reduce the current 50 electoral divisions in New South Wales to 49 and in particular the potential impact this has on the existing seat of Riverina.

In summary, the Council firmly opposes any move to do away with or substantially alter the current electoral division of Riverina.

The east-west configuration of the division, generally aligning with the catchment of the Murrumbidgee River, makes for a logical division of the state and provides for a solid community of interest for the residents of the region.

The communities of the Riverina have a strong focus on farming with irrigation farming using water sourced from the Murrumbidgee River of major importance.

It is the Murrumbidgee River that is the vital link pulling all the communities together and splitting the various towns and surrounding rural areas into two or more electoral division would destroy the robust and long-standing ties that give Riverina its cohesion and sense of purpose.

The local government councils of the electorate work well together and are members of two regional organisations, namely, the Riverina Regional Organisation of Councils (RIVROC) and the Riverina East Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC). These two organisations are loosely centred on the regional cities of Griffith and Wagga Wagga which are strategically placed to be the major service centres for the whole of the Riverina region.

I understand that the population of Riverina, based on 49 electoral divisions, is 0.26% lower than the average for NSW. I understand also that a number of electorates have a much larger deviation from the average figure and that some of these electorates are based in the metropolitan areas.

The small deviation in the Riverina population could be rectified by a minor movement of the eastern boundary slightly to the north to incorporate residents who already have an affinity with the Riverina.

Council feels very strongly that alterations to the electoral divisions should be accommodated wherever possible within the metropolitan areas. There are all too few seats representing the interests of rural people and to further diminish this representation would be disastrous.

Riverina works well and I respectfully request that no major alteration be made to it in any redistribution.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cr Michael Rutledge', written in a cursive style.

Cr Michael Rutledge
Mayor