



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



**Public Suggestion Number: 19**

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**Page(s): 3**



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To <nsw.redistribution@aec.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject NSW Federal boundaries etc

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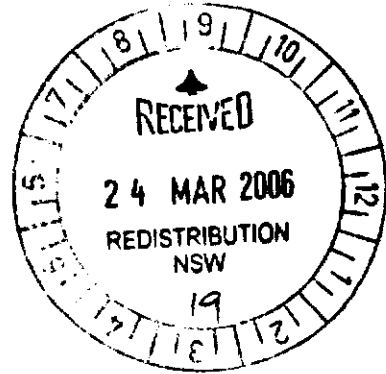
To Marie Nelson et alia,

Please find attached letter which I will also fax.

Thankyou, Peter Thyer.



Electoral Boundaries and ideas March 2006 Peter Thyer.doc



23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006

The Australian Electoral Officer for NSW  
Australian Electoral Commission  
PO Box 200014  
World Square NSW 2002

Dear Sir

**Re: ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES AND ELECTIONS**

Please consider the following suggestions:

1. **ELECTORATE BOUNDARIES TO MATCH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS** Adjust Federal electorate boundaries to coincide with a Local Government Area or group of areas, and fully include one or more Local Government Areas. This will give communities more direct representation in Federal Government. The number of members of parliament should stay the same or be reduced as a result of matching boundaries to Local Government Areas.
2. **ONE PERSON ONE VOTE – ELECTORATE WEIGHTING TO MATCH POPULATION** Introduce technology such as electronic voting in the House of Representatives of Federal Parliament to allow weighting of member's votes to reflect population of the electorate. This avoids the need to adjust boundaries to keep electorates roughly equal in population. Large population changes may eventually require a split of the electorate.
3. **FOUR YEAR TERMS** By referendum change the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia to require Federal elections to be held at four (4) year intervals.

Make the date of elections a fixed date eg on the 2nd Saturday of June of the year prior to the Olympic games (unless exceptional circumstances require otherwise). This would mean elections in 2007, 2011, 2015, etc. The date in June should avoid conflict with holidays and sporting and cultural events, and is likely to establish a seven-week political campaign period from ANZAC Day to the election.

Government terms would then match financial years more closely and allow better assessment of government performance.

Four year terms may reduce long-term election costs by approximately 20%.

4. **CANDIDATE TO BE RESIDENT OF ELECTORATE** Introduce rules that candidates must have lived in the electorate for a minimum of two (2) years prior to the election day, so they have knowledge of the electorate and can be known by the electorate. If elected (other than Ministers) they must remain living within the electorate for the whole of their term of office.
5. **CANDIDATE INFORMATION** In addition to current requirements, candidates shall be required to lodge the following information with the Electoral office for public display at least one week before the election:

Top five policies (Core Promises)

Policy details in categories set by the Electoral Commission

Membership of any political parties

The amount and source of known and expected funding for election campaign.

6. **REFERENDUMS, PLEBISCITES & COMMENTS** Election day should be an opportunity for all people to make their opinions known to the government, not limited to election of a representative. Referendums and plebiscites should be held on election days and not at other times if it can be avoided. Give electors the opportunity to list and briefly describe up to five issues that they would like parliament to act on. This could be done on a formal paper separate from the poll sheet.

At each Federal election have a separate form for electors to submit issues for consideration by parliament.

At each Federal election have a separate form for non-electors (such as school students, those ineligible to vote and non-citizens) to submit issues for consideration by parliament?

7. **FORMAL VOTES** On ballot sheets with a choice to vote 'below the line' numbering at least 1 to 10 should be a formal vote. On all ballot sheets, any mark or numbering that indicates a single choice or any number of prioritised choices should be a formal vote.
8. **BALLOT PAPERS** In order to reduce 'donkey votes', Ballot papers should be printed with each of the names in an equal segment of a circle, with no obvious top edge.
9. **MINISTERS FREE OF LOCAL REPRESENTATION** When elected members of Parliament are made Ministers or members of the Federal Executive Council (up to a maximum of 10 persons), they shall cease their normal representation, and the candidate who came second to them shall be elected to fill that place. Ministers and Council members should hold their position for the term of the Government.
10. **NUMBER OF SENATORS PER STATE** Amend the Constitution Part 2. –The Senate, section 7. regarding composition and numbers in the senate, to make the number of Senate Representatives from each state to be in proportion to the population of each state, but to be a minimum of three (3) Senators.
11. **TOTAL NUMBER OF SENATORS** Amend the Constitution Part 2. –The Senate, section 7. to reduce the total number of federal senators to no more than one-third the total number of federal House of Representative members.
12. **ABORIGINAL REPRESENTATION IN THE SENATE** Amend the Constitution Part 2. –The Senate, section 7. to require at least one (1) member of the senate from each state to be an Aboriginal Australian whose people originally lived in that state.

Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions,

Peter Thyer.