



The Federal Redistribution 2006
NEW SOUTH WALES



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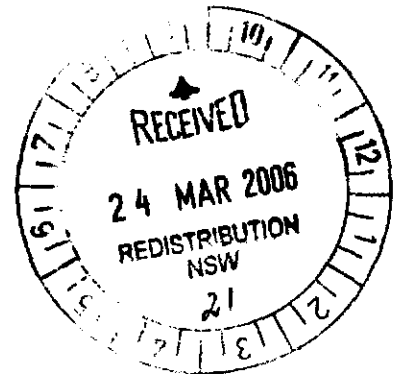
Please find attached a submission on behalf of the Riverina Electorate Council.

Dr. Troy Whitford
REC Chairman
Wagga Wagga Branch Chairman

THE NATIONALS



AEC submission.pdf



THE NATIONALS

17th March 2006

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

Submission on the redistribution of federal electorate boundaries in New South Wales

I write this submission on behalf of the Riverina Electorate Council (REC) of the NSW National Party. The REC advocates the Riverina electorate boundary remain in its current configuration but extend to incorporate the towns and surroundings of Young, Harden, and Wee Jasper. Those areas are currently in the Hume electorate boundary. However, the REC argues on the grounds of community interest that those townships and surroundings are economically, socially and culturally linked to the Riverina. Furthermore, Commonwealth institutions and bureaucracies already consider Young and Harden has part of the Riverina region and provide services from the region's "hub" Wagga Wagga – one of the regional cities which is located in the current Riverina electorate boundary.

The towns of Young and Harden are situated on the far west of the Hume electorate boundary and back onto the Riverina electorate boundary. Harden, Young and surrounding areas have clear economic links with the Riverina. There are obvious similarities in kinds of industries situated in the Riverina and those in Young and Harden. Both areas have a strong tie to agricultural production and related industries. In addition to similarities in economies, there has been a deliberate shift by Harden and Young to take part in Riverina based economic development initiatives. Both Harden and Young local governments are members of the Riverina Area Consultative Committee (RACC), a body supported by Commonwealth and State governments. The RACC works to foster economic development and partnerships throughout the Riverina region.

Culturally, Young and Harden are also aligned within the Riverina. Both are members of the Eastern Riverina Arts Program which has its central office in Wagga Wagga and is supported by the NSW Ministry of the Arts. On a sporting note, teams from Harden and Young are often included in Riverina run competitions.

In terms of social services and education delivery, Harden and Young are also included as part of the Riverina region. Riverina TAFE which has a campus in Young has its main campus and administrative facilities in Wagga Wagga. The Wagga Wagga Centrelink office visits Young with specialised staff for client interviews and services. In many instances, clients from Harden are required to travel to Wagga Wagga for particular social services.

This submission has presented only a few of the ways Harden, Young and surrounding areas are already integrated within the Riverina. Overtime, these social, economic and administrative links between Young, Harden and the Riverina will strengthen. Through incorporating Young, Harden and surrounding areas people will have access to a Federal parliamentary representative that not only presides over where they live but also over the same area they conduct their economic, social and cultural activities.

Dr Troy Whitford
Chairman
Riverina Electorate Council – NSW Nationals