

COMMENT ON PUBLIC SUGGESTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



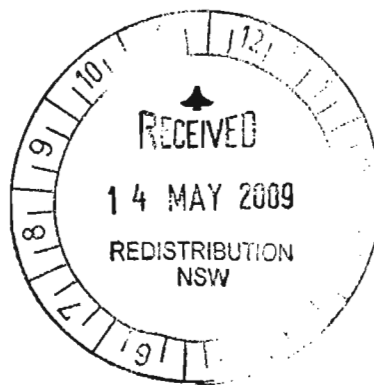
Comment on Public Suggestion Number 8

by

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1 Pages

Redistribution Committee for NSW
PO Box K406
HAYMARKET NSW 1240



Malonga Park
Rankins Springs
NSW 2669

14th May 2009

Dear Committee,

We would like to formally comment on and support the submissions for the retention of the seat of Riverina in the proposed Federal redistribution of NSW seats.

Regional NSW has been severely affected by the ongoing drought and nowhere more so in recent years than the electorate of Riverina. Due to this drought there has been an exodus of young people and families from our area as others in the Riverina, seeking other employment while waiting for conditions to improve.

The future of agriculture is dependent on these young ones returning once conditions improve thus once again increasing the rural population in our electorate. In fact our nation is still reliant on agriculture for export earnings. The downturn in agricultural earnings has had a marked effect with little grain available to sell to overseas markets.

This should be taken into consideration when looking at the size of electorates throughout our nation and in particular in drought affected NSW.

City electorates have access to public transport, broadband communications at an affordable price, mobile coverage throughout or cheap local calls. These luxuries are not available to local members in rural electorates who travel long distances, often late at night after attending meetings in small towns, hours from their home or Canberra.

To suggest that any rural electorate can be increased in size is ludicrous. Already local members are stretched with the distances they travel in not only meeting with their constituents to hear of their concerns but also representing the government at official functions.

Riverina has been very fortunate in having such a dedicated local member in Kay Hull. She is genuinely interested and concerned for members of her electorate and has always strived to represent their interests, even at times voting against her own party on crucial issues that concern her electorate.

It is essential that the area covered by the 15 regional electorates is not increased by the abolition of one seat.

Combining surrounding metropolitan electorates would not have the severe impact that will occur if a rural seat is abolished.

We trust that these comments will be taken into consideration in support of the retention of the seat of Riverina .

Yours sincerely,
Peter and Barbara Luelf