

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 216

by

Michael Ball

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The Australian Electoral Commission
PO Box K406
HAYMARKET NSW 1240



Dear Sir/Madam,

The purpose of this letter is to voice my opposition to the proposed federal boundaries for New South Wales, particularly the splitting of the Wingecarribee Local Government Area (LGA) between the rural seat of Hume and urban Illawarra seat of Throsby.

Transferring parts of the Wingecarribee LGA into the same seat with the outer suburbs of Wollongong will only water down the voice of rural residents in parliament. As a resident of the Wingecarribee LGA, I believe it is essential that our interests are not diluted by those of outer suburban areas of Wollongong.

The Wingecarribee and Shoalhaven LGAs share a number of economic, regional and social interests. I believe that the Wingecarribee LGA also has a similar pattern of development to the Shoalhaven LGA, based on towns and villages in a rural setting.

A number of towns in the Wingecarribee LGA fell within the Division of Gilmore until the 2006 NSW redistribution. Surely, the Division of Throsby could extend further south, taking in the rest of the Shellharbour LGA and part of the Kiama LGA. This would mean that the areas of Wingecarribee, which the Redistribution Committee proposed be transferred into Throsby, could instead be moved back to the Division of Gilmore, with the Shoalhaven LGA.

Bringing these areas together in the Division of Gilmore would mean those interests, common to both communities, are directly represented in the parliament.

The Electoral Commission's consideration of this matter is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

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