

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 256

by

Mr John R Katon

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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 transferring the Kiama and Shellharbour Local Government Areas (LGAs) into a seat with the Shoalhaven LGA.

Proposing a seat that includes the Shoalhaven LGA and urban southern suburbs of Wollongong will only take away the regional voice and representation of the Shoalhaven area. As a resident of the Shoalhaven LGA, I believe it is essential that our interests are not diluted by those of southern suburban areas of Wollongong.

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

Bringing the Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee LGAs together in the Division of Gilmore would mean the interests, common to our rural communities, are directly represented in the parliament.

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.

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

Yours sincerely

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