

# **PUBLIC SUGGESTION**

The Federal Redistribution 2009  
NSW



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**Public Suggestion Number 25**

**by**

**Sister Mary O'Dea**

**2 Pages**



St. Joseph's Convent

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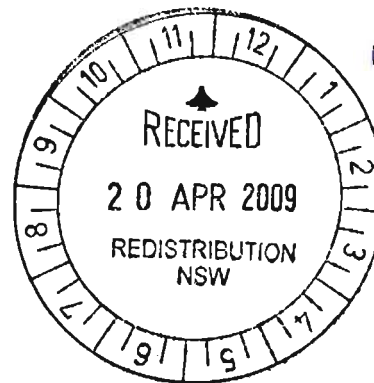
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14th April, 2009.

The Australian Electoral Commission  
P.O. Box K406  
HAYMARKET NSW 2000



The Chairperson

re: THREATENED ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION

Rural and country areas throughout Australia have, over many years, suffered the loss of numerous essential services, professional people and skilled workers in all trades. Whole families and young adults have had to leave their farms and home towns to gain access to employment and higher educational opportunities. People feel they are being penalised for their choice of country life, and the long years of drought have worsened their situation even further.

It now seems that the very existence of the Riverina Electorate is being threatened. Loss of the Riverina Electorate would be devastating. Constituents in any and every electorate need reasonable access to their political representatives. This is particularly so in country electorates where distance is always a major issue for both representatives and constituents.

Metropolitan NSW is very well served with 34 electorates. This being the case, it seems to me more plausible and appropriate, that the electorate to be redistributed to Queensland be one of the 34. Loss of the Riverina Electorate and hence the legitimately elected representative, would result in yet another blow for rural people and families, who are already struggling to survive.

I urge very serious and just consideration in this matter of electoral distribution.

Yours faithfully,

*Mary J. O'Dea*

Sister Mary O'Dea, RSJ.