

PUBLIC SUGGESTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



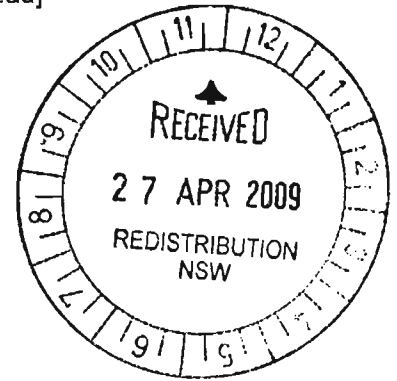
Public Suggestion Number 54

by

Graham F Gorrel

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SUBMISSION TO NEW ELECTORAL FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTIOIN

From: Graham F. Gorrel,
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This submission will be brief and to the point. I find it strange that NSW must lose a seat in the House of Representatives because Queensland needs an extra one. Nothing wrong with that, if the state, any state for that matter, needs democratic representation with community of interest.

Surely the essence of distribution is to ensure each electorate enjoys good governance, that there is a community of interest and that, especially, in rural and regional areas quotas are useless if an MP cannot adequately service his or her electorate in terms of distance and time.

In a true democracy, there should be more seats rather than less, irrespective of a state like Queensland which is growing. Rather than penalise rural and regional areas what needs to be done, if the Commission absolutely legally must base their recommendations on quotas is that metropolitan seats ought to be examined to remove one of them and slightly enlarge all the others in the Sydney basin. Metropolitan MPs have no where near the time and distance requirements made on them to represent an electorate.

Therefore, my recommendation is to leave regional and rural electorates alone.

A further recommendation ought to ask the Federal Parliament to look at increasing seats in the House of Representatives in each state to ensure regional seats get better representation. If that means more but smaller populated seats so be it. Most states with the possible exception of South Australia could currently do with at least 1-2 more regional and rural seats.

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