PUBLIC SUGGESTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW

Public Suggestion Number **61**
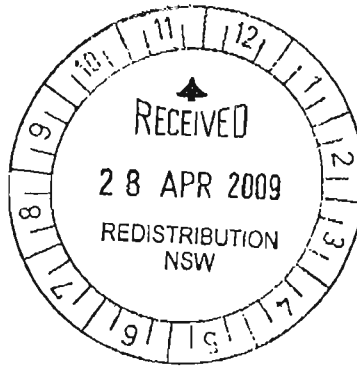
by

Narrandera Shire Council

2 Pages

28 April 2009

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Narrandera
Shire Council

Australian Electoral Commission
Redistribution Committee
PO Box K406
HAYMARKET NSW 1240

To the Redistribution Committee

Re: RE: New South Wales Electoral Redistribution

I refer to the Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) invitation to provide comment on the redistribution of federal electoral boundaries in New South Wales. This matter was raised through a Notice of Motion that was submitted to Council's 21 April 2009 Ordinary Meeting. At this meeting Council resolved to submit and convey its support to the AEC for the retention of the Riverina seat to remain unchanged.

The seat of Riverina covers an area of 42,201 sqKM with the member's Office being based in Wagga Wagga. As an example, the distance between Narrandera and Wagga Wagga is approximately 100KM. The Riverina electorate is greater in size to the countries of Switzerland, Netherlands and Taiwan. Council strongly believes that every Australian elector has a right to reside within a reasonable travelling distance to its elected federal member's Office. Any changes or increases to the boundary size of this electorate would further disadvantage current electors seeking representation.

Additionally, an increase in the size of this electorate would provide travelling and meeting difficulties that would impede the elected member's ability to properly and effectively represent constituents.

Council wishes to convey to the AEC that people in rural and regional areas have the right to access their federal member of Parliament, accordingly it is felt that a redistributed seat in New South Wales should be in consideration of a metropolitan electorate.

Council thanks the AEC for the opportunity to provide a submission regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully

Mark Amirtharajah
General Manager