

PUBLIC SUGGESTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Public Suggestion Number 108

by

Parkes Shire Council

2 Pages



PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL

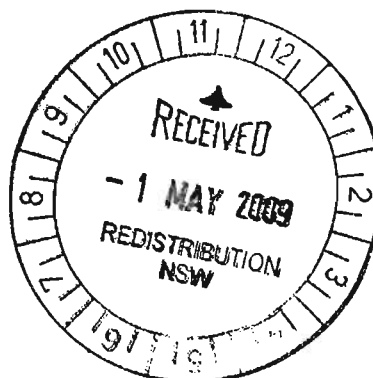
Progress, opportunities and a quality lifestyle for our residents

BJB

Contact Person: Brad Byrnes

28th of April 2009

The Chairperson
Australian Electoral Commission
Redistribution Committee for NSW
P.O. Box K406,
Haymarket, NSW 1240.



Dear Chairperson

SUBMISSION REGARDING ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES IN COUNTRY AREAS

The Parkes Shire Council respectfully suggests that your Committee conduct's further inquiries regarding the impact of electoral boundary changes on areas in Country New South Wales before any final determination is made.

Council makes this suggestion on the ground, that whilst populations may be a valid measure of representation in more densely populated areas; to ensure the true spirit of democratic government is achieved, it is necessary to have some scope for exceptions. It would be well known to the Committee the vast distances that State and Federal Members must cover to serve a country constituency. The risk that a truly equal and equitable voice is attained in parliament is compounded every time these boundaries are extended or amalgamated according to the population based model.

It would be appreciated if some alternative factors could be given added weight in making such decisions, as the rural populations varied demographic and cultural differences in NSW are as diverse as the countryside in which it resides. It is a real concern to country people that their political voice will be lost, with elected members increasingly struggling to adequately represent their interests.

The committee is no doubt aware of this issue, and Council recognises the difficult task facing the Committee in dealing with the depopulating of the western areas of the state. However Councils would hope that the collage of people and interests that make up such a large, diverse and productive area of the State of New South Wales are entitled to enjoy an effective voice in the way on which they are governed.

Yours faithfully

Alan McCormack
GENERAL MANAGER

per: 
Brad Byrnes
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER