



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 709

Carolyn Crossman

2 pages

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Normanhurst NSW 2076

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Australian Electoral Commission

CANBERRA ACT

Dear Redistribution Committee,

Re: Redrawing of electoral divisions

While I recognise that this submission may come too late in this consideration round, I never-the-less write to lodge my disappointment in the redrawing of the electoral divisions.

On reviewing the representation that other countries enjoy I find that the position that Australia, and notably in NSW, finds itself is causing our, the peoples part in our democracy, to in some part be eroded by the ever expanding numbers allocated to a division.

At the time of federation Australians had 75 seats in our Federal Parliament with the total population being somewhere below 5 million (the figure is inaccurate because indigenous people were not counted at the time, however were legislated for).

Australia's current population is more than 5 times that number, yet the number of representatives in our Federal Parliament is now only at 151 seats.

This means that each representative has an extraordinarily large citizen base.

In thinking about this I turned my attention to other like-minded countries to look at the level of representation that their populations enjoy.

On a preliminary basis I found the following:

New Zealand has a voter quota of about 45,000

Canada has a voter quota of about 82,000

United Kingdom has a voter quota of about 73,500

It is my view that the much larger voter quotas that have been allocated into the Australian system are undesirable for the representatives that we elect and for us the people. It is harder to formulate good legislation as the voices of the people of Australia are diluted by

having far too many people in each electorate division. While I have not data to support this, my gut feel is that this could also impair productivity.

For this reason I object to the removal of any divisions in New South Wales, and commend to the committee that in the very near future the voter quota per seat is reviewed to make it sustainable and reasonable for both the elected representatives and the constituents.

With kind regards,

Carolyn Crossman