



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 635

Judith Brooker

2 pages

Dear Commissioner

I am writing to object to the proposed changes to the electorate of Eden Monaro for Yass Valley by removing Yass Valley to the electorate of Riverina. The proposed change to Riverina does not meet any of the required AEC guidelines (listed below) for choice of electorate. Can you please explain the rationale for this change beyond the pure numerical swap?

- community of interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests;

Yass Valley is on the boundary of the Australian Capital Territory, the area known as the Capital Region. This is not only because of the close geographical link but increasingly because of the growing economic, social and regional connections. Economic connection to the ACT is increasing Capital region is growing as Yass Valley residents share in the growth of the National capital, e.g. our own Yass Cingulan Space company's cooperation with ANU, our wineries and their prime market Canberra residents, our tradies working in the ACT and surrounding areas our students travelling every school day to Canberra, our links to the National Museum with Hamilton Hume's buggy and Douro steam engine, shopping access to medical specialists, hospitals and tertiary institutions. From the smallest things to the most important in daily life our link is with the Capital region. The South Coast has for decades and continues to this day be the seaside recreation area for Yass Valley residents with many having holiday homes, caravans or retiring to the south coast. These important real interactions are what we have in common with other areas of the Eden Monaro electorate, not with the Riverina Electorate. I believe we have nothing in common with Riverina and being on the fringe of the electorate will essentially be disenfranchised.

- means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral division;

The huge increase in the use of the Barton Highway alone is evidence of the impact of the growth of Murrumbateman, Yass and other villages as a ACT commuter belt. Yass Valley Residents use the Canberra Airport as their major flying commuter hub along with other Eden Monaro residents

- the physical features and area of the proposed electoral division;

Yass plains from the 1800s has had links with the limestone plains, Lake George, Braidwood and Cooma. The Yass River having its headwaters near the Canberra Airport, the Brindabellas are also a geographical link.

- the boundaries of existing divisions in the State or Territory.

Our NSW state electorate is Goulburn nothing to do with Riverina. Ironically the new proposal swaps Goulburn for Yass. Goulburn is large enough to have its own political voice but Yass, no it will be completely swamped by the different needs of Riverina.

I believe this proposed change will have a serious impact to the detriment of Yass Valley and request a rethink of the boundary changes.

Yours Sincerely

Judith Brooker



Yass, NSW 2582

12th July 2024