



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Suggestion 52

Andrew Gee MP

3 pages



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Federal Member for Calare

Independent Federal Member for Calare, the Hon Andrew Gee MP

Submission for the 2023-2024 New South Wales Federal Electorate Redistribution

Submission

As the serving Independent Federal Member for the federal electorate of Calare, I welcome the opportunity to provide a submission for the NSW federal electorate redistribution of 2023-24.

It is submitted that:

1. Given the electorate is one of the few that meets the AEC requirement to fall within the two specified numerical ranges, there is no case to either:
 - (a) abolish the seat of Calare; or
 - (b) change its boundaries.
2. The boundaries of the seat should remain unchanged.
3. The name of the seat should remain unchanged.

Analysis

The Calare electorate is approximately 32,666sqkm, with 123,089 enrolled voters as at 14 October 2023, making the electorate the 6th largest in geographical terms and 17th largest in number of enrolled voters in the state of NSW.

The division was first contested in 1906 and has been one of the most vibrant regions in Australia since its inception. Calare is a wine region, an education and health hub, a mining electorate, tourist destination and a key food basket of the nation.

Calare is one of only 12 electoral divisions that currently meets the redistribution and projected enrolment quotas as determined by the AEC for this redistribution.





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As indicated by the AEC within its 'Essential information about the NSW federal redistribution', there are numerous federal electorate divisions that are under the redistribution and projected enrolment quotas, some of which are located in major metropolitan areas. It is submitted that as such, if a seat is to be abolished it should not be from country NSW and further, that there is no case to abolish the Calare electorate or change its boundaries.

From sport, to art and culture, shared services, industry and enterprise, there is a very strong bond and community of interest between the people, villages, towns and cities of Calare that does not extend across or over the Great Dividing Range.

In the north and north-west of the seat, the areas of Mudgee, Gulgong and Wellington also have a very strong community of interest with the rest of the seat and it is submitted should also remain in it. All other parts of the electorate enjoy a similarly strong community of interest.

Calare and its communities are growing, not shrinking. Census data shows that in 2016 there were 161,298 people residing in Calare, which grew to 169,232 people in 2021. As the 2021 census occurred during the COVID 19 pandemic, these figures do not take into account the post-pandemic population movements to regional NSW.

It is also noted that as at the 2022 federal election there were 121,564 enrolled voters in the Calare electorate which increased to 123,089 enrolled voters at the 14 October 2023 referendum.

The fact that the communities of Calare are growing and that the electorate meets the AEC requirement to fall within the two specified numerical ranges, adds weight to the submission that there is no case to either abolish the seat of Calare or change its boundaries.





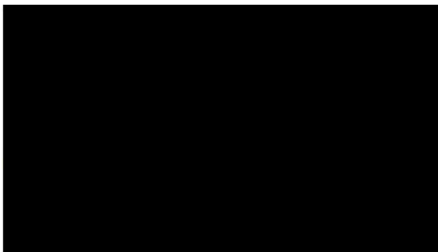
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The word 'Calare' is the Wiradjuri name for the Lachlan River and affirms the region's strong connections to Western NSW and rich Indigenous heritage. Approximately 8% of voters in Calare identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, which is more than double the NSW average of 3.4%. Given the strong cultural ties of the name 'Calare' to the Lachlan River and Wiradjuri peoples, and its long and established place in Australia's political history, it would be inappropriate for the name of this electorate to be changed under this redistribution.

Conclusion

The federal electorate of Calare is a thriving regional electorate of NSW with rich cultural heritage. The communities within it retain strong connections and limited communities of interest exist outside of the existing boundaries. As such, as noted above, it is submitted that no changes to the Calare electorate boundaries or name should be made during this redistribution.



The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Federal Member for Calare

27 October 2023

