



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Suggestion 34

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3 pages

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Dear Electoral Com. people,

I have stewed over writing or not for weeks but have decided to put all my thoughts down. Their relevance to your thinking will have to rest with you.

I don't know for sure what your guidelines are but I think it rests with fairly equal population. I don't have the figures so will make my suggestions and you can apply the criteria.

1. THE STATE. It falls into two broad areas, the coast up to the mountains and the rest over the mountains. They are quite different areas, especially in population and should be kept separate, where possible. The exceptions are the Hunter Valley extending out from Newcastle, the Blue Mountains extending out from Penrith and the Southern Highlands, now an extension of South West Sydney.

Thus, the Eden part of Eden-Monaro seems, to me, to belong to the coast. Most of the ties social, spotty, health, education would be along the coast, not over the range. The Monaro part of that electorate has most ties with Canberra, but also as far as Goulburn. The Anglican diocese of Canberra-Goulburn shows this connection. The sports groups in rugby league also used to have this connection.

Coastal areas break up into set areas and I would emphasize that set areas work better in organisation and feeling of belonging. This, of course, may not be your goal!

Changing electoral boundaries in cities would be simple, I think, as the changes are not drastic. Thus your ability to change the boundaries in the three areas mentioned above would allow you to expand electorates. Most of the new suburbs in Sydney spread from Liverpool and Campbelltown and would allow you a lot of leeway. For example, the Blue Mountains electorate could spread out more in Penrith as the ties of health, sport etc are quite strong.

2 THE COUNTRY. It is here that some reorganising needs to be made, I think. I suspect that population is falling here so electorates have to be bigger. Perhaps abolish one and reallocate.

I live in Cowra and we are in the Riverina electorate. This electorate has been cobbled together and has very little Riverina in it. Wagga is in the Riverina but all its ties are with the Riverina, along the Murrumbidgee. Beyond Junee in the north is not the Riverina. It would be much more sensible to link Wagga with Albury and its area along the Murray. All the social and political interests are in that area.

Cowra looks almost entirely to the north. We have to go to Orange or Bathurst for medical reasons. Our sports teams all play to the north. Canowindra and Blayney are the gateways to the town. There is little connection to Young and Boorowa and they connect more to Yass and

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Costamundra. Businesswise we connect to the north. I suggest Cowra goes back to Calare where it used to be.

To sum up, towns and areas should be associated with the other towns they connect with in business, in social and sporting matters in health, in church. Looking at local papers (if they exist) will show you where local and regional interests lie. Tamworth has as many ties to Gunnedah and Narrabri as it does to New England. Dubbo connects with many towns to the north and west and south to Parkes and Forbes.

Does an electorate have to have a big town in it? I am thinking of the Far West which is a big area, but not as big as ones in South and Western Australia.

I wish you well in your work. Remember you will always annoy someone with your decisions. Make it a pollie!

Yours sincerely

