

**Submission
No 6**

**INQUIRY INTO CLOSURE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW
SOUTH WALES**

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I wish you to consider what has happened in Wollombi Public School's instance. Consider also what is happening in Paxton, where last years WPS Principal has been promoted to; school enrolments have plummeted from 73 to 54 in one semester, and as of Friday, Congewai from 22 now down to 7. Consider Argenton, now with the Principal from Eraring which closed last year, now down from 30 to 23. What appears as a consistent scenario of reducing student numbers, would seem to indicate that it's not just the closing of these schools, but rather the methods employed to achieve it. No small school is safe, no matter how big, it's just a matter of time. In particular, any school less than 27, as they are using an untested loop hole in the Education Act to avoid true community consultation, representation and time to address problems.

Our school has gone, but you can make a difference for others.

Small schools in NSW are an endangered species. I believe that if these closures are allowed to continue without due process then rural NSW will eventually no longer have any small schools – the very fabric of their communities.