

Details of your comment

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

I wish to record my strong opposition to the proposed transfer of the Tilligerry and Tomaree peninsulas, housing more than 25,000 voters, to the Upper Hunter electorate (to be renamed Gloucester), and the merger of the rest of the Port Stephens electorate with parts of Maitland to form a new electorate named Raymond Terrace.

These proposals make no sense other than for the electoral advantage of the proponent Liberal party. The Tilligerry and Tomaree peninsulas would be largely cut off from the rest of an Upper Hunter/Gloucester electorate by the waters of the Port Stephens estuary.

There exists a long and strong cohesive community history in the Port Stephens area reaching back to first settlement, that connects Nelson Bay, Tanilba Bay and their surrounding townships with Williamstown, Raymond Terrace and Maitland. This includes the villages of Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest. There is absolutely no community connection or affinity with Dungog and communities to our North in Gloucester. In many ways Nelson Bay and its surrounding communities are synonymous with Port Stephens. I am the Unit Commander of Marine Rescue Port Stephens, which, with its predecessor the the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, has served continuously for 38 years from its Base at Nelson Head on the Tomaree Peninsula.

Residents of the peninsulas look to Raymond Terrace, Maitland and Newcastle as their main centres and in many cases their places of work or education.

The proposal would also split the largely coincident boundaries of the Port Stephens electorate and the Port Stephens Local Government area which has many practical benefits.

The statistical arguments tendered in this submission are blatantly manufactured for political grounds and ignore historical, community and clear geographic affiliations that have existed for a long time.

