Details of your comment

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

Reference No: 200701/34

I wish to object to the Tilligerry and Tomaree peninsulas within the current Port Stephens Electorate and the Port Stephens LGA being proposed to be separated by the Liberal Party and put into a renamed Upper Hunter electorate (proposed as Gloucester). This is being seen purely as a political ploy to give advantage to a political party rather than serving the interests of the local community.

We are all part and parcel of the Port Stephens Shire and Electorate and we have this “rather large area of water” – Port Stephens – which takes around an hour & a half to negotiate by car to get to the other side of the electorate proposed by the Liberal Party!

We would relate more to the populations around Maitland and west of there rather than north. Currently the growing population of those areas is placing great strain on our public facilities and beaches for day tripping.

We have no social relationship at all to anything in the rest of their proposed “Gloucester” electorate which is really the previous Upper Hunter electorate. Their area is rural whereas the Tilligerry and Tomaree Peninsula are marine and tourism based areas with a high retirement population.

We would be baby bear located at the most southern tip and which, without a boat or ferry to use will make servicing our voters quite a challenge for the elected MP to attend functions or take an interest in what we really need! Similarly, a challenge for us to visit his/her office to take up issues.

Why on earth would we want an MP based so far away when there is another within a half hour drive away. The main access road to our area is one way in and one way out and should be top priority for any funding. How do we go about lobbying for that with 2 separate electorates to deal with?

Page 13 and 14 relating to Geographic details contains strong contradictions on our treatment compared to the rest of NSW and metropolitan areas. The point made was that keeping LGA boundaries as close as possible to State Electorate boundaries is a definite plus. Why then has Port Stephens been singled out for different treatment, particularly as we have a large body of water between us and the rest of the electorate – surely a geographical challenge!

According to the Commission’s own guidelines, it would seem that the current population quota for the Port Stephens electorate remains well within the quota and does not need any kind of boundary redistribution. Cutting through the middle of Medowie, one of our fastest growing areas in the Port Stephens Shire seems amazingly bizarre.

Given that this seat is held by a LNP MP at present, one would have expected the National Party to have included this suggestion in their submission (200701/35) They have not proposed this ridiculous change and yet potentially they could be representing us if this change is approved! Not a good start for us!

I am an independent swinging voter and not a member of any political party. I do however take an active interest in matters relating to our community and Port Stephens Council.