



10 July 2020

**The Secretariat Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel
c/o NSW Electoral Commission
GPO Box 832
Sydney NSW 2001**

Subject : Riverstone Electorate

This submission has been developed by the Riverstone Schofields and Districts Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Chamber represents businesses who operate within the Riverstone, Schofields, Vineyard and Marsden Park area.

The North West Growth Area is undergoing significant development and expansion resulting in the need to rebalance the electorate of Riverstone. This considerable residential development area requires, both social and physical infrastructure and employment opportunities. The growth area is lacking in all three

Riverstone is the centre of the North West Growth Sector and along with a majority of the 16 precincts within the growth area is part of the Blacktown Local Government area.

The town was established in the mid 1800's and is desperate need for urban renewal to support the growing community and employment opportunities around the underutilized rail line.

The NWGA was strategically planned to stage population growth with the delivery of employment and infrastructure yet the planned delivery has failed with development continuing without the delivery of critical precincts which deliver employment and road solutions.

The North West Growth Area road strategy whilst developed does not address the concerns of the community and has yet to be delivered despite reaching projected delivery triggers.

The electorate has been promised a hospital in the last 2 elections and despite the announcements it has yet to be delivered. The site announced does not meet the needs of the community or address the growth area needs. It is our belief the hospital would be better suited in Riverstone/ Vineyard.

A revised Riverstone Town Centre Masterplan developed by Blacktown City Council and the delivery of the Riverstone West precinct will restore Riverstone to a strategic centre and the third city of the Blacktown LGA.

Within the gazetted submissions there are ten proposals addressing the electorate of Riverstone and more specifically the suburbs represented by members of the Riverstone Schofields and Districts Chamber of Commerce.

Legislation addressing the rebalancing of State election boundaries the following considerations

- balanced number of voters
- community of interests, including economic, social, and regional interest.
- means of communication and travel within the proposed electorate.
- the physical features and area of the electorate; and
- the boundaries of existing electorate.

We have reviewed the submission (summary attached)

Gordon - The Chamber agrees with this proposal based on aligned community interest hard boundaries and impact on the existing boundaries.

Waddell is a similar proposal based on community interest hard boundaries also aligns.

Magee whilst addressing communities of interest does not align with the hard boundaries currently in place. The logical boundaries for Riverstone are Richmond and Windsor road.

Weston states an obvious fact to change an electorate purely based on numbers flies in the face of drawing well-connected, compact districts that unite communities of interest. If this can be achieved in the current electorate by transferring Glenwood it seems the most logical approach.

The Greens submission whilst creating a community of interest by adding Marsden Park west of Richmond road to Riverstone there would be limited room for growth as the area continues to be developed. The adherence to hard boundaries would be more effective. The addition of a new electorate would mean the loss in another area possible in the far west which already is underrepresented.

The Liberals submission is the most concerning for the Chamber. The proposal to transfer Riverstone and Schofields to the Hawkesbury addresses numbers Only. The area is in a critical time of growth and development and does not share community interests with the suburbs within the Hawkesbury electorate. The boundaries are too large for the local member to effectively address the many issues within the area. Riverstone and Schofields the third city of the Blacktown LGA should remain in an electorate that is representative of Blacktown. There has been significant work by NSW Planning, Transport for NSW, Blacktown City Council and the local member for Riverstone to develop the delivery strategy for the growth centre and whilst the delivery is underwhelming the process will only be frustrated by transferring Riverstone and Schofields to the Hawkesbury electorate.

National Party suggestion to again transfer Glenwood and absorb Marsden Park and Shane Park seems logical however the electorate will soon require rebalancing again due to the projected growth of the area.

Muclair seems to be aligned with the Liberal proposal. The numbers in the area do not need to be soaked up in the more stable semi-rural area of the Hawkesbury. This statement shows little understanding of the suburbs. The renewal of Riverstone and the development of the Riverstone West precinct will create employment for 30,000 people, new business, and shopping options, 100 ha of community open spaces and deliver affordable housing for 6500 people. To soak up the area show limited knowledge of the growth and possibility within the area.

Labor proposal seems the most logical to address the considerations outlined in the legislation. The popular suggestion to balance the numbers by transferring Glenwood to the Hills allows for future growth and address the hard boundaries, limits impacts to the current electorate and most importantly retains the communities of interest.

We agree Riverstone, Schofields and Marsden Park north need to be addressed collectively. The community interests are aligned and should be represented by a strong voice dedicated to address the issues of the growth areas.

The Riverstone Schofields and district Chamber of Commerce and Industry agrees with the Labor party along with the majority of the submissions addressing the seat of Riverstone, the most logical approach to balance the electorate is to transfer Glenwood to the Hills absorb Colebee and address the growth corridors in line with the hard boundaries of Richmond Road and Windsor Rd.

The submission by Muclair and the Liberal party appear to be out of touch with the needs of the community.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the submissions.

Yours faithfully,



**Riverstone Schofields and Districts
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc**