

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

**COMMENT ON THE SUGGESTION BY AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY (NSW BRANCH)**

I disagree that Tenterfield be transferred to the electorate of Northern Tablelands from Lismore electorate.

With regards to the township of Tenterfield and surrounds, changing demographic trends in the last twenty five years means that it has a greater connection to Lismore and the villages of Drake, Tabulam, Mallanganee and Mummulgum along the Bruxner Highway to the east than it does to towns such as Armidale and Glen Innes. Given these changes I feel that using the Great Dividing Range as barrier is now redundant given population changes along the coast and the greater mobility of people associated with the growth of inland tourism in past twenty five years ie; the grey nomad factor.

This is supported by the following:

- (1) The marked increase in commercial and tourist traffic (grey nomads) on the Bruxner Highway between Lismore and Tenterfield in the past two decades. This commercial traffic services not only Tenterfield by way of goods and services but also the villages along the Bruxner Highway. A large number of caravans, camper trailers and recreational vehicles come through from the coast and vice versa. These tourist numbers are increasing every year and there are plans for a heavy vehicle bypass to be constructed on the western side of Tenterfield to cater for this increase in commercial and tourist traffic.
- (2) Northern Rivers Buslines run three daily services a week between Lismore and Tenterfield. This service also caters for the transport needs of the residents living in the villages along the Bruxner Highway.
- (3) Many residents of Tenterfield and the villages use the Bruxner Highway to the east to access medical services at Lismore Base Hospital and St Vincents Private Hospital and across the border in QLD at hospitals such as Gold Coast University Hospital and John Flynn Private Hospital. Tenterfield Hospital has not had a maternity ward for a number of years and expectant mothers are forced to travel to Lismore and across the border to Stanthorpe in QLD to give birth.
- (4) Because of lack of medical specialists and ancillary services at the Prince Albert Memorial Hospital in Tenterfield many residents have recently called for Tentefield Hospital to be moved to the Northern Local Health District based on the coast. Currently Tenterfield comes under the Hunter New England Local Health District which is based in Newcastle some 521Kms away by road. For a patient requiring major surgery this a trip of over six hours away if they have to be transferred to John Hunter Hospital.
- (5) In the last twenty five years an increasing number of residents in the Lismore and the coast have retired to Tenterfield and surrounds. Many of these new residents still have strong family links to the coastal centres such as Lismore and Ballina and frequently travel to the coast.

Thanking you for allowing me the opportunity to make these comments.

██████ Marney