

Details of your comment

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

I wish to record disagreement with the proposal to alter the boundaries of the electorates of Monaro and Bega, as set out in proposal NSW200701/34 from the Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division. The proposal to add the villages of Eden and Pambula to Monaro contradicts several important principles that in my opinion must be considered carefully in undertaking an electoral redistribution in the state of NSW. These principles are:

1. Community of interest

There is no genuine community of interest between Eden and Pambula and other sections of the electorate of Monaro. Both are Far South Coast coastal villages whose community of interest encompasses the Bega Valley Shire LGA including Merimbula, Wolumia, Candelo, Bega, Tahra, Bermago, Cobarog and Bemboka. There is no community of interest between Eden and Pambula and, for example, Queanbeyan, three hours drive distant up the escarpment and along the tableland. Similarly, there is very little community of interest between Eden and Pambula and the towns and villages of the Monaro and the Snowies: Bombala, Delegate, Nimmitabel, Cooma, Berridale, Jindabyne and surrounds.

2. Natural or pre-existing boundaries

There is no justification for including Eden and Pambula in the electorate of Monaro on the basis of natural or pre-existing boundaries. The escarpment of the Great Divide is the natural boundary, which must remain. Pre-existing links, such as the Imlay Road, The Mount Darragh Road and the Brown Mountain section of the Snowy Mountains Highway are steep and difficult, unsuitable for B-double usage, include many restricted speed zones, require frequent maintenance, and are subject to closure from ice and snow in the winter season.

For further information visit elections.nsw.gov.au/redistribution