


10th November 2020

COMMENTS ON THE PREPOSED STATE ELECTORATE BOUNDARIES

I would like to commend the commission on the decision to retain Gunnedah in the Tamworth Electorate. I have lived all of my 85 years in the Carroll – Gunnedah area. During that time , without moving house I have voted, I think, in 3 different State electorates, and 3 different Federal electorates. It is very frustrating in maintaining a relationship with your local member, when one is repeatedly being tossed from one electorate to another. I can appreciate that ones representative may change from election to election, but in most cases the files are transferred and continuity is maintained

I believe Gunnedah residents have a very strong relationship with Tamworth, built on trust, community of interest and dependence on professional, health and educational facilities in that city. Many Gunnedah residents travel each day to Tamworth for these requirements, together with those of their work , which is reciprocal with residents of Tamworth working in the Gunnedah area.

There is very little conflict of interest between the two centres, Gunnedah residents support the major developments, which flow to Tamworth, because of its size, and share in many of the services these developments provide. Tamworth understands the importance of the surrounding towns being viable and progressive and supports the development of these.

Whilst understanding and supporting the principal one vote one value, I find difficulty in believing one elected representative can adequately service the expectations of each and every voter in some of our larger electorates. It is quite reasonable that expanding city electorates should have more representation by forming new electorates. I do not feel it is reasonable that this is in part achieved by reducing the number of rural electorates. In my opinion there needs to be a re-assessment of the criteria, perhaps taking into account the value of the GDP in rural council areas.

Yours Sincerely

