Details of your suggestion

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

Dear Commissioner

I refer to the proposal to review the electoral state boundaries.

I am making comment in my capacity as a former Councillor and Deputy Mayor of the former Canterbury Council and also as a resident who has resided in the Canterbury electorate all my life.

I am alarmed at the suggestion that the state seat of Canterbury may disappear and geographical boundaries altered significantly.

The residents have been unfairly treated by having their local council merged with Bankstown council (in May 2016) against the majority opinion having lost any sense of democracy and representation as the Bankstown end now literally dictates to the residents and ratepayers of our former LGA.

There are no council meetings which occur at the Campsie Chambers site denying the residents access to council meetings and participation in their progress of their local area.

The residents cannot lose the state seat of Canterbury as this will completely obliterate all the historical links in the area – links such as the war services homes which were built for the world war 1 and 2 veterans upon their return who resided in this electorate.

The district of Canterbury has sent members to the Legislative Assembly since 1859 with the exception of three elections in the 1920's.

It is imperative that this history and link be maintained both in name and in geographic link – the suburbs of Hurlstone Park, Ashbury (in part) Earlwood,being on the eastern and south eastern borders must be maintained in the state seat should any adjustment be made.

These suburbs together with the suburbs of Canterbury, Campsie, Belmore, Belfield, Clemton Park, Roselands, Kingsgrove (in part) and Beverley Hills (in part) represent the majority of the old Local Government Area of Canterbury which people still identify with.

I ask that any adjustment to the boundary of this electorate be minor in nature to commence at the eastern end (beginning at Ashbury) and going westward until the quota is reached.

Many persons in this electorate are from Non English Speaking Backgrounds who have suffered tremendously as a result of the forced merger and to have a major redistribution of the state seat with a potential change of the state seat name and a complete rewrite of the boundaries will severely impact them on all levels.

I state that the majority of the residents are unaware of the mooted boundary changes particularly by the major political parties which appear on face value purely driven for political survivorship and gain.

It appears that history may repeat itself with the forced merger of the 2 councils in 2016 to now a situation where political jockeying and gain is set to be the ulterior motive for boundary and electoral change.

I will be in a better situation to comment in further detail once the proposals for the major parties are made public.

I state that I will be available to make submissions to the Panel either via telelink or in person.

Regards

[redacted]

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

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