

Suggestion relates to Single Electoral District

Submission Content

We are pleased to offer the following suggestion in respect to the current review of the NSW electoral Districts.

1. Overview

We currently reside within the electoral district of Cootamundra which in our view functions efficiently for the population covered and has a strong community of interest. In past distribution a pattern has emerged where smaller country electorates have been lost in distribution following major variations in population growth in metropolitan areas. It is our view that adjustments should be made within the boundaries of metropolitan electorates where possible so the impact in rural areas does not occur. In this context it should be noted that rural areas have the added disadvantage of isolation and long distance travel.

2. Cootamundra Electorate-Statistics/community of interest

The current population statistics for the Cootamundra Electorate are 53,105 which has a comfortable margin of -7.39%.

As earlier mentioned, the electorate has a strong community of interest. The 11 Local Government areas are small to medium size and are well represented across the electorate. These LGA's are all dryland farming areas and have much in common.

The boundary to the south largely extends along the Murrumbidgee River and the northern boundary extends to the commencement of the central western region of NSW. Any significant changes to the current boundaries of the electorate would have an adverse impact on community of interest. This also includes areas to the west of Cootamundra electorate. For example, in our local community of Narrandera any adjustment of boundary into the Murray electorate

would alienate our community of interest such as dryland to irrigation communities and a natural flow for services.

3. Balancing Population in Electorates with Variations over 10%

When perusing the recent assessment of NSW Electorates population and variances over 10% it appears that only 5 electorates have variances over the 10% allowance and two of these are within 1.6% of that tolerance.

The largest variation is the electorate of Camden with a variance of 33.7%. In examining the surrounding electorates, the following observation can be made in relation to variances within the 10% tolerance.

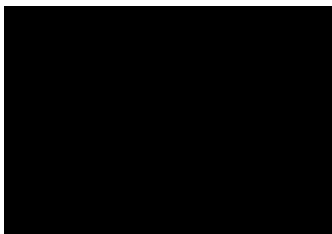
Mulgoa	2.75%
Liverpool	1.96%
Wollondilly	1.30%
Macquarie Fields	13.86%
Campbelltown	-4.01%

With the exception of Macquarie Fields, the variation of Camden electorate should be able to be absorbed into four of the 5 adjoining electorates. Similar principles could be applied the other 4 electorates referred to above.

This approach is suggested so that country electorates such as Cootamundra are not significantly amended or even worse removed and absorbed into other adjoining electorates with no logical community of interest

We ask that you give serious consideration the issues raised in this submission

Regards



 Murphy

30th June 2020