

To whom it may concern

I am taking the opportunity to make this submission as my initial letter was returned due to a technical error in transmission. I hope that you see fit to consider my remarks .

I strongly oppose the proposal in the Report of the Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel that Lord Howe Island be transferred from the electoral district of Port Macquarie to the electoral district of Sydney. I disagree with the Report's conclusions and believe the diverse and ongoing contacts of the residents of Lord Howe Island with the services and businesses of Port Macquarie make that electoral district more convenient and appropriate for continued service by the Member for Port Macquarie.

Until recently I have been a long-term Island leaseholder of the family owned Kentia, Old Lagoon Road. I am a third generation Islander raised on the Island and continue to spend significant time there with my resident family. I believe it in the best interests of Lord Howe Island residents to remain in the Port Macquarie electorate with ready access to their local Member and many being aged retaining valued electoral links to this the closest mainland region.

Existing relationships with Port Macquarie are extensive and include:

- Regular air services from Port Macquarie to Lord Howe Island by Eastern Airlines supplemented by diverse charter services. QantasLink Sydney – Lord Howe services have been severely restricted during the Covid pandemic and remain unreliable. Sydney passengers are mainly tourists and not dependant on the Lord Howe Island/mainland community services in the same way as Island residents;
- The fortnightly shipping service to Lord Howe by the *Island Trader* is based in Port Macquarie and owned and operated by Birdon, a local Port Macquarie company;
- Most Lord Howe consumables and services including groceries and perishables are provided by businesses in the Port Macquarie district utilising the *Island Trader* as well as local charter and scheduled air services;
- An MOU by the Lord Howe Island Board with the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council links them in the provision of professional services and advice;
- Port Macquarie provides economic and in-depth access to general and specialist health and allied - health services including dental, aged and optometric services not available on Lord Howe and where with an ageing population there are no aged care facilities;
- Lord Howe access to secondary school education is through Camden Haven High School - Distant Education which supports Lord Howe Island Central School as part of the Hastings network;
- The Lord Howe Island Police are under the Mid North Coast Local Area Command.
- A number of Lord Howe families have chosen Port Macquarie aged facilities to accommodate the frail and less mobile.

None of the above links exist with the Electoral District of Sydney.

The proposal to move Lord Howe Island from the Port Macquarie electorate would be against the interests of the electors of Lord Howe Island, contrary to commercial practice and prejudice ready access to their local Member of Parliament.