Details of your submission

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

For an electorate to be represented effectively by its MP the area needs to have reasonably common socio-economic and demographic characteristics.

Federal and its surrounding villages are close to the coast and their major economies are tourism and macadamia nuts. As the area is close to Byron Bay, tourism has increased greatly over the past decade. People here travel east for work and pleasure, simply because there are no commercial areas to the west.

The Federal area sits well within the Ballina electorate. Ballina's electorate is coastal and its economy is based on tourism and hospitality with some agriculture, in particular, nuts - just like Federal's.

The climate here is sub-tropical and attracts a population that appreciates the natural environment. Ballina's MP is cognisant of this and has represented the area well.

Lismore electorate, on the other hand, stretches up to 200 km away from the coast. Consequently it is far drier and most of its economy is based on beef and sheep farming. It has next to nothing in common with Federal.

It appears the sole reason for shifting Lismore's electoral boundary is to enable Lismore to increase its number of electors. This is insufficient reason to justify the detrimental impact the proposed change will have on the parliamentary representation of the people of Federal.

If the Electoral Commission needs more voters for Lismore I suggest it looks to include an area that is more closely aligned with Lismore's existing electorate.