Details of your comment

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

Formed in 1973 Camden Residents' Action Group, aims to conserve the heritage and environment of the Camden district and Macarthur area. To do this we believe that electorates, to the extent possible, should be made up of communities of similar interest. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Camden electorate redistribution.

We note that southern boundaries of the Camden electorate suggested by Liberal Party (NSWR200701/34) and Labor Party (NSWR200701/39) exclude Bridgewater and Camden Park (including Belgenny Farm) which historically, socially and culturally are identified with the Camden township (1840) and its facilities. The southern area of the current electorate, renowned as the birthplace of the nation's wealth and historically centred on the township, retains many agricultural characteristics, a legacy of its long history dating from the early cowpastures and founding of Camden Park by John and Elizabeth Macarthur in 1805.

The southern area of the current Camden electorate has a much stronger affinity with parts of Wollondilly electorate such as Brownlow Hill (1827), Picton (1841), Thirlmere (1860s) home of the NSW Rail Museum and The Oaks (1823), which share Camden's colonial heritage, than it does with its new suburbs to the north.

The alternate to their suggestions of excluding Bridgewater and Camden Park is to ensure they are within the electoral boundary of Camden preferably using historic Camden Park boundaries and include Menangle, which like Camden was privately founded within Camden Park Estate.

The northern sections of the Camden electorate, particularly those within the South West Growth Sector such as Oran Park and Leppington, are growing rapidly, are more urban and densely populated and have little cultural affinity with much older areas of the current Camden electorate. We comment that we agree with the suggestion of One Nation (NSW) (NSWR200630/26) that a new electorate is needed, especially due to the changes that will come with the development of Badgerys Creek Airport; one that will serve a growing and incoming population with similar concerns. In relation to the current electoral boundaries we also agree that to equalise and accommodate a rapidly increasing population that Camden's boundaries should exclude the rapidly growing areas in the north. This would mean that the Camden electorate could lose new suburbs such as Oran Park and Leppington to a new electorate and take in some of Wollondilly, particularly that part on the Camden side of Razorback, which in turn could mean that Wollondilly could take in part of Southern Highlands with which it has a geographic, rural and cultural affinity.