Details of your submission

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

I am writing a submission as a resident of the Cootamundra electorate.

This electorate is one of many small towns, villages and rural areas, with a communities facing similar issues and having similar needs, with economies based around agriculture. The proposed addition of the town of Boorowa is supported due to the alignment with the Hilltops Local Government Area boundary. This change is the best outcome for the Cootamundra electorate, under the circumstances, to the potential alternative of carving up the electorate and having small towns and villages join with a regional city, where the needs of small communities are lost and forgotten amongst the demands of the major centre. However, the geographic size of this electorate must now have reached its limit. Beyond this size, the area is just too large to be practical for one member to respond to the needs of the community in a meaningful way, alongside meeting all the requirements to be in Sydney when parliament is sitting.

I urge you to make reasonable allowances for the slightly smaller population in a rural electorate to be balanced against the practical limitations of the distances elected members are required to travel to meet with the community members that they represent. No further geographic area should be added to the Cootamundra electorate following this change and the seat must be retained so that small communities have a voice. Metropolitan communities, where their elected member can drive around their entire electorate in perhaps an hour, do not need further representation when they are already so well represented, with ready access to their local member. Rural communities deserve suitable representation by an elected member who understands their needs and can advocate on their behalf in relation to the challenges they face.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this matter.

Regards,
C Golder