

The Secretariat of the Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel
C/O NSW Electoral Commission
GPO Box 832 Sydney NSW 2001

15 July 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: REDISTRIBUTION OF NSW ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

Joint Submission from Griffith Business Chamber, MIA Communities, Murrumbidgee Valley Food and Fibre Association.

We note that regional NSW may be further subjected to electoral district redistribution and a reduction.

The tyranny of distance and reducing population numbers has created an issue with representation in Western NSW.

Some Western NSW electorates serve multiple local government areas. In metropolitan areas, two or three MPs may represent a single local government area. In terms of representation, this significantly disadvantages Western NSW communities, reducing their voice in the Parliamentary process. It also creates logistic and administrative challenges for the local member in terms of travel, staffing, time commitments and Work, Health & Safety (WHS) issues.

As residents of the current Murray electoral district, we request that the redistribution panel doesn't further exacerbate issues with representation to either of the far Western NSW electoral districts (Murray & Barwon).

We submit in terms of any unfortunate requirement to reduce electoral districts in Western NSW, the entire LGA of Murrumbidgee Council should be in Murray (hence the township and surrounds of Jerilderie) and the Narrandera Shire should be added to the Murray Electoral district. This would help enhance the demographic, social and geographic representation of the region as Jerilderie and the entire Narrandera Shire are intrinsically linked to all the other LGAs in that region. It would also not further unreasonably exacerbate the challenges for local representation as mentioned above.

If, again unfortunately, there is a regulatory requirement to reduce the number of electoral divisions in Western NSW, we submit that in terms of distance, social and demographic ties, that once the Narrandera Shire has been added to the Murray electorate, the electoral division of Cootamundra can be sensibly and fairly redistributed into its neighbouring electorates of Wagga and Orange with comparatively minimal disruption to the region's access to services and representation.

The Barwon electoral division should be, as far as possible, left alone, as its geographic area is already impossibly cumbersome in terms of representation for communities there.

Yours sincerely on behalf of

Griffith Business Chamber
MIA Communities
Murrumbidgee Valley Food and Fibre Association

