

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

My partner and I oppose the redistribution of Lord Howe Island from the electoral district of Port Macquarie to Sydney.

I have been travelling directly from Port Macquarie to Lord Howe Island for many years and coming up to my 10th visit next March and it will be my partners fourth visit.

Lord Howe Island is an amazing place with world heritage listing. We have direct flights from Port Macquarie to the island thanks to Eastern Air Services taking over the route after Qantas removed the one and only weekly flight direct from Port Macquarie approximately three years ago. By Qantas removing this flight it meant that all islanders travelling from the island and mainlanders wishing to travel to the island from this area and Coffs Harbour had no choice but to travel to Sydney or Brisbane.

Port Macquarie has excellent health facilities including some of the best oncology services in the state and yet islanders would not be able to travel to Port Macquarie directly for treatment if it wasn't for Eastern Air Services taking over the route that Qantas dropped.

Although the Eastern Air Services planes are not as big as the Dash 8, they offer more flights and are looking at increasing the number due to demand.

For the last few years Qantas has been trying to extend the runway on the island so they can get rid of the Dash 8 and use larger to bring tourists in. The problem with this would be

- the new runway extension will go out into the lagoon affecting one of the most pristine coral formations in the world
- the previous extension to the runway has already affected the lagoon causing major erosion
- it will actually reduce the number of flights from Sydney to the island as the island is limited to the number of visitors on the island at any time
- it would probably affect the smaller operator Eastern Air Services as it would then limit how many flights they could bring in.

Eastern Air Services also provide regular deliveries of food and other goods to the island which previously depended solely on the Island Trader ship. Both these delivery services employ many people in the local area including suppliers and loaders. Surely if Port Macquarie is supplying this type of service to the island, then the island should be part of our community and electoral area.

A big concern about the change of electorate is that if the island becomes part of Sydney then Qantas may have more influence and end up getting their way and ruin a paradise so they can make more money. Considering the losses they have suffered in 2020 due to Covid 19 and the fact they they will not be able to increase flights overseas or some time, then Lord Howe Island becomes an ideal location for them to increase flights.

We realise that this submission is only based on opinion and love for an amazing location, but we feel it should still be taken into consideration. If you have never been to Lord Howe Island it maybe hard to understand where we and other fans of the island are coming from but that doesn't mean we should be ignored either.

David Attenborough and Dick Smith would probably agree that the island should be left in the hands of the local electorate and not be made part of the Sydney electorate who may not have any understanding of the needs of the island.

Thank you