Details of your comment

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

COMMENT ON THE SUGGESTION BY M MULCLAIR

I disagee that all of the Tenterfield LGA be returned to the electorate of Northern Tablelands from Lismore electorate. The only exception to this would be the village of Mingoola and the areas west of the Mole River.

Mingoola now appears to have more in common with the towns and villages to the west such as Bonshaw (49 Kms from Mingoola) and to the town of Texas across the border in QLD some 66.9 Kms away. Given this I propose that the solution would be to change the western boundary of between Lismore and Northern Tablelands by creating a new boundary along the eastern side Mole River Road which would then travel south to Bruxner Way and run west to link up with the eastern side of the Mole River. The boundary would then run southeast along the eastern side of the the Mole River until it meets the western side New England Highway and then travel along the highway to the village of Deepwater. Refer to attached map with the proposed boundary change.

With regards to the township of Tenterfield, changing demographic trends in the last twenty five years means that it has a greater connection to Lismore and the villages of Drake, Tabulam, Mallanganee and Mummulgum along the Bruxner Highway to the east than it does to towns such as Armidale and Glen Innes.

This is supported by the following:

(1) The marked increase in commercial and tourist traffic (grey nomads) on the Bruxner Highway between Lismore and Tenterfield in the past two decades. This commercial traffic services not only Tenterfield by way of goods and services but also the villages along the Bruxner Highway. A large number of caravans, camper trailers and recreational vehicles come through from the coast and vice versa. These tourist numbers are increasing every year and there are plans for a heavy vehicle bypass to be contructed on the western side of Tenterfield to cater for this increase in commercial and tourist traffic.

(2) Northern Rivers Buslines run three daily services a week between Lismore and Tenterfield. This service also caters for the transport needs of the residents living in the villages along the Bruxner Highway.

(3) Many residents of Tenterfield and the villages use the Bruxner Highway to the east to access medical services at Lismore Base Hospital and St Vincents Private Hospital and across the border in QLD at hospitals such as Gold Coast University Hospital and John Flynn Private Hospital. Tenterfield Hospital has not had a maternity ward for a number of years and expectant mothers are forced to travel to Lismore and across the border to Stanthorpe in QLD to give birth.

(4) Because of lack of medical specialists and ancillary services at the Prince Albert Memorial Hospital in Tenterfield many residents havve recently called for Tentefield Hospital to be moved to the Northern Local Health District based on the coast. Currently Tenterfield comes under the Hunter New England Local Health District which is based in Newcastle some 521Kms away by road. For a patient requiring major surgery this a trip of over six hours away if they have to be transferred to John Hunter Hospital.

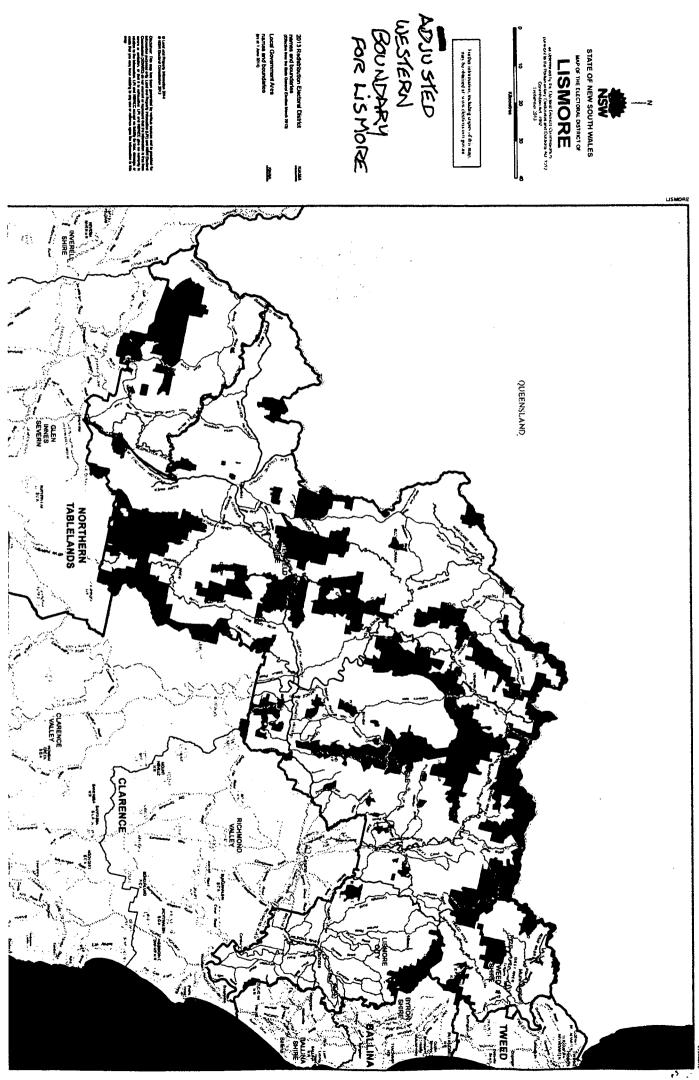
(5) In the last twenty five years an increasing number of residents in the Lismore and the coast have retired to Tenterfield and surrounds. Many of these new residents still have strong family links to the coastal centres such as Lismore and Ballina and frequently travel to the coast.

Thanking you for allowing me the opportunity to make these comments.

Marney

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