



EF 13/21

29 June 2020

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: REDISTRIBUTION OF NSW ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

At its meeting of 24 June 2020, Leeton Shire Council resolved to make a submission to the electoral districts review to express its concerns in relation to the possible impacts of the next redistribution on regional communities such as ours.

The following issues were identified, and Council encourages the NSW Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel to take these into consideration during their review of electoral districts in NSW:

- We are concerned that any redistribution takes into account not simply equal numbers of electors, but adequate representation for regional communities.
- Some western NSW electorates serve more than ten local government areas. In metropolitan areas, two or three MPs may serve a single local government area. In terms of representation, this significantly disadvantages western communities, reducing their voice in the Parliamentary process.
- Our local MP, the Member for Murray, is providing representation to more than ten local government areas, over a very large geographical area. It is impractical and poses Work Health & Safety risks for a single MP to serve such a large geographic area.
- As metropolitan density increases and populations in these areas grow, so do the number of MPs in these communities. The usual redistribution process has meant this is balanced by further increases to the geographic area of western electoral districts. This is unsustainable.
- If the number of electorates remains at 93, the next redistribution will mean one less electorate in western NSW. This means one less voice for western NSW in Parliament, and therefore less representation in the policy-making and decision-making of the Government.
- We understand that a key consideration in the review of electoral boundaries is to maintain communities of interest within an electorate. Leeton Shire has been divorced from its community of interest in past electoral districts redistributions. Leeton's

community of interest includes the Narrandera and Griffith local government areas. We trust this will be taken into consideration as part of this review.

Leeton Shire Council is happy to host members of the Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel if they were willing to travel to regional NSW to get a better understanding of the geographic impacts of the regional boundaries.

We encourage the Panel to seriously consider recommending additional electorates within the NSW system to address the declining representation of our communities in government.

Regards,

