

26th November 2020

Dear Distribution Panel,

I write to lodge a submission as I oppose the proposed change to move Lord Howe Island from the State electorate of Port Macquarie to Sydney.

The wording in your Report of the Electors Districts Distribution Panel is extremely outdated. For starters QantasLink have not flown directly between Port Macquarie and Lord Howe Island since 2017, instead this route has successfully been taken over by Eastern Air Services.

The reasoning behind the flights (Qantas) and having to fly via Sydney to Port Macquarie has nothing whatsoever to do with our electorate. Also, the comment itself is completely false.

Leslie Williams has been the Port Macquarie MP and therefore 'our' MP for 9 ½ years. She has been marvellous. Leslie regularly visits the island and has connected personally with many of us. She has a genuine interest and care for our island, as part of her electorate, and I'm sure also because she cares. She always makes herself available whenever anyone wants to travel to Port Macquarie to meet up with her. She has been instrumental in many aspects of the island including most recently the Pre School which has been in the works for almost 10 years and is finally being built now.

To move us to Sydney would be detrimental to the island.

According to the 2016 Census there is about 325 voters so this wouldn't help the Sydney numbers at all but for Port Macquarie electorate it isn't about our voting numbers.... It's about being part of their community and Port Macquarie being part of ours.

We are a tiny island geographically located closest to Port Macquarie. Hopefully this counts and stands for something too! We would be completely swallowed up and spat out if we were to be lost in the Inner Sydney on-goings.

Eastern Air Services currently has 3 flights weekly between Lord Howe Island and Port Macquarie, with an additional essential weekly freight

service from Port Macquarie. They do not hesitate to put on another freight service, or more passenger services, as the need demands.

Our only surface freight service, the Island Trader, also comes from Port Macquarie.

Our pest control, fire safety, police service, tradesman ALL come from Port Macquarie.

High School by Distance Education is through Camden Haven High School in Port Macquarie.

We have an affiliation and a friendship with Port Macquarie. Please do not move us electorally away from Port Macquarie. We need to keep our strong connections.

The only thing Sydney has to offer us is Boarding School for our children and the Health System. Sydney is the closest port of call that takes Boarders. It makes sense for our health system to stay with who we are with as when medically airlifted out the mainland air ambulances fly and return to Sydney. That is it!!! We have nothing else in common with metro Sydney.

There are no guarantees that we will have any flights between Lord Howe Island and Sydney beyond 2022 as this is when the current contract with Qantas expires.

Please take the concerns and the needs of the island people into consideration.

Please do not move us to Sydney state electorate.

Thank you for taking the time to acknowledge my submission opposing this change.

Kind Regards,

