Details of your submission

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

The Port Macquarie-Hastings region has held a long-standing affiliation with the community of Lord Howe Island since regular shipping services commenced in the 1890's.

A formal strategic alliance between the Lord Howe Island Board and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council was formed in November 2011 and supported by the Local Member for Port Macquarie, Leslie Williams. The objective of the alliance is to strengthen economic and social cooperation between the parties through continuous sharing of information and experience.

The focus of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) covers joint activities and programs which are determined based on mutual agreement between both parties and include:

- Infrastructure Planning and Waste Management
- Sewerage Management
- Natural Resource Management
- Information Technology Systems
- Business Development (as the circumstances require):

- Short term staff exchanges
- Joint purchasing agreements
- The development and use of common forms

Lord Howe Island is incorporated in the North Coast emergency Management Region. Our Local Port Macquarie based Emergency Services through our Emergency Management Committee have many long standing arrangements with Lord Howe Island services. This is formalised in a Consequence Management Guide which identifies lead combat agencies offerings and coordination of support should an emergency be beyond the local capability or capacity of the island services.

Lord Howe Island is situated 600 km directly east of and shares the same latitude and telephone code as Port Macquarie. The Birdon Marine "Island Trader" carries goods from Birdon's facilities in Port Macquarie, to Lord Howe Island on a fortnightly basis serving the residents and visitors of the community since 2009.

Additionally, Eastern Air Services, a family owned airline service offers three return services to the island each week with a focus on increasing this services to meet future demand and building on our connection with Lord Howe.

Lord Howe Island remain a significant community of interest to the Port Macquarie- Hastings Council, and the businesses and our community who are connected and support the Island. We urge the Redistribution Panel to reconsider the transfer of Lord Howe Island from the electoral district of Port Macquarie to that of Sydney.