

## Details of your submission

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

Re: Proposal to transfer Lord Howe Island to the Sydney electoral district

This section only details the Executive Statement. Attached to the email/submission is a letter detailing supporting information and my justification argument to be read in conjunction with the text that follows below:

The Eastern Air Services Pty Ltd Group (EAS Group) of companies, specifically its airline company, Eastern Air Link Pty Ltd strongly opposes the proposal to transfer Lord Howe Island from the electoral district of Port Macquarie to Sydney as referenced at points #78 and #79 in the 'Report of the Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel on the draft determination of the names and boundaries of electoral districts of New South Wales' - dated 9th November 2020 (the Report).

Unfortunately and inadvisably, 'the Report' has centered its proposal on totally incorrect and outdated information, which if acted upon, may lead to a negative outcome for the residents of Lord Howe Island.

The fact is that QantasLink is NOT the sole RPT operator to Lord Howe Island (the Island) nor is regular air service connectivity restricted to Sydney. Eastern Air Link Pty Ltd (EAL) operates an established Regular Public Transport (RPT) service between Port Macquarie and the Island moreover, the flight time between the Island and Port Macquarie is just one hour - half that of a flight to Sydney.

Support from both the Lord Howe Island Board and personal contact with the sitting member, the Hon. L Williams MP has been essential to the successful, 4 year development of EAL's endeavors.

Given the current MP's location in Port Macquarie, there is absolutely no requirement to first fly to Sydney thence Port Macquarie should an Island resident wish to meet with their local member nor do they need to restrict their travel to occur when Parliament is sitting. Likewise, a local MP is not required to fly to Sydney prior to a flight to the Island. Irrespective of the location of the local member, a person-to-person meeting would necessitate an overnight stay and that is likely to be cheaper in Port Macquarie.

The EAS Group is particularly cognisant of the absolute criticality of a regular and reliable air service to the Island and its people. It underpins every endeavor on the Island and the city of Port Macquarie is a key element in the Island future development.

There has always been a strong commercial, social, sustainability and environmental nexus between the Island and Port Macquarie. Both are significant tourist destinations. The proposed transition to the Sydney electorate would not serve the people of either community well.

Although not supported in 2013, the Liberal Party has no objection to this change yet party's interest are now represented by the sitting member in Port Macquarie. The current local member representation works now, so the well-known adage comes to mind; "if its not broken, don't fix it"

It is for all the above reasons that it is not on vital but logical that the representative MP for the Island remain in Port Macquarie not be lost in the greater Sydney CBD electorate.