Details of your submission

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

My Submission
To Whom it may Concern,
I strongly oppose the proposal given in the Report of the Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel as it proposes that Lord Howe Island be transferred from the electoral district of Port Macquarie to the electoral district of Sydney. The Report states the following in relation to Lord Howe Island:

Suggestions and comments were lodged in relation to transferring Lord Howe Island from the electoral district of Port Macquarie to that of Sydney, reflecting both the practicalities of contemporary travel, and the electoral arrangements at the federal level. The Redistribution Panel notes that QantasLink offers year-round scheduled services to Lord Howe Island, with flights departing from Sydney on most days. In contrast, QantasLink offers only a seasonal weekly service between Port Macquarie and Lord Howe Island from February to June, and September to December. As it seems that constituents flying from Lord Howe Island to meet with their Member of Parliament would need to stay at least overnight in Sydney, the Redistribution Panel proposes that Lord Howe Island be transferred from the electoral district of Port Macquarie to the electoral district of Sydney.

Of most significance is the false presumption that the only airline service is from Sydney and therefore the only means of access to your local Member of Parliament.
I think it is in the best interest of the Lord Howe Island community to remain a part of the Port Macquarie electorate where strong and critical connections have developed that have been instrumental in the provision of goods and services.

These include but are certainly not limited to the following:
: the provision of the only regular freight services via the Island Trader which is based in Port Macquarie and owned and operated by local company Birdon.
: access to regular air services from Port Macquarie to Lord Howe with Eastern Airlines
: access to secondary school education through the Camden Haven High School – Distant Education and the support for the Lord Howe Island Central School which is a part of the Hastings Network
: local goods and services provided by an array of businesses based in Port Macquarie and surrounds including grocery items the bulk of which are shipped to the Island via the Island Trader
: access to specialist health services in Port Macquarie
:a MOU with the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council that assists the Lord Howe Island Board with professional advice and services
the Lord Howe Island police are a part of the Mid North Coast Local Area Command.

We have experience in having our island under a Sydney electorate (Elizabeth) and it was not suitable then and is no more suitable now due to our demographic, it just make more sense to remain as we are, if it is not broken don't try to fix it. Our politicians can fly direct from Port on Eastern Airlines there is no need to go to or stay in Sydney.
I have lived on the island since 1984 and feel our little islands voice would be heard louder by people who know us well, and Port has always supported our island and it's residence, we have a long standing history with Port Macquarie and I would hate for you to break that tie.
Yours Sincerely