Details of your submission

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

I refer to the proposal to transfer Lord Howe Island from the Port Macquarie electorate to that of Sydney.

I do not support the proposed transfer for the following reasons:

1. The claim in the report that constituents wishing to meet with their state member would require an overnight stay in Sydney en route to Port Macquarie is incorrect and reflects a poor understanding of services available to island residents. Port Macquarie can be accessed directly from Lord Howe by Eastern Air Services which is based in Port Macquarie.

2. The report states that, as Lord Howe is represented by Sydney federally, it should also be represented in the state sense by Sydney. Conversely, one could argue that, as it is in the state electorate of Port Macquarie, Lord Howe should be transferred to the federal electorate of Cowper. I would support such a transfer.

3. In establishing island lease fees, the Lord Howe Island Board has used Port Macquarie rates as the basis for lease fee calculations. While I disagree with that process (rates of other island communities would be more appropriate) use of Sydney rates as the benchmark for island fees if Lord Howe were to be transferred to Sydney, would impose a further financial penalty on island leaseholders.

4. As the shipping service and a direct air service to the island are based in Port Macquarie, island residents use Port Macquarie services far more than those of Sydney.

In summary, Lord Howe Island has well-established ties with Port Macquarie and the arguments presented here are just some of the many reasons why the island should remain in the Port Macquarie electorate.

S Fenton
Lord Howe Island resident