Details of your comment

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

Dear Commissioners,

I write in support of the draft boundaries for the Willoughby electorate as they apply to Artarmon.

The former boundaries, which split the Artarmon Village centre in two, effectively disenfranchised community members who ended up in the Lane Cove electorate.

In part, because the ridge line followed by the Pacific Hwy, and the Pacific Hwy due being an arterial road with high traffic volumes, are significant separators of interest. The bulk of the Lane Cove residents have little interest in matters on the east side of the Pacific Hwy and this impacts the interests of the Lane Cove MP.

In part, because local residents have a vital interest in ALL of their local CBD. Writing to your local MP about an issue metres away on the other side of the electoral boundary is as useful as writing to Santa Claus. Locally, it meant appealing to our Federal MP about state issues as his electorate covers all of Artarmon. MPs of neighbouring electorates are keen we write to our own MPs, and not to them, about issues in their electorates - in part due to the skinny resources available to MPs. Staff resources are skinny as Governments of all persuasions fear Opposition MPs will devote resources to statewide campaigns rather than electorate issues.

There is also a substantive benefit in having an LGA and a state electoral district overlapping as issues generally have state and council components - we need to write to local and state representatives about virtually every issue.

However, research shows an LGA with a ballpark 200,000 residents is more effective in meeting residents interests as that number is sufficient to support a regional CBD that can supply most of the public and private services required by residents, and draw from the tax base of a regional CBD to support high quality parks and other services across the LGA. The lower north shore regional CBD is a largely linear feature extending from Milson's Point to O'Brien St Chatswood. Lane Cove and Artarmon are two satellites of this regional CBD with little interaction between them.

Regards