



**Murrumbidgee
COUNCIL**

Darlington Point Office
21 Carrington Street
PO Box 5
DARLINGTON POINT NSW 2706

Telephone: 02 6960 5500

39 Brolga Place
COLEAMBALLY NSW 2707

Telephone: 02 6954 4060

Jerilderie Office
35 Jerilderie Street
PO Box 96
JERILDERIE NSW 2716

Telephone 03 5886 1200

SC51

9 December 2020

The Secretariat of the Electoral Districts
Recistribution Panel
c/- NSW Electoral Commission
GPO Box 832
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: redistribution@elections.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir

Submission- Objection to Removal of Jerilderie from Albury Electorate and Placement in Murray Electorate

While we understand the rationale to ensure that we have as close to equal representation, one vote:one value, in our democracy, we work with the plus or minus 10% as it is impossible to get it spot on.

Jerilderie, and its estimated 923 electors, have, for a considerable number of years, been in the Albury electorate, which has serviced the needs of the area very well.

Jerilderie has a natural affiliation with Albury, as the major medical and service centre, with post, parts, groceries and couriers servicing the Jerilderie region originating from Albury.

The inclusion of Jerilderie into the Murray electorate only adds an additional town and many more thousands of square kilometres to the electorate size. The Murray Electorate, in both size and numbers of townships, is far too many now, without adding an additional town and considerable square kilometres.

We consider that Jerilderie would not be serviced as well as it currently is, being within the Albury electorate.

We know that the electorate size is determined by eligible voters and not by the size of the electorate, however the size of the electorate in square kilometres is a greater disadvantage for appropriate representation than eligible voter population.

We are not advocating here as this is not the forum, however there needs to be a greater emphasis on land area v's population when it comes to appropriate representation of electors.

Within the parameters, the plus or minus 10%, under the current proposal the eligible electoral population for 17 April 2023 is:

Minimum	53,319
Maximum	65,168

By leaving the 923 or so eligible voters of Jerilderie in the Albury electorate, the numbers at 17 April 2023 would be:

Murray	54,998
Albury	60,958

Both electorates are within the maximum and minimum of desired eligible voters.

What are the hidden changes resulting from Jerilderie being placed into the Murray electorate.

We know that both State and Federal Governments look at electoral as well as Local Government boundaries for their departments.

Policing - Will this proposed change see Jerilderie move from the Albury Police district to the Griffith Police District? If so, this is unacceptable because of the commonalities Jerilderie has with Albury, as opposed to Griffith.

Regional Economic Development - Jerilderie is considered to be Murray while the townships of Coleambally and Darlington Point in our Local Government Area are Riverina. Jerilderie has more in common with Murray rather than Riverina.

A clear example of making a service so big and so ungovernable is our Murrumbidgee Local Health District, an area of 125,000kms and 245,000 people. You cannot advocate/represent equitably for that many people and geographical area. And so, the scenario is a regionalised focus with marginalised rural and remote attention.

We all know that these vital services do not, and cannot, function in isolation, and so the associated issues of transport, allied health access, emergency pathways and Police are difficult and onerous networks to establish.

These are just some of the many examples.

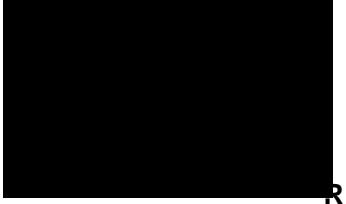
In short, we have no desire to see Jerilderie situated in no man's land, unable to advocate for the town's needs because they are so different to where we have been placed and represented.

The Jerilderie community is part of a recently merged Council which has already been at the mercy of bureaucratic manipulation that has left us in a considerably vulnerable position. To rejig the Electoral boundary to satisfy "a numbers game" that will have absolutely no relevant impact is redundant.

There is no immediate need to remove Jerilderie from the electorate of Albury, there is no need to change just for change sake.

We urge that you keep Jerilderie in the Albury electorate and that you refrain from increasing the land area of Murray.

Yours faithfully

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