Details of your comment

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

Port Stephens Greens (an autonomous members group within The Greens NSW) urge the Panel to reject the proposal from the Liberal Party to change the boundaries of the Port Stephens electorate. They propose a transfer of the Tilligerry and Tomaree peninsulas, housing more than 25,000 voters, to the Upper Hunter electorate (to be renamed Gloucester), and the merger of the rest of the Port Stephens electorate with parts of Maitland to form a new electorate named Raymond Terrace.

These proposals make no sense other than for the electoral advantage of the Liberal party. The Tilligerry and Tomaree peninsulas would be largely cut off from the rest of an Upper Hunter/Gloucester electorate by the waters of the Port Stephens estuary.

Residents of the peninsulas look to Raymond Terrace, Maitland and Newcastle as their main centres and in many cases their places of work or education. There is very little interaction or affinity with even the Dungog and Gloucester areas of the current Upper Hunter electorate.

The proposal would also diverge the largely coincident boundaries of the Port Stephens electorate and the Port Stephens Local Government area which has many practical benefits.

There are no statistical electorate balancing arguments in favour of this proposal and it should be rejected.

The only boundary change that would be acceptable is the minor change suggested by Greens NSW in Submission reference NSWR200701/30, to move the Fullerton Cove area from Newcastle into Port Stephens. This would strengthen the alignment of the State electorates with the Local Government areas.