Details of your comment

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

I write in reference to NSWR200701/35 and the suggestion to split the current electorate of Murray across Barwon and a new electorate of Murray/Darling.

Should this be the outcome the commission would be splitting a community of interest. As noted in submission NSWR200629/18 by Leeton Shire Council the community of interest of this area is the line of towns between Hillston and Narrandera (including Griffith and Leeton - the GLN line) and surrounding towns and farming communities. Ensuring that this line of towns is in one electorate will ensure that their consistent community of interest is consistently served. It is noted that this community is further demonstrated through the SA3 and SA2 structures managed by the ABS and the lines drawn by the National party would split these SAs. Practically, this would result in the split in two of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, a significant economic area in its own right. And it would also split across the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation boundary. In other areas of their suggestion, Bland does not form a community of interest with the GLN line of towns and instead belongs with Temora and other dryland cropping councils in the Cootamundra electorate. The consideration of environmental/drinking water issues by the proposed Murray/Darling electorate and irrigation issues by the Barwon electorate (p20) is an overly simplified view of these regions as all regions think about each of these 3 issues (and more) when it comes to water. The suggestion that a member's ability to serve a spread out community is hampered needs to be tested further than the submission made in NSWR200701/35 to determine how extensive this problem is and if other mechanisms (eg greater electorate funding) may be a solution to this problem.

The suggestion in NSWR200701/35 may not serve this region well and indeed may instead be politically driven given the loss of the Murray electorate by the National Party to the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers party at the last election. The SFF member has been quite active in her area and highly critical of the National Party and the suggestion to remove the Murray electorate may be more politically motivated towards her removal than for the betterment of the communities in this region.

I ask that you consider these factors and the last very important factor when making your decision to ensure that the integrity of the voting system is maintained and that a border change is not undertaken for political reasons and that clarity in voter intention is maintained.