

## Suggestion on NSW electorate redistribution.

We suggest the Tenterfield local government area whole, or a large part of it, be removed from the Lismore Electorate and be reinstated to the Northern Tablelands Electorate.

The last redistribution did not give adequate consideration to the published guide lines for the redistribution panel as listed below.

The Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel must base its decisions primarily on achieving an equal number of electors across all districts. **Wherever possible the Redistribution Panel needs to take into account:**

- economic, social and regional communities of interest
- means of communication and travel
- physical features and area of the electoral district
- natural boundaries (such as mountains or rivers)
- the boundaries of existing electoral districts.

We request they reconsider, and return at least the western half of the Tenterfield shire to the Northern Tablelands electorate, where possible, giving more weight to the 5 dot points for the following reasons.

### **1. Economic, Social and Regional Communities of Interest**

1. There is very little economic connection between Lismore and Tenterfield.
2. Lismore's economy is predominantly industry, sugar cane, macadamia nuts, dairy farming and tourism.
3. Tenterfield is beef cattle, irrigation in the west and tourism.
4. The irrigation is part of the Murry Darling Basin and brings with it many different and complex issues requiring the understanding and support of the local state member. To our knowledge the current member has not been west of Tenterfield.
5. There are no significant social or regional communities of interest.
6. Tenterfield is part of the Hunter New England Health district, Lismore is in North Coast Health district.
7. Tenterfield is in the Northern Tablelands Police district, Lismore is in the North Coast district.
8. Tenterfield Council applied to join the North Coast Joint Organisation of Councils but was rejected because they did not have community of interest and Tenterfield is now part of the Joint Organisation of Councils to the south and west.
9. Tenterfield shire is in the Northern Tablelands Local Land Service, Lismore is in the North Coast Local Land Service.
10. Tenterfield Rural Fire Service is in a cluster with Glen Innes and Inverell Fire Services.

## **2. Means of Communication and Travel**

1. The New England Highway is the main access for Tenterfield, bringing most goods in and produce out from the north and south.
2. The New England highway is an excellent all weather thoroughfare giving good, reliable connectivity with the rest of the northern tablelands.
3. The Bruxner highway between Lismore and Tenterfield is a very windy and hilly road with a less desirable safety record.
4. The western boundary of Tenterfield shire is more than 240k from Lismore, while towns in the Clarence Electorate, such as Coraki, that are totally dependent on Lismore, socially and economically, are as close as 25k from Lismore.

## **3. Physical Features and Area of the Electoral District.**

1. Lismore electorate is in the coastal area with a sub-tropical climate and a high and more reliable rainfall, while the majority of Tenterfield Shire has a dry arid climate with hot summers and cold winters.
2. The Lismore area is much more densely populated than the Tenterfield area.

## **4. Natural Boundaries. (such as mountains or rivers)**

1. The eastern escarpment of the Great Dividing Range is largely crown land, comprised of forest and national parks, and creates a natural barrier reducing social and economic interaction. It also delineates the wetter coastal climate from the dry western climate.
2. The only sealed road access connecting east to west is the Bruxner Highway and Summerland Way.
3. While we acknowledge a small number of Tenterfield shire residents living to the east of this line, and in the north of the shire, have little in common with the majority of residents in the shire and may prefer to remain in the Lismore electorate, we suggest the eastern escarpment should be considered as a more suitable electoral boundary than the shire boundary.

## **5. The Boundaries of Existing Electoral Districts.**

1. Tenterfield Shire is wholly in the federal electorate of New England and Lismore is in the federal electorate of Page.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit these suggestions.