Details of your submission

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

Submission to the Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel from J Taunton

Electoral Districts subject of the submission: Whole of State

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft boundaries for the 93 NSW Legislative Assembly Electoral Districts.

I have reviewed the draft districts as proposed and appreciate the complex nature of the task and the legislative requirement to draft boundaries that respect the principle of one vote one value for the entire state while also considering factors such as communities of interest.

Whilst others will have plenty to offer on the merits or otherwise of the proposed boundaries my submission solely relates to the naming of the proposed districts, which is the reason I have listed the entire state for coverage of my submission.

In the report provided I note that for the renaming of districts of some districts - such as Badgerys Creek from the existing Mulgoa - the reason provided is that the new name better reflects the centre of the proposed district than the name of the existing one.

Secondly I also noted that for historical purposes the names of Districts that have been in existence from Colonial Assembly prior to Federation (with the exception of the period of proportional representation from 1920-1927) have been retained.

The Parramatta Electoral District is specifically mentioned as a District that has existed continually from the self government in 1856 and as such the namesake should remain.

It is my view that serious consideration should be given to dispensing with the traditional approach of providing names for each district and replaced by a numerical system.

Briefly my reasons for this suggestion are:

a) Avoids confusion between a Local Government Area and/or regions and a state electoral district

b) Possibly allows more freedom for commissioners to draft boundaries without the need to maintain historical districts where the namesake needs to be included in any proposed district.

Yours sincerely,

J Taunton