



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Suggestion 38

Patrick Corr

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26 October 2023

Mr Tom Rogers
Electoral Commissioner on behalf of the
Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Rogers,

NSW REDISTRIBUTION SUGGESTION – ABOLISH LYNE AND COWPER

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Redistribution Committee for New South Wales arising from the July 2023 determination of entitlements. I note that the State of New South Wales is to reduce by one division in the House of Representatives.

I suggest abolishing the NSW Divisions of Lyne and Cowper, form a new Division of Dooragan, and reformation of all Divisions in the northeastern quadrant of the State of New South Wales.

Over many decades, the Divisions of Lyne and Cowper have morphed substantially in size, community composition and geographic spread. They no longer represent cohesive communities of interest. For example, Lyne stretches from the northern parts of the Hunter Valley in the south, including parts of Port Stephens, Maitland and Dungog, to the southern and western fringes of, but not including the major regional city of Port Macquarie (previously transferred to Cowper). Lyne is a poorly designed jigsaw piece electorate being mostly coastal holiday and retirement destination towns, service centres with rural agricultural hinterland and national parks/reserves. The design is causing failures in representative democracy for electors. A radical reformation and community education is required.

I suggest that the current southern areas of Lyne be reallocated to Paterson and Hunter with communities to which they have a greater affinity and identity. This could include the parts of Port Stephens and Maitland LGAs, Dungog, Seaham, Stroud, Stroud Road and Karuah. The remaining balance of Lyne (Gloucester, Mid Coast including Great Lakes and Taree) would be combined with all of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Council Area and as far north as Kempsey and Hat Head. This reformation will require adjustment to the size, boundaries and geographic coverage of Hunter, Paterson and Shortland to the south, Cowper, Page and Richmond to the north, and New England to the west which may also require some shrinkage to accommodate expansion of Parkes. All these divisions could be modified to better fit within the current and projected enrolment criteria set for the redistribution.

Further, as an additional proposal, I suggest the redesigned Division replacing Lyne and Cowper, be named having regard to a significant local landmark in a First Nations community language, such as Dooragan. In addition, the Committee should directly and proactively consult the Local Aboriginal Land Councils of the proposed redesigned Division as to the name of a historical Aboriginal ancestor, place or event to be memorialised in the name of the Division. In doing so, respectfully abandoning the reference to Sir William John Lyne, 1844–1913 who contributed to the conventions which led to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia and was a member of the first Parliament. These collectively excluded First Nations Peoples of Australia from the Constitution, their number in the reckoning of the population for electoral apportionment and exercising their rights to vote and represent their local community in the Parliament of the newly federated Commonwealth of Australia. Such a memorialisation is not deserving of continuation any further in our history.

Yours sincerely

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Patrick Corr