



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Suggestion 57

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Redistribution Committee for NSW  
AEC  
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Dear Sir/ Madam

Federal Electorate of Cowper

As with all electorates, based as they are on populations, the electorate of Cowper has changed greatly in the course of my personal voting history (just over 50 years). It is a reflection that time does not stand still, but it remains a personal disappointment that the electorate name now bears little if any resemblance to what it was when I first voted in 1972. As they say, it is what it is.

However, my main concern is that Cowper now has an almost bipolar look about it, in terms of population centres ie Port Macquarie (just) in the south and Coffs Harbour (just) in the north. I use the 'just' expression because the electorate boundary in the north excludes all the northern beaches part of Coffs, a pity because they really are an intrinsic part of this city. Likewise, the southern boundary excludes the southern parts ie Lake Cathie etc of Port Macquarie, also a traditional element of that centre.

However, those boundaries, and what they include and exclude, are not my main problem. The fact that the elected member, by natural virtue of his/ her residence (one day we will have a female representative!!), has to have the main electorate office in one place, means one of the two main population centres will have a lesser electorate office. And at the moment, that is Coffs Harbour.

For years, when Luke Hartsuyker was the elected member, Coffs Harbour was the centre of the electorate. But a redistribution circa 2016 brought us to where we are now; 2019 brought us the new member Pat Conaghan, and it's poor Pat that has to carry the load of representing an electorate with the 2 major population centres at completely opposite ends of the electorate. (The fact that Coffs Harbour is listed as having a significantly larger population than Port Macquarie is a subject for another day.)

So, that probably and hopefully says it all. I full well realise that many Federal members, most especially in rural and regional areas, have to deal with similar concerns, perhaps even more geographically challenging. But this electorate currently, as I said before, has an almost bipolar look about it, and maybe now is the time to review it. As coastal populations grow, that perception is only going to increase.

Good luck with your prognostications.

A concerned voter

Phil Crofts