



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 322

Wendy Logan

2 pages

Objection to Hume Boundary Change to include Goulburn in Eden-Monaro

Australian Electoral Commission

Federal Redistribution

Dear Committee members,

I am writing to you in opposition to the proposed redistribution of the Hume Boundary.

I write this objection in my capacity as a local resident of Run-O-Waters in Goulburn.

My submission is focused on the proposed redistribution from Goulburn in Hume into Eden-Monaro.

This new Boundary will be 362km, approximately nearly 4 hours from Goulburn to Delegate. How can a MP adequately service such a large diverse area with each area having their own unique challenges? People on the coast having different to people in the country and even in the country areas have different issues to other areas - people who live in the Snowy Mountains have different challenges to people who live in Goulburn.

A lot of people from Goulburn work in the ACT and Sydney. When COVID kicked off and the ACT/Sydney Borders closed, there was a lot of people who could not get to work, some of these people were essential workers. That all had to be discussed and negotiated via our sitting MP who lives in the region. How would an MP be able to address people's in Goulburn's issues, when people in other areas people border of Victoria - would have different issues as well?

If we have those huge Bushfires like we did in 2019 - where will the MP be as most of Eden-Monaro was covered by Bushfires? What will be their priority? They can't service the whole region in a crisis, no doubt they would not even be able to travel that far.

Currently the sitting member has an office in Quenbeyan and Bega. Do you expect over 23,000 people in Goulburn to have to travel an hour away to Quenbeyan to meet with MP if they need to discuss with the MP?

The current sitting Hume member is very active in the community. Very approachable and helps the people in the community. For instance, writing a submission against the Rate Rises in Goulburn. A lot of people in Goulburn not working and not able to afford it - they understand this community and area. Will the sitting member of Eden-Monaro be able to understand Goulburn's challenges/make up and visit Goulburn and be active in the community - always attending events as the Hume Member is and be approachable? How do they disperse themselves equally amongst the Community with such a large area to cover and be available to their constituents?

MP are our elected members of Parliament who are there to represent the people. If they have such a large area to cover, that means less availability and we are disadvantaged. How

does that benefit the people in their electorate?

I also question dividing boundaries based on numbers 4 years away - why not 2 years away? Anything could happen in 4 years. We could have a deep recession (talk of one at the end of this year), which stops people bulding and moving if they don't have jobs. We could have another huge bushfire season which deters people moving out to Regional Areas if a lot of it is desimated and the focus on re-building for current residents or we could have a drought and towns run out of water and people will move to where the water is. In the city, this would not be an issue, in the country - yes it can be. We are more at risk of being disadvantaged by your boundary changes, than people in the city.

More people are moving to the Coast than Regional Australia. Surely the additional numbers that you are taking from Goulburn would come from people moving down to the South Coast anyway. Bega alone increased by over 6,000 in the last 5 years.

I hope you consider my comments and leave Goulburn in Hume, where it shares its current boundaries with communities similar to it. I think the people of Goulburn will be disadvantaged if moved into Eden-Monaro.

Warm Regards

Wendy Logan