

PUBLIC SUGGESTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Public Suggestion Number 62

by

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2 Pages

To: The Redistribution Committee

I wish to submit the following suggestion relating to the boundary between the Divisions of Cowper and Lyne.

The Upper Macleay Valley should be wholly within a single electorate.

It is currently split between the electorates of Cowper and Lyne along the Macleay River.

Electors from the Upper Macleay included in the Division of Lyne have no social or economic community of interest with, and are geographically isolated from, the rest of the Division of Lyne. They do not have direct transport routes to the rest of the Division of Lyne and must travel through their nearest town of Kempsey in the Division of Cowper before travelling further to the Division of Lyne.

All polling places serving the Upper Macleay are in the Division of Cowper and Division of Lyne voters are required to absentee vote at their local polling place during general elections.

At the recent Lyne by-election no local polling places were available to electors in the Upper Macleay and an elector from Bellbrook who wished to vote at a polling place would have had to travel to Crescent Head to find the nearest polling place in Lyne. This is a distance of 73km or an hour and twenty minutes driving according to Travelmate.com.au. To do this they would have had to drive down the Macleay Valley and through the township of Kempsey which is where their community of interest lies and then out to Crescent Head.

Yours faithfully

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