

# **COMMENT ON PUBLIC SUGGESTION**

The Federal Redistribution 2009  
NSW



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**Comment on Public Suggestion Number 7**

**by**

**Terrigal Chamber of Commerce INC.**

**7 Pages**

**TERRIGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.**



13 May 2009

Redistribution Committee for New South Wales  
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**Comments on the Suggestions – NSW Redistribution**

The Terrigal Chamber of Commerce makes the following submission for the Federal Electorate Boundary Redistribution in NSW.

Charter of the Terrigal Chamber of Commerce:

- The Terrigal Chamber of Commerce is the only member-body representing the interests of business in the greater Terrigal area.
- The Terrigal Chamber of Commerce is representative of major tourist accommodation, tourist attractions and tourism based business.
- The Terrigal Chamber of Commerce is also representative of the community and residents of the Terrigal area.

The Terrigal Chamber of Commerce understands that the Federal Redistribution will affect New South Wales through the loss of a federal seat. As such there would be a need to re-adjust boundaries, with a possible increase to the electorate of Robertson.

Facts to consider:

- The seat of Robertson has an affiliation with, and is wholly contained within the Gosford Local Government Area (LGA).
- The Central Coast Region (Gosford LGA and Wyong LGA) experienced a population growth of 1.3% per annum in the 10 years leading up to 2006, with Wyong LGA growing at a faster rate. Source NSW Government's Central Coast Regional Economic Overview Handout 2008.
- Over the next 25 years the Central Coast Regional Strategy has outlined that 100,000 extra residents will move to the Central Coast Region, with growth in Wyong LGA being higher. Source NSW Government's Central Coast Regional Economic Overview Handout 2008.
- The Central Coast has two (2) traditional regional centres, being Gosford and Wyong. Mr. Grant McBride MP, State Member for The Entrance in his opening address at the 2008 NSW Government's Central Coast Business

Forum on the 3 November 2008, outlined that there is a need for a Regional Capital, although at this stage this has not been formalised. Therefore the businesses within the Wyong LGA rely on Wyong as their regional centre, and the businesses within Gosford LGA rely on Gosford as their regional centre.

- In the NSW State boundaries redistribution, the Electoral Commission found it necessary to create the new state electorate of Terrigal which encompasses the Gosford LGA and repatriated the suburbs of Wamberal, Holgate, Matcham and Erina Heights. The suburbs of Wyoming, Narara and Niagara Park in contrast remained in the state electorate of The Entrance, which is affiliated with the Federal electorate of Dobell.

The Terrigal area is currently part of the Robertson electorate and the Terrigal Chamber of Commerce implores the commissioners to retain this.

This is based on the following issues:

#### **Business/Commercial/Government Services Node**

The Business, Commercial and Government service nodes servicing the greater area of Terrigal is Erina and Gosford. Erina is the adjacent suburb to the west of Terrigal. Gosford is a 10 minute drive (normal daytime driving conditions) and about 10km from Terrigal.

Erina is the Central Business, Commercial and retail node for the federal seat of Robertson. Although the Electorate office for Robertson is located in Gosford, Erina is more logistically central for the Robertson electorate.

Terrigal businesses and the general Terrigal community rely heavily on these services within the Robertson electorate on a daily basis.

#### **Links to Gosford for Business and Tourism**

The residents and business operators in Terrigal rely on their attachment to Gosford for business and tourism.

This is due to the fact that businesses essential in supporting Terrigal area businesses emanate from both Gosford and Erina, including banking, finance, industrial, logistics and transport.

#### **Tourism Identity**

Tourism on the Central Coast is divided into two sections. The northern section being centred on Tuggerah Lakes, and the southern being centred on Brisbane Water.

Both of these areas have their own unique identities based on their affiliation through major 'open water' coastal townships. The northern section being represented by The Entrance, and the southern section being represented by Terrigal.

The Entrance is vital to tourism in the Dobell electorate, and Terrigal is imperative for tourism in the Robertson electorate.

To adjust the electorate boundaries to exclude Terrigal from the Robertson electorate could be damaging to tourism, funding and support for the Robertson electorate, and in our opinion may have adverse effects on tourism operators and businesses in the Terrigal area.

It would also significantly damage the ability of The Entrance and Terrigal to be stand alone entities in their electorates. Any changes to the boundary that places Terrigal and North Avoca into Dobell will force Terrigal and The Entrance to be competing entities within the same electorate.

This could have significant detrimental effects to tourism for both electorates.

#### **Natural separation**

The Gosford LGA and Wyong LGA along their eastern extremities are naturally separated through the remote and unpopulated beach of Spoon Bay travelling west through the Wamberal Lagoon and reserve land that separates the townships of Wamberal (Gosford LGA) and Forresters Beach (Wyong LGA).

The same cannot be said of the western side of the electorate covering the suburbs of Wyoming, Narara and Niagara Park.

#### **Distance to Electorate Services:**

The northern area of Gosford (suburbs of Narara, Niagara Park) which are part of the Dobell electorate are 15km and 15 minutes drive (normal daytime traffic conditions) to Wyong.

It should be noted that this route to Wyong is currently undergoing major road works and is subject to reduced speed limits. When this work is completed this travel time would be reduced even further. In addition, this route consists of travelling on major arterial roads, and the travelling time would be faster by taking the F3 freeway.

Public transport from this area to Wyong is accessible and direct through bus and trains.

The northern area of Terrigal (Suburbs of Erina Heights and Wamberal) that are also part of the Dobell electorate, and are 28 km and 30 minutes (normal daytime traffic conditions) from Wyong.

Public transport from this area to Wyong is complex with very limited direct travel via bus. There is no direct train route from this area to Wyong.

### **Isolation from Wyong**

Terrigal is comparatively isolated from Wyong and the services of the Dobell electorate. This cannot be said about the Robertson electorate.

To get to Gosford from Terrigal, electors travel through two (2) suburbs, being Erina and East Gosford.

To get to Wyong from Terrigal, electors travel through six (6) suburbs, being Wamberal, Wamberal North, Tumby Umbi, Berkeley Vale, Chittaway and Tuggerah.

In comparison the electors in Niagara Park (Dobell electorate) travel through three (3) suburbs being Lisarow, Ourimbah and Tuggerah to get to Wyong.

Any inclusion of Terrigal into the Dobell electorate would unjustly isolate the electors in Terrigal from services of its electorate. This would be unreasonable and shows a lack of knowledge of this area.

### **No attachment or affinity to Wyong LGA or Dobell electorate**

The Terrigal area has no affinity or attachment to Wyong, the Wyong LGA, business and tourism associated with the Dobell electorate.

The Dobell electorate was born out of the Robertson Electorate in 1984, and Terrigal has always been part of the Robertson electorate.

### **Natural attachment to Gosford**

The Terrigal area was established from and has significant historical links to Erina and Gosford. It is considered in some circles as being the 'jewel in the crown' of the Gosford LGA and Robertson electorate, with two (2) 4/5 Star resorts and associated tourism activities.

### **Community Services and Facilities**

The Terrigal area is serviced by:

Policing:	The Brisbane Water Local Area with a satellite police station at Terrigal, service the policing needs of the residents and businesses of Terrigal.
Ambulance:	All Ambulance services for Terrigal are under the command of the Gosford District Ambulance (CDA) operated out of Point Clare Command Station, with a satellite station at Terrigal.
Hospital/Outpatient Services:	All Hospital and outpatient services for Terrigal are allocated to the Gosford District Hospital. All patients transported to Hospital from Terrigal are transported to Gosford District Hospital.

Local Government Area:	Terrigal and Wamberal is administered and serviced by Gosford City Council.
Library:	The residents of Terrigal access the library resources of Gosford City Council at Erina, Kincumber and Gosford.
Local Government Services:	All local government services for the Terrigal residents are maintained by Gosford City Council, and the waste depot for Terrigal residents is located at Kincumber.

***All these services emanate from and are located within the Robertson electorate***

### **Transport and Bus Routes**

The Terrigal area is serviced by public transport (buses) emanating from Gosford and Gosford train station, which is part of the Robertson Electorate.

### **Community Issues**

#### **Schools**

The Terrigal area has three (3) feeder high schools being Terrigal, Kincumber and Erina. The Erina Heights Public school, which is just outside the Robertson electorate, sends public school students to Terrigal High School. All these high schools are currently within the Robertson electorate.

The main Catholic High School for the area is St Josephs and St Edwards located at East Gosford. Many Catholic school children residing in the Terrigal area, including those that attend Our Lady Start of the Sea Catholic Primary at Terrigal, attend or will attend these Catholic High Schools. These Catholic High Schools are within the Robertson electorate.

#### **Churches**

The Anglican and Catholic parishes covering the Terrigal area are maintained almost wholly within the Robertson electorate. There would be strong community need and interest to see the small area of the parish in the Dobell electorate to be repatriated back into the Robertson electorate.

### **Local Newspaper – Central Coast Express Advocate**

The Central Coast Express Advocate published two (2) versions of its paper, being a Gosford (southern) edition, and a Wyong (northern) addition. This can be viewed on their website at [www.expressadvocate.com.au](http://www.expressadvocate.com.au). The Gosford edition includes Terrigal, North Avoca, Wamberal and Matcham/Holgate in this edition.

This further shows the strength in the links between the Terrigal area, Gosford, Gosford LGA and the Robertson electorate.

### **North Avoca – Links to Avoca Beach**

The North Avoca businesses and residents have a strong link to the Terrigal area. But it could be argued that they have a stronger link and identity with Avoca Beach. North Avoca and Avoca share the same stretch of beach, and commonality in their suburb name.

### **Surf Life Saving**

Within Surf Life Saving Central Coast, the peak professional body associated with all of the Central Coast's fifteen surf life saving clubs, whether they are in Gosford LGA or Wyong LGA divides the clubs into areas.

It is our understanding that Wamberal, Terrigal and North Avoca are grouped together and form part of the same area. This further demonstrates the strong links between Wamberal and Terrigal.

### **Conclusion**

1. There is a strong affiliation with the residents and businesses of the Terrigal area with the electorate of Robertson.
2. There are strong community links for the businesses and residents of the Terrigal area with Gosford, Gosford LGA and the Robertson electorate.
3. There are strong tourism links between Terrigal and Gosford and the electorate of Robertson.
4. There are strong business links and necessities between Terrigal and Gosford and the Robertson electorate.
5. The Terrigal area is made up of suburbs and is a collective, which would be in contrast with the suburbs of Wyoming, Narara and Niagara Park which are individual and have their own identities.
6. Having Terrigal and North Avoca placed in the Dobell electorate would have a negative impact on this community, in particular businesses, the elderly and infirm, in trying to gain access to electorate services at Wyong.
7. There is an overwhelming and common sense case to repatriate Wamberal back into the Robertson electorate; before any other increases to the Robertson electorate boundaries are considered.
8. This submission maintains the current association and identity of Terrigal and North Avoca with the Local Government Area boundaries.

### **Submission:**

Based wholly and substantially of the above points, the Terrigal Chamber of Commerce, as a peak business, tourism, residents and community representative body for the Terrigal area, respectfully submits the following:

1. That the suburbs of Terrigal, Erina and North Avoca remain within the Electorate of Robertson.
2. That as the majority of the Terrigal area suburbs are already part of the Robertson electorate, it makes common sense that any increase to the electorate should be made to initially include the small part of Wamberal not already included. This, to our understanding, would see a slight increase in

the enrolment of the electorate of about 2,500 to 3,000 voters, which would be about a 3% increase.

3. That if further increases of the Robertson electorate boundaries are required that there be a further repatriation of suburbs affiliated with Terrigal and Erina, being Matcham and Holgate, back into the Robertson electorate, prior to any increase in boundaries north of Gosford.

Yours Sincerely,  
Terrigal Chamber of Commerce



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