



**Planning and Strategy
Committee of the Whole**

SUPPLEMENTARY

AGENDA

8 July 2020

Commencing at 5.30pm

On-site Inspections - Nil

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

6.7 NSW Electoral Commission - Seat of Monaro3

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS –

(Copies available from General Manager's Office on request)

Open Attachments

Nil

Closed Attachments

Nil

6.7 NSW Electoral Commission - Seat of Monaro (Ref: ; Author: Overall/Overall)

File Reference: 52.6.1-02

Summary

As required by the *NSW Constitution Act 1902*, and in accordance with the *Electoral Act 2017*, the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) is currently undertaking a review of the 93 electoral districts in New South Wales. The process, known as a redistribution, must take place after every second New South Wales general election, and must ensure that the number of electors within each district remains approximately the same over time. The Redistribution Panel is now inviting submissions on the suggestions that have been received during the process.

Recommendation

That Council submit comments to the Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel by 15 July 2020 supporting the retention of the current boundary of the State seat of Monaro, noting that the Local Government Areas within it generally align with the existing boundary, and that the current number of eligible voters (57,772) and the projected number in 2023 (60,385) are within the 10% variance allowed.

Background

Full details about the redistribution process are available from the NSWEC's website at <https://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/redistribution/About-redistribution>

Briefly, the *NSW Constitution Act 1902* requires that each electoral district has an approximately equal number of eligible voters. This number must not vary by more than 10% (up or down) from the average enrolment across all electoral districts at the relevant future time (Ref. <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2017/66/part3/div2>) In this case, "the relevant future time" is 17 April 2023.

Redistributions involve input from the public, political participants and other stakeholders. In deciding where the boundaries should be drawn, many factors are taken into consideration including:

- demographic trends
- community interests including economic, social and regional interests
- means of communication and travel
- physical features and area
- mountains and other natural boundaries
- boundaries of existing districts.

Redistributions are conducted by an Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel (the Panel) consisting of:

- a current or former Judge appointed by the Governor as the Chairperson of the Redistribution Panel
- the Electoral Commissioner
- the Surveyor-General of New South Wales.

Written submissions suggesting changes to electoral districts were invited from the public by the Panel. These concluded on 1 July 2020. The public is now invited to make comment on the suggestions, and this concludes on 15 July 2020.

**6.7 NSW Electoral Commission - Seat of Monaro (Ref: ; Author: Overall/Overall)
(Continued)**

Copies of the 41 suggestions submitted during the process are available at <https://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/redistribution/Make-a-suggestion/Suggestions-on-electoral-districts>

The boundary of the seat of Monaro generally aligns with the Local Government Area boundaries within it. The number of eligible voters at 23 March 2020 was 57,772, and the projected number at the relevant future time (17 April 2023) is 60,385.

As can be seen from submissions made by the main political parties about the seat of Monaro:

- (a) the ALP suggests a shrinkage, but no change to the boundary
- (b) the Liberal Party suggests Bywong and Wamboin move to the seat of Cootamundra, and Bungendore and Nerriga move to Goulburn
- (c) the National Party suggests no change to the boundary
- (d) the Greens make no suggestion on the seat.

Implications***Legal***

Pursuant to the *NSW Constitution Act 1902*, and in accordance with the *Electoral Act 2017*.

Social / Cultural

It is important that communities of interest and geographical features are retained in electoral districts. Consistent with this, the current boundary of the seat of Monaro aligns with the Local Government Areas of Queanbeyan-Palerang and Snowy Monaro that it represents.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council provide comment on the submissions received by the Panel, as they relate to the seat of Monaro, during the distribution process of electoral districts, and that these comments support the retention of the existing boundaries of the seat of Monaro.

Attachments

Nil