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# Suggestion 9

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2 pages

**From:** [REDACTED]  
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Reference Page/Cowper Divide

1. The first issue is minor - the village of Cowper about half way between Grafton and McLean on the Clarence River is no longer in the electorate of Cowper.
2. Cowper electorate is from just north of Coffs Harbour to somewhere south of Port Macquarie. Historically these regions have been competitors and not collaborators. They both offer a similar experience - growth areas with a nice climate, little industry, rely on retirees bringing their wealth to their city or imported capital in the form of household debt to support a rampant building industry. Both regions collapse into endemic unemployment if the funding for new building is interrupted. Electing a member for Cowper guarantees that the member will be either Port Macquarie or Coffs Harbour resident. Only an issue because both regions demand much the same sort of governmental support be it for University Colleges or Entertainment Centres.

Not good but I don't think that there is easy solution for the Electoral Office to separate them into different electorates.

3. More to the point the northern electoral boundary for Cowper is just North of Coffs Harbour at an un-named Creek in Sapphire Beach. This leaves the current principal growth suburbs (Northern Coast to Woolgoolga and beyond) in Page electorate serviced by a politician based in Lismore - 2 hours and 20 minutes away by car. There is a Page regional electoral office presence in Grafton which is still 80 kilometres north.

There is zero community of interest from the Coffs Harbour region with the Lismore region. There could be a community of interest between Coffs Harbour and Grafton (and much of the near Clarence River basin). Apart from Yamba most of the needs of Coffs Harbour and Grafton complement one another and do not raise strong rivalries for Federal attention and funding.

The boundary of the electorate containing Coffs Harbour should at least be the boundary of the Coffs Harbour City local administrative region. It seems just plain silly that we have to ring the Lismore Office of Page Electorate when we live in Coffs Harbour City 10-30 kms (at most) north of Coffs Harbour City and effectively in that city's suburbs where the highest volume of residents commute to for work.

If possible it would be better for Coffs Harbour to be associated with the Grafton district rather than the Port Macquarie district. But if that were not possible by electoral boundary adjustment then at least the Northern Suburbs of Coffs Harbour should be attached to whichever electorate that Coffs Harbour proper is included in. In practical effect this means the boundary of the region managed by Coffs Harbour City Council.

I was a principal in an accounting practice in Coffs Harbour 1974-2008 - I have lived here 1971 until present.

Submitted by:  
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Disclosure support:

