

RSLNSW GUNNEDAH sub-Branch

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President: P. Kannengieser

Secretary: M.R. Clarke

Treasurer: E. Atkin

Dated: 19/3/2020

Re: 2020 Draft Strategic Plan Members Consultation

The CEO RSLNSW

Dear Mr. Black

On behalf of the members of RSLNSW Gunnedah sub-Branch I am writing to voice our concerns regarding the above Draft.

Seven members of our sub-Branch travelled to Tamworth last week to attend the discussion chaired by our acting President Ray James.

We came away disappointed.

Our main concern is on page 14 of the Draft

“Rationalise the Number of Districts” .

I attended my first State Congress as an alternate delegate in 2018.

I went with an open mind, listened to the debate regarding District Council Boundaries, but was aware of the feelings of the North West District Council and was not surprised by the overwhelming defeat of the Draft 2018 Constitution.

The 2019 Congress considered the 2019 Draft Constitution which had been amended from 2018 to remove D.C. Boundary Changes.

The Constitution was adopted by a small margin. I did some calculations and found that it would have only taken 10 sub-Branched to reverse their vote and the 2019 Draft Constitution would also have been rejected.

Come 2020, your Draft Strategic Plan now reintroduces this concept of Boundary changes. If the Draft goes through, un-amended, it doesn't have to go to Congress. So the Board will have got its way via the back door.

District Councils in the country areas are an integral part of the RSLNSW framework. Small sub-Branched need the District Meetings to keep up with diverse thoughts and ideas. We don't have the luxury of hopping on a bus or train or driving a few suburbs to visit other sub-Branched, we travel sometimes hundreds of kilometres to form a camaraderie with our fellow Veterans. We do not want to be further isolated.

For your information ... North West DC was formed by voluntary amalgamation of two previous District Councils, namely Upper North West and Lower North West, to preserve a more manageable and effective District Council.

Change the Metropolitan Boundaries if you wish, but leave the Bush alone.

Regards

John Atkin Vice President and Delegate

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The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

“Lest We Forget”