

**Submission  
No 53**

**HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT (SPLITTING OF THE HUNTER NEW  
ENGLAND HEALTH DISTRICT) BILL 2025**

**Name:** Mrs Kate Knight

**Date Received:** 15 April 2025

I have lived in Wee Waa for 35 years, raised 3 children here who are now in their late 20's and early 30's make our living from farming, this morning on the radio i heard there was 75 deaths on Australian Farms in 2024 alone.

We used to have fabulous well-staffed very efficient hospital with a dr who lived in the community the decline of basic services over the last 35 years in the rural Australia is something the government should be really ashamed of.

I only heard of pm on the ABC last night telling us we should have access to good health care no matter where we live. I've had many a trip to the ER over the years with children and a husband who has had many an accident on farm. to think that i have 2 sons now in the business 1 married who will no doubt have children of his own one day. they thought of no community hospital, or no Emergency Room locally is terrifying. to drive an hour onto Narrabri could be the difference in life and death, the other thing that really upsets me is I know what our business contributes to tax each year. and we are just one business, if you put all the farms and businesses in the area in that number the figure would be astronomical. I don't think rural community are asking too much for some of our hard-earned tax dollars to go back into our community. the government needs to have a good hard look at this, before we lose basic services and theses community's die, then who will grow your food and fibre?

My last point on the semi closure of the hospital is being blamed in the lack of nurses, Wee Waa has plenty of local nurses, they all travel to work in Narrabri and don't want to work in Wee Waa without the support of an VMO