



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 66

Lee Purches

2 pages

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Redistribution Committee for NSW
Australian electoral Commission

Comments Regarding Objection #671 by Zali Steggall OAM MP - Objections to the Proposed Redistribution of the Division of Warringah

I support **Objection #671** regarding the proposed redistribution and boundary changes to the Division of Warringah and the associated removal of the Division of North Sydney and the redistribution of the Division of Mackellar.

Comments regarding Objection # 671

My comments below relate to Objection # 671 and include consideration of the following factors as outlined in the ACE guidelines and set out in Section 66 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918:

- of interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests.
- means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral division.
- the physical features and area of the proposed electoral division.
- the boundaries of existing divisions in the State

Examples:

- An important consideration is the role of Dee Why, both as a Local Government centre and economic hub, and it's connectedness to residents in the existing Division of Warringah, including those areas proposed to be transferred to Mackellar.
- Dee Why is also an important centre for medical specialities and day clinics which are accessed by residents from all over the existing Division of Warringah.
- The vital transport corridor from Dee Why CBD to the Northern Beaches Hospital, Frenches Forest, Warringah Mall, and Mosman.
- The strong connection between Curl Curl and the southern part of the Division of Warringah, with residents visiting the cultural hub, headland coastal walkway and utilising the very popular dog exercise park areas.
- There is a natural connection and communication between close neighbours, Curl Curl with Freshwater and Curl Curl with Dee Why, and it seems logical for these suburbs to be within the same division. An electoral split would be detrimental to this connectedness.
- Environmentally, there are strong connections for Warringah residents with the physical features of the region such as coastal, harbour and wetland areas, and national parks and nature reserves.
- There is regional interest, commitment and community support within the existing Division of Warringah for sustainable and renewable energy solutions, with both public and private interests working together across the region.
- Socially, residents in the Division of Warringah move between the various suburbs to access and participate in social and cultural activities, sporting activities, education, family networks and support, and volunteering. Federal funding of many these organisation would possibly have to be split across two divisions.
- The areas proposed to be removed from Warringah, and transferred to Mackellar, are of intrinsic value to the Division of Warringah. As a resident of North Balgowlah, I regularly interact with the communities in those areas and these areas would appear to have minimal interaction with the areas within the Division of Mackellar.

In addition to the above factors, I strongly support Ms Steggall's objection on the basis of equity. The federal seat of North Sydney is currently held by a female independent MP. The fact that this seat is to be eliminated, and the potential impact of subsequent redistribution of nearby boundaries

in other electorates that are currently held by female MPs, puts at risk the number of women in federal seats. Given the inequities historically endured by women in federal politics, the arguments raised by Ms Steggall in this regard are important considerations.

Related objections

Objection #686 by Kylea Tink MP (objection to abolish the Division of North Sydney)

Objection #618 by Kirsty Gold (objection to draft plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney and support for objection submissions by Zali Steggall and Kylea Tink)

I support these two other objections which compliment the objection by Zali Steggall MP for Warringah. The alternative solutions offered by all 3 submissions would seem worthy of consideration.

Lee Purches
North Balgowlah
Resident in the Division of Warringah