



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on suggestion 88

Voices of North Sydney

4 pages

Comments on Suggestions – NSW Federal redistribution

Voices of North Sydney was founded as a grassroots and non-partisan community group. Our aim has always been to boost community engagement with democracy, increase voter knowledge of our system of government and election processes, and encourage voters to liaise with their representatives at all levels of government.

These comments to submissions are to address a suggested abolition of the seat of North Sydney and significant changes to electoral boundaries affecting the seats of Mackellar, Warringah, North Sydney, Berowra, Bennelong, Mitchell and Parramatta, and the abolition of the seat of Bradfield.

As a nation, we are proud of the independence of the AEC and its processes, particularly in comparison to the obvious partisan nature of gerrymandering electoral boundaries in the US for example.

It is clear the number of enrolments in northern Sydney necessitate significant boundary changes and/or the potential abolition of an electorate.

The submissions by the Liberal (S47) and Labor (S48) parties have provided very different suggestions for redistribution of electorates in northern Sydney, and both with clear positioning for political advantage by strengthening electorates they currently hold or believe they can win in future.

As a Federation seat, we value the long history and tradition of the seat of North Sydney and are proud to call it our home. As part of the North Shore of Sydney, we feel a cultural and community identity here.

The Liberal Party submission (S47) suggested the North Sydney electorate should be maintained, but with such significant boundary changes that only 28.2% of the original electorate remained within, and the seat should effectively take over the footprint of Warringah. This would extend North Sydney to the suburbs of Curl Curl and Allambie Heights. The community identity of the Northern Beaches is unique and very different from the lower North Shore, and voters in Curl Curl, Allambie & Manly would be astonished and potentially sceptical of the process if they were informed they were now part of North Sydney.

There are distinct communities of the Northern Beaches / Mosman and the North Shore with clear geographic and cultural boundaries and communities of interest. Projected enrolments for 2028 are under quota for all the current 5 electorates. Thus, the most reasonable solution is for a centrally located electorate to be abolished so the surrounding seats can absorb those voters and regions – and the abolition of the seat of Bradfield would be the most logical choice.

Mackellar would require additional enrolments from its southern boundary with Warringah. The current boundary splits the suburb of Dee Why which is a local hub for work, transport, shopping and social activity, so it is reasonable to unite the region into Mackellar (SA2s 122031694, 122031695). If Mackellar's boundaries were to move further west into the suburb of St Ives, it would create a new community and geographic split within the electorate.

Warringah would be required to encompass areas further west into the existing electorate of North Sydney. This would unite areas of Cremorne, Kirribilli, Cammeray, Crows Nest, Naremburn and Northbridge in Warringah, whilst keeping the CBD of North Sydney within the North Sydney electorate.

Under this suggestion, the Warringah Freeway, Falcon St, Pacific Hwy and the North Shore rail line are used as the boundary between Warringah and North Sydney. This separates the North Sydney LGA - areas with higher density apartments more predominant in the western region remaining in the North Sydney electorate, and smaller houses / semis and apartments 3 storeys and under predominantly in the eastern region into Warringah electorate (This would include SA2s 121041413, 121041416, the suburbs of Milson's Point, Northbridge, Crows Nest east of Willoughby Rd and Naremburn north of Chandos St).

These new boundaries also embrace the name Warringah, being the indigenous name for Middle Harbour that would be at the centre of the electorate footprint.

North Sydney would remain and become a true electorate of the Lower North Shore. It would maintain the southern region of the North Sydney LGA (excluding Milson's Point that is linked with Kirribilli), and west to Hunters Hill. To encompass more of the lower North Shore, it should extend further north along the North Shore rail line to take in suburbs from the previous Bradfield electorate. This would include Chatswood, Chatswood West, Castle Cove, Roseville, Killara, Lindfield, Gordon and West Pymble (SA2s 121011399, 121031407, 121031408, 121031409, 121011683, 121011684).

In Berowra, it is currently problematic that the electorate has 2 distinct regions – the majority being located and identifying on the North Shore, and around a quarter located in the semi-rural areas around Dural. These are separated by the Galston Gorge and they are culturally, demographically and geographically distinct. Also noting their direct connecting road, Galston Rd, has a long history of being closed for extensive periods due to flood, fire and road damage.

With the abolition of the electorate of Bradfield, Berowra can become a distinctly Upper North Shore electorate. This would combine the transport and shopping hub of Hornsby within the same electorate and adopt the northern areas of Bradfield into Berowra - including Wahroonga, Turramurra and St Ives (SA2s 121021403, 121021406, 121031410, 121031411, 121031412, 121021577, 121021579).

Bennelong is also under quota of enrolment but would only need to relatively small boundary adjustments from North Sydney in Gladesville (SA2s 126021498, 126021499) and some of Berowra in the Carlingford region (SA2s 115011554, 115011555, 125021712).

The changes to the western region of Berowra would move a significant number of voters (~29K) from the semi-rural areas around Dural into the electorate of Mitchell. However, Mitchell also suffers the cultural split of a highly suburban southern region and semi-rural northern region. If semi-rural voters from Berowra were added to Mitchell, the suburbs south of the M2 (North Rocks, Northmead, Winston Hills) could be moved into Parramatta, making Mitchell a more consistent electorate of newer suburbs and semi-rural outer regions.

These boundary changes would lead to greater cultural and geographic homogeneity, and maintain communities of interest within the suburbs of the northern region of Sydney, without creating voter disenfranchisement by unnecessarily moving voters into electorates or regions they do not identify with.

We thank the AEC Redistribution Committee for the opportunity to contribute to this process.

N. Levy
Voices of North Sydney community group

Under these suggested scenarios, the enrolment for all electorates would be within the target quotas of 125,085 to 134,157.

Electorate	Projected enrolment 2028	Changes under suggested scenario	Scenario enrolment
MACKELLAR	117968	- 8254	126222
WARRINGAH	105958	- 8254 + 29027	126731
NORTH SYDNEY	112566	- 29027 - 7072 + 51144	127611
BEROWRA	109154	- 29213 - 5672 + 58600	132869
BENNELONG	122124	- 221 + 7072 + 5672	134647

Detail of the SA2 and SA1 regions undergoing change in this scenario are detailed below.

From	To	SA2 changes	SA1 changes
WARRINGAH	MACKELLAR	122031694, 122031695	
NORTH SYDNEY	WARRINGAH	121041413, 121041416	12101140102, 12101140103, 12101140104, 12101140111, 12101140112, 12101140114, 12101140118, 12101140122, 12101140124, 12101140125, 12101140129, 12101140130, 12104141401, 12104141402, 12104141426, 12104141428, 12104141429, 12104141430, 12104141431, 12104141432, 12104141433, 12104141434, 12104141439, 12104141440, 12104141441, 12104141706, 12104141710, 12104141721, 12104141722, 12104141723, 12104141729, 12104141733, 12101168301, 12101168302, 12101168303, 12101168304, 12101168305, 12101168309, 12101168314, 12101168315, 12101168319, 12101168322, 12101168323, 12101168327, 12101168328, 12101168330, 12101168332, 12101168334
NORTH SYDNEY	BENNELONG	126021498	12602149905, 12602149906, 12602149907, 12602149908, 12602149909, 12602149910, 12602149911, 12602149912, 12602149913, 12602149914, 12602149920, 12602149921, 12602149922, 12602149924
BRADFIELD	NORTH SYDNEY	121011399, 121031407, 121031408, 121031409, 121011684	12101168306, 12101168310, 12101168313, 12101168317, 12101168320, 12101168321, 12101168329
BRADFIELD	BEROWRA	121021403, 121021406, 121031410, 121031411, 121031412, 121021577, 121021579	
BEROWRA	BENNELONG	115011554, 115011555, 125021712	
BEROWRA	MITCHELL	115011294, 115021297, 115021298, 115041301	
MITCHELL	PARRAMATTA	115011296, 125041490, 125041491, 125041493, 125041494	