

# COMMENT ON PUBLIC SUGGESTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009  
NSW



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## Comment on Public Suggestion Number 2

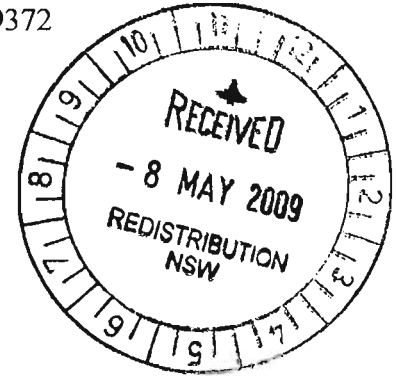
by

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5 Pages

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Dear Commissioners,

### **Comments on other submissions**

I would like to make some brief comments in relation to the various submissions.

#### North Coast, Central Coast and Newcastle

In relation to the various submissions the greatest similarity I found to my own proposals was contained in submission 122 by Charles Richardson. Our proposals for the North Coast, Central Coast and Newcastle region were very similar and I would suggest the fact that existing enrolments were close to quota generally leads to this conclusion. Accordingly I was a bit surprised with the Liberal Party submission in relation to Paterson, Hunter and Newcastle in particular.

#### West of New South Wales

In respect of the west of the state some minor changes to Parkes, Calare, and Farrer can be accommodated by the movement of the western portion of Macquarie back into Calare etc (these arrangements had existed from 1984 to the 2004 elections). This simple movement accommodates all the elector deficiencies to these electorates and makes adjustments easier within Sydney, where there is the need to adjust virtually every division and the collective deficiency will mean that a division is abolished, I propose Greenway whilst Charles Richardson advocates Blaxland.

#### Local government boundaries and name changes

In my submissions I have relied probably to a greater degree on local government boundaries than other submissions. In relation to divisions such as Grayndler and Lowe (which I propose be called McMahon) the changes necessary are sufficiently small to be met by these changes. I noted that other submissions such as 59 Dr Adam Carr also advocates a renaming of electorates including McMahon, but also Evatt.

### Southern New South Wales

In relation to the remainder of the regional areas of the state, my proposals for Throsby are similar to that of Mr Richardson and the Liberal and Labor Parties. In relation to Gilmore my proposal is less disruptive to Eden-Monaro, which has traditionally had a large section of the south coast within it. Similarly by minimising changes to Eden-Monaro there is less disruption to Hume. If the intent is to shift electors from Hume into Gilmore, the most direct method by transferring areas east of the Hume Highway into Gilmore would be easier.

The slow growth in the Illawarra region will become an increasingly problematic issue in future redistributions. The Illawarra is substantially defined by an escarpment, its isolation from townships in the Sutherland Shire, and the community of interest between Kiama and the like is increasingly less obvious with the Wollongong area or Shellharbour which is more industrialised. For some years adding numbers from Kiama is the most workable solution to maintain numbers in Cunningham and Throsby.

### Eastern Suburbs

I have proposed no changes to Wentworth, Kingsford-Smith and Sydney. The Liberal Party has proposed some minor adjustments with Wentworth, which aligns with major roads. This proposition seems to be quite reasonable and also does not change Sydney in any significant way.

### The inner west and southern suburbs

There is agreement that there be minimal change for Grayndler and that most of any additional electors come from Lowe. There are not significant changes proposed by the major parties or Charles Richardson to Barton, Banks, or Watson. I have laid out a case in my submission that changes to Barton, Watson, and Banks are desirable to align more closely with local government boundaries, major river and railway features which define the area.

Because of the way the major boundaries of the three divisions operate, the only real source of new electors is from Blaxland. Charles Richardson has proposed the abolition of Blaxland. I alternatively propose some substantial boundary changes, as Blaxland, abuts Fowler and Reid which need adjustments. Blaxland is not surprisingly proposed for abolition, or substantial change, as it like Parramatta which I discuss later is a point of convergence of changes in other divisions.

Whatever changes are proposed, one or more divisions will end up with an awkward shape, presently Blaxland is of a quite irregular shape, but also need significant additional electors from Reid. My proposals for Banks make the division an awkward shape, but without major realignments to several divisions this is unavoidable.

I had proposed that the name of Lowe be changed to that of McMahon (who was the former member and Prime Minister). With Lowe (McMahon) I had suggested that to bring its elector numbers up to tolerance that the Great Western Freeway or M4 Motorway be used as a boundary and that area north in the City of Auburn be incorporated in Lowe (McMahon). I note that Prospect and Berowra have also been mentioned for replacement. As the next redistribution in New South Wales will almost certainly mean the loss of another division, the scope for divisions named after significant people, and deceased prime ministers will diminish.

### Cook and Hughes

The divisions of Cook and Hughes are defined in large part by the Georges River and the Sutherland Shire. At a state level districts such as Menai have straddled the Georges River. I had considered such an option. I note the 2005 committee determined to include parts of Liverpool and Warwick Farm in Hughes. I did not consider then or now that that was a suitable long term solution. The Labor Party has proposed an extension of this straddling of the Georges River, but again in the Liverpool area.

I proposed to include some suburbs that are presently in Werriwa and within the City of Campbelltown these areas are close to built up areas in Hughes. The attraction of this solution is to combine electors of relatively similar socio-economic characteristics to be placed in the same division and reduce the elector population of Werriwa and also Macarthur which are both fast growing.

I have utilised local government boundaries elsewhere, but have not here as the boundary makes little sense and defeats a reasonable attempt to combine areas of similar interests. Hughes is a more outer suburban division than Fowler and more rural and incorporates more natural features, in part national park and military training areas.

### The south western suburbs

The divisions of Macarthur and Werriwa incorporate the some of the major areas of growth in Sydney (the others are in Greenway and Mitchell). I have proposed changes to Hughes above to firstly incorporate outer suburban areas of similar socio-economic characteristics, and secondly reduce elector numbers in Werriwa and Macarthur. I propose the focus of Macarthur continue to be an outer suburban electorate with a rural flavour. The Liberal Party has proposed some serious changes moving the electorate to the south, whilst the Labor Party proposes it shift to the north, become much more urban and a more natural Labor Party division.

I proposed Macarthur incorporate western rural parts of the City of Liverpool, Penrith and Wollondilly which are currently in Fowler and move urban parts of Macarthur in turn to Werriwa, offsetting Werriwa's losses to Hughes. This displacement of Macarthur to the west, and transfers from Campbelltown in the east to Hughes mean that the area Werriwa occupies the built up areas of the core of Campbelltown, and parts of Liverpool.

I believe that my proposal is sounder in solving the rapid growth problems that mean sometimes substantial changes to divisional boundaries in the south west of Sydney than those of the Liberal Party, Labor Party or Charles Richardson.

### Outer west of Sydney

There is considerable similarity in the proposals for outer Sydney, as Lindsay and Chifley are near quota. Charles Richardson has reached a similar conclusion about the desirability of changing Macquarie back to its former configuration and has suggested some minor changes to Lindsay.

Whilst I agree with splitting Macquarie as he has suggested, I would argue that given the high growth of Mitchell, Greenway and the need to find numbers to supplement other north Sydney divisions that the abolition of Greenway is a more satisfactory solution than that of Blaxland. I note that both the major parties have proposed the retention of Blaxland. My proposal whilst meaning changes to Mitchell, Parramatta, Bennelong, means smallish changes to Berowra, Mackellar, Warringah, North Sydney and none to Bradfield. My proposal means a displacement of Mitchell to the north west, as well as Parramatta been further north.

### North Sydney

I have proposed a series of changes that bring all divisions above quota, but leaves Bradfield unchanged as it is within tolerance. I have proposed changes to Bennelong, whilst submissions have proposed no changes or minimal changes. Given all the divisions to the east of Bennelong need additional electors, not changing Bennelong makes the changes to Berowra and Parramatta more extensive. The current configuration of Bennelong has only existed since 2005 and whilst growing and also at quota, it could be argued should be left unchanged it is not ideal as it compels larger changes in Parramatta which Charles Richardson and the liberal Party propose which are quite extensive.

### 'The Parramatta convergence'

It is interesting that several submissions have reached various solutions to the area around Parramatta; it is the one area of significant difference and reflects the differences in starting points. I'll refer to it as the Parramatta convergence as it is where all results of different choices manifest themselves.

I don't consider that Prospect needs any real change, although some submission have suggested a name change as appropriate.

With Parramatta I had pointed to the need for changes to Bennelong, otherwise the need for significant changes to Parramatta become more severe. Charles Richardson in his proposal suggests a substantial movement south of Parramatta into Reid, with the subsequent impacts on Reid. My proposal of sees adjustments to Reid to accommodate changes to Blaxland, Fowler, to Bennelong to accommodate changes on the north shore of Sunday, to Mitchell to accommodate the abolition of Greenway and provide surplus electors to supplement changes on the north shore and to Parramatta to enable a transfer of parts of Parramatta to Reid to maintain it.

I have pointed out that placing the suburb of Parramatta in the division of Parramatta will prove difficult at times. The division itself has covered quite extensive areas in the past. My proposed Parramatta whilst losing the Parramatta CBD to Reid along with Ermington (currently in Bennelong, but part of City of Parramatta) will remain largely the division it currently is, with a transfer in from Bennelong and Mitchell offsetting the transfers to Reid. About two-thirds of the existing Parramatta electors will remain in the division, so that on balance it is a relatively modest change.

#### Overall

I have pointed out that my proposals mean that 10.6% (10.9%) of electors will live in a different division. This compares reasonably with the other major proposals.

M. Gordon  
11 May 2009