

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 104

by

John Spiers

2 Pages

Ref: 090822 electorate letter

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RE: BENNELONG BOUNDARY FRAGMENTS ERMINGTON

Dear Sirs,

In the latest proposed electoral redistribution there is one point in the proposed boundary between Bennelong and Parramatta that I believe is impractical and will work against the interests of residents and relevant political representation.

Your proposed western boundary of Bennelong, running down the northern extension of Silverwater Road between Kissing Point Rd and Victoria Rd, will place the small enclave to the west of this road, bounded by Ulm Street, in the Parramatta electorate. We are currently part of Reid.

This enclave, in which I live, is traditionally part of the suburb of Ermington, the bulk of which is in Bennelong. The enclave is still linked directly to the rest of Ermington by two road connections, despite the extension of Silverwater Road as a grade-separated causeway in the 1980s.

The enclave has NO DIRECT ROAD CONNECTION TO PARRAMATTA.

It is completely cut off from Parramatta/Rydalmere to our west by Upjohn Park.

While Upjohn Park is an excellent local amenity, it creates an effective barrier between us and suburbs and services to our west.

THERE IS NOT EVEN A PAVED FOOTPATH CONNECTION FROM OUR AREA THROUGH THE PARK TO THE REST OF THE PARRAMATTA ELECTORATE.

On the infrequent occasions when we visit Parramatta, we have to first backtrack eastwards further into Ermington, then drive north or south to Victoria or Kissing Point Road, before heading west to Parramatta. A similar circuitous route is necessary on return.

We do all our shopping in areas that are or will be part of Bennelong – local groceries, library etc at Ermington shops, banking and other shopping at Carlingford Court and occasionally at Macquarie Centre near Macquarie University.

Doctors and other services are also located in Bennelong.

Our prime public transport link to the city of Sydney is Eastwood railway station, with which we have a good bus connection. We also access services such as Medicare at Eastwood.

AUSTRALIA POST recently amended proposed postcode boundary changes that would have made our small enclave part of the suburb of Rydalmere (immediately to our west) based on an arbitrary line drawn down the Silverwater Road extension in the same arbitrary manner as your proposed redistribution boundary.

Australia Post accepted our submissions that all our practical links lay eastward into Ermington and that organisation of all our government services, including mail, is part of systems focusing on the Ermington area. It reversed its proposed postcode change and restored us to Ermington.

I do not dispute that I and some residents of our enclave access services at Parramatta that may not be readily more locally in Bennelong - but I believe most still see themselves as part of Ermington, and that their interests are focussed mainly in that direction.

If you drive through our area you will clearly see that while the Silverwater Road extension makes a convenient boundary line on a map, it does not in practice separate us from the rest of Ermington.

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