

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 188

by

Alan and Margaret McDonald

1 Pages

From: alan mcdonald [alan.mc@optusnet.com.au]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2009 11:48 AM
To: NSW Redistribution
Subject: objection to redistribution



Mr E Killesteyn

Chair Redistribution Committee.

Objection to proposed boundary change to federal electorate of Bennelong.

The first my family and I become aware of the proposed changes was today, 4th September 2009 when my neighbour advised us.

Until today my neighbours and my friends in Plympton Road and friends and associates in the wider community, with which we are in regular contact, have not commented to us about the proposed changes, indicating perhaps a general lack of knowledge about such an important issue.

Is the general lack of knowledge a product of the form of notification mandated for boundary alterations? If so I submit that a more inclusive form of notification be substituted for the present method.

I submit that to push ahead with the recommended changes without giving the wider community, of both electorates, a genuine and informed opportunity to comment is undemocratic. If not undemocratic the current method of judging community comment is against the spirit of the legislation, even though it may satisfy the letter of the law.

I recommend that the Committee use the discretion it has and extend the time for community comment and advertise the proposal widely in a different format to that use todate.

Secondly a logical view of neighbourhood would suggest that M2 Toll Way be nominated as the division between Bennelong and Berowra. It's as natural a division between communities as is a river or other natural feature.

From Pennant Hills Road there is minimal residential development on the northern side of the M2. Firstly there is the Pennant Hills Golf Club which meets bush land on its eastern boundary which in turn extends to the extensive bush reserve, home of the local Scouts Group. Almost without exception there is no residential development between Pennant Hills Road in the west to Castle Howard Road in the east.

If Berowra needs more electors I suggest North Epping be reconsidered as this a more logical connection between like communities.

How many electors are required to "balance" the two electorates as they now stand? If the difference is insignificant at this time I suggest the redistribution be deferred until the time for consideration of another redistribution arrives.

Alan and Margaret McDonald

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4th September 2009