



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on suggestion 50

Anonymous 2

2 pages

Proposal to redistribute seats in Northern Sydney (Bennelong, Berowra, Bradfield, Mackellar, North Sydney, and Warringah) – 9 November 2023

- **28-year-old resident, raised in Bradfield and now residing in North Sydney**

This is a personal reflection on the proposals submitted to the AEC relating to the 2023-2024 NSW Redistribution. I intend for this submission to give the AEC qualitative data regarding local perceptions of the relationship between the seats in the Northern Sydney region. I am a 28-year-old resident of North Sydney (Wollstonecraft) and have lived in areas north of Sydney Harbour for most of my life. I have close family in Berowra (suburban and the Central Coast), Bennelong and Warringah (outside of the North Shore state boundary) and travel between these electorates regularly. I do not have a family connection to Mackellar.

A redistribution of Northern Sydney should occur

Having read the submissions made to the AEC, there is little doubt in my mind that the 6 seats in the Northern Sydney region should become 5. This is because of the low quota range of seats in this region for both 2023 and 2028, and the relatively consistent demographic in this region.

In summary, I resonate with the proposals to the effect that:

- North Sydney is expanded north into Bradfield and, as needed, east into Warringah;
- Warringah is expanded north into Mackellar, to create a **'beaches' electorate**, noting that all of the upper northern beaches might be too large (see below);
- Bradfield/the remainder of Mackellar are combined to create an electorate around Garigal national park (Turramurra, Gordon, St Ives, Belrose, Terrey Hills) and perhaps parts of the upper northern beaches (as needed) (**Garigal electorate**);
- as needed for population balance, parts of Bradfield, Berowra and North Sydney are interchanged with Berowra and Bennelong along geographical lines and to reflect genuine local cohesion, namely:
 - the Lane Cover River/National Park (Hunters Hill and Gladesville (North Sydney) into Bennelong)
 - the Hills/Northwestern suburbs (Carlingford, Beecroft (Berowra) into Bennelong or Berowra),
 - lower Kuringai Chase National Park (Hornsby, Wahroonga, Thornleigh (Bradfield) into Berowra or the Garigal electorate).

Retain North Sydney as it is a Federation division

On the basis of the stated preference to retain divisions that existed at the time of Federation, the seat of North Sydney should be retained. That said, the current electoral boundaries for the seat of North Sydney should be moved to meet 2023 and 2028 quotas. The suggestions to expand North Sydney north into Bradfield seem to me the most logical from a local perspective. This is because areas like Crows Nest, Willoughby and Chatswood to the north are local hubs for residents closer to the Harbour. The North Sydney CBD and Royal North Shore Hospital similarly serve this area.

There are suggestions to consolidate Warringah with eastern parts of North Sydney, or for North Sydney to consolidate areas from eastern Bennelong. In my view, the former is more logical. **Lane Cove National Park creates a genuine geographical boundary** between the areas shared by North Sydney and Bennelong, even including Hunters Hill (currently part of North Sydney). In my view, to extend westward in this way is not reflective of the local transport or cultural integration. Hunters Hill should be moved into Bennelong, and **North Sydney might instead be extended into Warringah**, including areas like Neutral Bay, Cremore and some or all of Mosman (depending on the population

gained from Bradfield). This would reflect the State electoral boundary of North Shore and the LGA of North Sydney, and also retains the natural cohesion of these areas. We share a common identity and are genuinely well integrated.

For balance, a point of difference between the above-named areas of Warringah and other parts of North Sydney is the coastal orientation (towards the Northern Beaches) of Mosman. This is not shared by places like Lane Cove or Artarmon, and the B-Line bus (running from Manly to the City via Neutral Bay reflects this). That said, Chatswood, St Leonards and Crows Nest are local hubs for transport connections into Mosman and the lower Northern Beaches.

In any case, I would embrace a proposed expansion of North Sydney into parts of Bradfield and Warringah. Warringah might then expand north into Mackellar to create a 'beaches' electorate.

Bradfield, Mackellar and Warringah become two electorates

The net effect of the proposed expansion of North Sydney would mean losses to southern Bradfield and western Warringah. As such, the remainder of Bradfield and Warringah should be absorbed by Mackellar and re-consolidated as two electorates – effectively a 'beaches electorate and a suburban electorate around Garigal national park. Logic substantially similar to the Greens NSW proposal appeals to a local sense of the area.

- Southern Bradfield (Chatswood, Roseville, Willoughby) be incorporated into North Sydney;
- Eastern Bradfield (St Ives and Forestville) be incorporated into Mackellar;
- Northern Bradfield (Waitara, Wahroonga, Turramurra) be moved into Berowra. For these areas, Kuringai Chase National Park is a genuine local reference point (see Bobbin Head).
- The remainder of Bradfield (Lindfield, Killara, Gordon, Pymble) be moved into North Sydney, Berowra or the new Garigal electorate as appropriate (eg, Lindfield to North Sydney, Pymble, Turramurra and Gordon to Garigal and the balance to Berowra).
- South Mackellar be absorbed by Warringah, which moves north to form a 'beaches' electorate.
- Mackellar is effectively split into Warringah and a new Garigal electorate.

Retain Bennelong and Berowra

Berowra is the regional connection between Northern Sydney and the Central Coast. It is demographically unique from other parts of Northern Sydney as it is semi-regional, has a smaller urban population and is characterised by natural boundaries like the Hawkesbury River. That said, there are parts of the Hills district in Berowra that would be better captured by a representative from Bennelong. Berowra might then expand into those parts of Bradfield that identify strongly with Kuringai Chase National Park (Wahroonga, Thornleigh, Hornsby).

Bennelong is similarly demographically distinct as it is a regional connection between Northern Sydney and western Sydney (including the Hills district and Ryde-Epping). As mentioned above, the portion of North Sydney west of Lane Cove National Park and the portion of the Hills district within Berowra (Carlingford etc) should be moved into Bennelong.

Conclusion

As a local resident with genuine connections to 5 of 6 current electorates in Northern Sydney, I trust that this is a useful qualitative and local assessment of the redistribution that I believe ought to be made to Northern Sydney. Two of these electorates, Berowra and Bennelong, are preserved as gateways to other regions of Sydney. Then, by preserving North Sydney, the remaining electorates are re-orientated. This would create 5 demographically balanced electorates along genuinely local lines, according to geographical boundaries and in line with local transport and cultural integration.