



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Comment on suggestion 58

Voices of Bradfield

3 pages

**Voices of Bradfield**  
**Community Group for Bradfield**  
**Be Heard, Be Represented**

9 November 2023

Australian Electoral Commission  
Redistribution Committee for NSW  
Locked Bag 4007  
Canberra ACT 2601

*By AEC Online Forms*

Dear Committee Members,

**Introduction**

I am writing to you as the President of Voices of Bradfield, a community group established in April 2021, with the objective of supporting an independent candidate for the Federal House of Representatives in the electorate of Bradfield. Voices of Bradfield welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Australian Electoral Commission regarding the redistribution.

Bradfield is a distinct and genuine community of interest, where the Pacific Highway and North Shore train line provide the 'spine' and connections within and across the electorate and enable convenient travel to the city as well as access to many amenities. The Pacific Highway is said to mirror an ancient Aboriginal track that followed the ridge north from Sydney. While this may be hard to prove, there are many Aboriginal sites within Bradfield that are part of the protected natural environment.

Bradfield currently includes Castle Cove, Gordon, Killara, Lindfield, Pymble, Roseville, St Ives, Turramurra, Wahroonga, Waitara, Warrawee and parts of Asquith, Chatswood, Hornsby, Mount Colah and Normanhurst.

**Bradfield's Natural Environment**

People choose to live in Bradfield for many reasons and a shared love of our unique natural environment, our bushland, waterways, national parks and beautiful wildlife are part of the warp and weft that weave the community of Bradfield together. The term 'leafy north shore' has almost become a cliché in real estate advertising but it is real and tangible for residents of Bradfield and is at the heart of the uniqueness of the area.

Bradfield's environment has a powerful impact on our culture, pastimes, and how we meet and connect with each other. There are ample opportunities for bush-walking, observing our native flora and fauna and developing a sense of pride and responsibility for the beautiful environment in which we live.

Bradfield has natural geographic boundaries such as Kuring-gai Chase National Park to the north, Garigal National Park and Middle Harbour to the east, Lane Cove National Park to the south-west and Berowra Valley National Park to the north-west and the Harbour to the south. It makes sense to keep the electorate within these natural boundaries.

### **Education at the Heart of the Community of Interest**

Bradfield is a community that values education and is home to many outstanding schools, both public and private. The schools help create and sustain our community of interest through their engagement with the local community and their fostering of shared values. The choice of schools in Bradfield is a potent reason people choose to join our community of interest as the quality and number of schools help shape the culture and future generations.

Sporting opportunities, provided by schools and the community, help build cohesion and connections up and down the electorate. It is often through such connections that a sense of belonging to the community of interest is fostered and expanded for both adults and children.

### **Commercial and Health Care**

Bradfield is served by two major commercial centres: Chatswood in the south and Hornsby in the north. These centres provide a wide range of services and amenities to the people of Bradfield and are easily accessed from the transport corridors of the train line and Pacific Highway. There are also local commercial centres in most suburbs along the highway each with its own character and ambience.

There are leading health care facilities such as Hornsby Hospital, Sydney Adventist Hospital (The SAN) at Wahroonga and Royal North Shore Hospital south of Bradfield that all provide outstanding care and are accessed through the 'spine' of the Pacific Highway or train line.

### **Bradfield Speaks**

Between July 2021 and January 2022, The Listening Survey Project, initiated by Voices of Bradfield, asked Bradfield residents for their views on the issues that matter to them. The results of this project were published as *Bradfield Speaks*.

Our community of interest has a strong moral compass and a belief in a better future for all. Voices of Bradfield surveys the members and subscribers annually to ensure currency in understanding the issues that are significant for our supporters. The results of each annual survey are published in December and inform and influence the work of Voices of Bradfield in the next year. In 2023, support for the Voice to Parliament was a major priority.

In the recent referendum, Voices of Bradfield joined other community groups from all political persuasions, to campaign for the Voice to Parliament. The outcome of this campaign was that

Bradfield was the only liberal-held seat in the country to vote Yes. Our community of interest mobilises when it sees an opportunity to coalesce around shared values and convictions.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Bradfield was named after Dr John Bradfield, the high-profile chief engineer of the Harbour Bridge. Bradfield's wife, Edith officiated at the naming ceremony in 1924. It was noted at the time that 'Bradfield's name would be closely connected with the bridge itself and the North Shore generally for all time.'

Voices of Bradfield understands the need for Bradfield to expand and the electorate already includes parts of Asquith, Hornsby, Mount Colah and Normanhurst in the north and parts of Chatswood in the south.

We therefore respectfully suggest an expansion north into the seat of Berowra and/or south to include Willoughby and Artarmon would enhance the community of interest and strengthen the connections established along the 'spine' that is the Pacific Highway and the train line.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Helen Cannon

On behalf of the Voices of Bradfield

██

██████████