



**The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES**



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**Comments on Public Objections – Comment No: 154**

**Name: LIBERAL PARTY of AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH)**

**Page(s): 14**



11 August 2006

The Redistribution Committee for New South Wales  
Level 4, Roden Cutler House  
24 Campbell Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Committee Members

Please find attached Comments on Objections on behalf of the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graham Jaeschke".

Graham Jaeschke  
State Director  
Liberal Party of Australia  
(New South Wales Division)

**LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION  
COMMENTS ON OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The Liberal Party of Australia, New South Wales Division (the "Liberal Party") comments as follows on various objections received by the Redistribution Committee for New South Wales.

**2. THE NATIONALS**

- 2.1. The Nationals' objection to the proposed boundaries<sup>1</sup> reflects the Liberal Party's original public suggestions to the Redistribution Committee<sup>2</sup>. There appear to be strong arguments and support for the Nationals' argument from many residents and community organisations in country New South Wales.

**3. GWYDIR**

- 3.1. There are many calls from country people for the retention of the division of Gwydir.
- 3.2. These reinforce the Liberal Party's original public suggestions which called for the retention of all country seats<sup>3</sup>. They reinforce the Liberal Party's objections on 28 July 2006<sup>4</sup> to the proposed size of Parkes and transport and communication difficulties within such a proposed division.

**4. BROKEN HILL**

- 4.1. Several objections refer to the strong links between outback areas north of Broken Hill to the City of Broken Hill. These include objections from Mr Malcolm Mackerras<sup>5</sup> and from various entities of

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<sup>1</sup> Public objection number 1706

<sup>2</sup> Public suggestion number 25

<sup>3</sup> Public suggestion number 25 eg p7

<sup>4</sup> Public objection number 1965 section 4

<sup>5</sup> Public objection number 679

the Nationals<sup>6</sup>. The Liberal Party supports the inclusion of the hinterland of Broken Hill in the same electorate as Broken Hill<sup>7</sup>.

## 5. BATHURST

- 5.1. There are numerous objections to Bathurst being included in Macquarie instead of Calare. These *include* objections from Mr Peter Andren<sup>8</sup>, Mrs Diane F Marris<sup>9</sup>, Mr Ian Tucker<sup>10</sup> and Mr Bill Gates<sup>11</sup>. These objections raise matters which support the Liberal Party's objections to the proposed boundary between Macquarie and Calare<sup>12</sup>.

## 6. PATERSON

- 6.1. There is strong community support within the Port Stephens area for the retention of Raymond Terrace in the division of Paterson. See in particular objections by Port Stephens Council<sup>13</sup>, Great Lakes Council<sup>14</sup>, Dungog Shire Council<sup>15</sup>, Port Stephens Blue Water Paradise (Port Stephens Tourism Ltd)<sup>16</sup> and Mr Paul Fuller<sup>17</sup>. These objections raise matters which support the Liberal Party's objections to the proposed boundary between Paterson and Newcastle<sup>18</sup>.

## 7. LABOR GENERALLY

- 7.1. The objections by the Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch) ("Labor")<sup>19</sup> continue Labor's previous attempts to change the

<sup>6</sup> Public objection numbers 656, 1706 and 1944

<sup>7</sup> Public objection number 1965 section 4

<sup>8</sup> Public objection number 677

<sup>9</sup> Public objection number 1892

<sup>10</sup> Public objection number 958

<sup>11</sup> Public objection number 1809

<sup>12</sup> Public objection number 1965 section 4

<sup>13</sup> Public objection number 1049

<sup>14</sup> Public objection number 1887

<sup>15</sup> Public objection number 1761

<sup>16</sup> Public objection number 956

<sup>17</sup> Public objection number 1975

<sup>18</sup> Public objection number 1965 section 3

<sup>19</sup> Public objection number 1953

*electoral complexion of Liberal marginal seats to Labor's benefit.*

The Liberal Party repeats its comments made earlier this year<sup>20</sup>:

“Labor has failed to achieve re-election due to their poor candidate selection and campaigning at the last three elections. They are now asking the Commission to do their work for them...”

- 7.2. Based on the results of the last federal election, Labor's proposals would improve its position in the divisions of Bennelong, Eden-Monaro, Lowe, Mitchell, Parramatta and Wentworth.

#### **8. LABOR “APPEAL NO. 1” - EDEN-MONARO, GILMORE, HUME, FARRER AND RIVERINA**

- 8.1. Labor tries to cloak its real motive behind its suggestions for Eden-Monaro on community of interest grounds. The real motive is to *improve its chances of winning Eden-Monaro.*
- 8.2. The Redistribution Committee's proposed boundaries for the divisions of Eden-Monaro, Gilmore, Hume, Farrer and Riverina are superior to Labor's proposed boundaries under the statutory criteria.
- 8.3. In particular, the Redistribution Committee's proposed boundaries deliver a far superior result for observing communities of interest.
- 8.4. Recent events in the Snowy Mountains region have intensified community links. Under the Redistribution Committee's proposals, *but not Labor's, the iconic Snowy Mountains Scheme would be in the one electorate, with a federal member in charge of its defence. It was Gary Nairn, the local federal MP, who led the charge to save the Snowy Hydro. The fight was carried by communities affected on either side of the range. The mayor of Tumut Shire participated in a public meeting along side the mayors for the Cooma-Monaro and Snowy River. It is this fight that has highlighted and strengthened the very strong community of interest which has always existed between communities in the Monaro region.*

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<sup>20</sup> Public comment number 34

- 8.5. While the administrative centre of the Snowy Hydro Scheme is currently located in Cooma, a number of current and former workers live in Tumut, Talbingo, Cabramurra and Tumbarumba. It would be more sensible to have them represented by a single member of parliament, given their demonstrable community of interests.
- 8.6. These areas share other common concerns, the most important of which is the tourism industry. That industry provides the largest employer base in the area. Importantly, Tourism Snowy Mountains<sup>21</sup> (encompassing Cooma, Jindabyne, Bombala, Tumut and Tumbarumba) will now be wholly contained within the proposed boundaries. Both the Tumut<sup>22</sup> and Tumbarumba<sup>23</sup> shires identify on their own websites the tourism link to the Snowy Mountains area which demonstrates the economic community of interest in this area.
- 8.7. The plantation forestry industry in the Bombala region also has a significant community of interest with the large plantation forestry industry in the Tumut and Tumbarumba shires:
- (a) The plantation forestry industry in Tumut and Tumbarumba shires, like elsewhere within proposed Eden-Monaro, is dependant on the downstream processing facilities such as the Visy Pulp Mill.
  - (b) The Monaro Highway is the most common truck transport route connecting these two plantation areas.
  - (c) In addition, Willmott Forests, one of the largest timber plantation companies in the region, has an office both in Bombala and Tumbarumba Shire.
  - (d) The forest industry utilises the export facilities at Eden, thus forming a direct community of interest to the east.

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.snowymountains.com.au>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.tumut.local-e.nsw.gov.au/tourism.html>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.tumbashire.nsw.gov.au/tourism.html>

- (e) The current trend is that the plantation forest industry is continuing to develop and expand in the high rainfall zones in and around the Snowy Mountains. As it does, this will further consolidate the community of interest between Tumut, Tumbarumba, Bombala and Eden.
- 8.8. On issues such as fire management, alpine grazing and feral animal control, there is a clear commonality of interests. The National Park adjoins local government areas on both sides of the Great Dividing Range. Both Tumut and Tumbarumba share similar climate, geography and primary industries to Cooma/Jindabyne. They easily merge into existing areas for South West Eden-Monaro for the provision of exceptional circumstances payments, or other mechanisms to deliver social service payments to drought affected communities.
- 8.9. In addition, Tumut Shire, given its proximity to the ACT, shares common concerns with Queanbeyan, Palerang and Cooma LGAs over issues such as water access and rural residential land development.
- 8.10. The Tumbarumba Times dated 2 August 2006 reported that at a recent meeting of Tumbarumba Council "...agreed to 'accept change' from Farrer to Eden-Monaro electorate. Without discussion or question Councillors agreed the best electorate for Tumbarumba is Eden-Monaro and made no objection to the electoral commission's proposal."
- 8.11. Labor makes the farcical assertion that the main arterial connection over the Ranges, the Snowy Mountains Highway, is "a rarely covered track". In fact the highway is bitumen along its full length and very well maintained. It is the only link for people who travel between Tumut and Cooma. It is the main link for workers on the Snowy Hydro Scheme. It is the only way to get to the popular Mount Selwyn snowfields. Many tourists travelling from Victoria and

western NSW to the snowfields traverse this road, rather than spend an additional four hours going via Canberra..

8.12. People in Tumut and Tumbarumba have connections to the east for health services:

- (a) The Snowy Hydro SouthCare aero-medical and rescue helicopter service<sup>24</sup> provides essential rescue and aero medical services to southern NSW. The rescue service regularly travels between Canberra and regional centres to the west, transporting accident victims and hospital patients. It is common for accident victims in the Tumut and Tumbarumba areas to be flown to Canberra for medical attention. A cursory glance of the media release reports from the rescue service demonstrate the scope of their coverage of service across the region, including Eden-Monaro, the ACT and further west into areas including Tumut and Tumbarumba.
- (b) An analysis of information produced by the Canberra Hospital<sup>25</sup> indicates that its role is to provide services to the ACT and surrounding regions. The Canberra Hospital quotes the figure of 520,000 as the population it services. This figure very much includes the residents of Tumut and Tumbarumba.

8.13. Overall, the Labor Party opposition to the proposed changes for Tumut and Tumbarumba fails on two key points:

- (a) There is a clear, and long standing, community of interest between the three Snowy Mountains shires to the east of the Ranges and the two shires to the west. Indeed, the case can be made that the community of interest between Cooma and

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<sup>24</sup> [www.snowyhydrosouthcare.com.au](http://www.snowyhydrosouthcare.com.au)

<sup>25</sup> <http://health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=sp&did=10063327>



Tumut/Tumbarumba is stronger than it is between Cooma and other parts of Eden-Monaro.

- (b) The separation of Tumut and Tumbarumba (as proposed by Labor to "make up the numbers") is nonsense given the unambiguous and clearly demonstrable community of interests existing between these communities.

#### **9. LABOR "APPEAL NO. 2" – PARRAMATTA, REID, GREENWAY AND MITCHELL**

- 9.1. Labor has agreed with the Liberal Party submission<sup>26</sup> that Parramatta CBD should be included in the seat of Parramatta.
- 9.2. However, while the Liberal Party's proposals solve this problem as a consequence of rectifying the major problem of separating Bathurst and Orange, Labor leaves that major problem unsolved.
- 9.3. To achieve a favourable political consequence for itself in Parramatta, Labor instead proposes a bizarrely-shaped Reid which looks like an upside down mushroom! Labor's suggestion is thus nakedly more about "shoring up" the Labor position than a genuine attempt to achieve the best community of interest problem.

#### **10. LABOR "APPEAL NO. 3" – BANKS, BLAXLAND AND WATSON**

- 10.1. Labor proposes creating an astonishing seat of Banks, with a finger pointing north including the split localities of Greenacre and Punchbowl. Not only does the seat look silly, the northern addition clearly fails the community of interest test. These split localities should be in either Watson or Blaxland.
- 10.2. The boundaries proposed by the Redistribution Committee are clear and easily explained, making use of the railway line, the local government area boundaries (at Punchbowl Road and Canterbury Road) and the key main road in western Bankstown (namely Marion Street).

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<sup>26</sup> Public objection number 1965 section 4

- 10.3. Instead Labor proposes using Rawson Rd in Greenacre and Arthur and Duncan Streets in Punchbowl as boundaries. These are minor suburban streets and poor choices for boundaries.

#### **11. LABOR "APPEAL NO. 5" – BENNELONG AND BEROWRA**

- 11.1. The Redistribution Committee proposes that Beecroft south of the M2 motorway (the "Beecroft Area") should be in Bennelong. Labor says it should instead be in Berowra.
- 11.2. The Redistribution Committee's proposal for the boundary between Bennelong and Berowra (ie to include the Beecroft Area in Bennelong) is superior to Labor's under the statutory criteria.
- 11.3. As to physical features and areas, the Redistribution Committee proposes a far more recognisable boundary (viz the M2 motorway), than does Labor:
  - (a) The M2 motorway is the major thoroughfare in the area.
  - (b) For nearly all of its length in question, the M2 adjoins or is straddled by open space, in particular Beecroft Park, Chilworth Reserve and Pennant Hills Golf Course.
  - (c) The M2 is therefore a very easy landmark for a constituent to use in order to know if he or she lives in Berowra or Bennelong.
- 11.4. The Redistribution Committee's proposed boundaries deliver a *superior result for observing communities of interest*. The M2 motorway is a vital transport route for residents in Bennelong and nearby suburbs:
  - (a) Contrary to Labor's assertion that "no existing community arrangements were affected by the M2", the motorway links local residents with vital services and employment opportunities within its vicinity. For people living near to the M2 and particularly those south of the M2, the major nearby shopping precinct is the Macquarie shopping centre. The

Macquarie Park commercial precinct is also a source of employment for many of these residents.

- (b) The M2 gives the Beecroft Area improved access to services along sections of the motorway in Bennelong, such as the Macquarie Shopping Centre and Macquarie University.
- (c) Many residents from Beecroft derive their employment from businesses in the Macquarie Park corridor, situated within close proximity to the motorway.

11.5. There are no community of interest reasons which would justify having the Beecroft Area in Berowra instead of Bennelong. For example:

- (a) The Beecroft Area is within the Hornsby Local Government Area but that straddles both electorates. That LGA includes a large area already within the existing boundaries of Bennelong, including Epping North and parts of Epping, Eastwood and Carlingford.
- (b) School catchment areas such as Carlingford High School<sup>27</sup>, Cheltenham Girls High School, Epping Boys High School<sup>28</sup>, and Roselea Public School will straddle boundaries on any proposal.
- (c) The northern railway line connects suburbs from Meadowbank to Pennant Hills. It provides a transport corridor linking communities from the southern suburbs of Bennelong through to those in the north of the electorate.

11.6. The Epping Club is centrally located in Bennelong. It has become an important social venue for the community in surrounding suburbs including the proposed addition.

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<sup>27</sup> See Appendix 1

<sup>28</sup> See Appendix 2

## 12. LABOR "APPEAL NO. 6" – SYDNEY AND WENTWORTH

- 12.1. It is quite clear that Labor's intention is to improve Labor's position. Any movement west from the current boundary of Wentworth goes into strong Labor voting territory. This is at the heart of Labor's original submission<sup>29</sup> and in its objections now.
- 12.2. The Redistribution Committee's proposal for the boundary between Sydney and Wentworth is superior to Labor's under the statutory criteria.
- 12.3. The Liberal Party's proposal<sup>30</sup> is far superior still. That proposal, of course, remains the Liberal Party's primary submission. Labor's proposal fails to acknowledge the very strong community of interest arguments for moving the Wentworth boundary south to take in more coastal areas of the eastern suburbs. Wentworth should not contract near the coast but instead expand there – not westwards as argued by Labor.
- 12.4. Labor's argument about someone standing at Taylor Square is facile. For someone standing at Taylor Square, the Redistribution Committee's boundary of Oxford Street is clearer.
- 12.5. The "triangle" in question has a greater community of interest with Surry Hills to the south and the Sydney CBD (both in Sydney) than with a primarily eastern suburbs seat (Wentworth).
- 12.6. Labor's proposed boundary would result in a more dislocation (ie more electors switching from their existing division to a new division) than would the Redistribution Committee's boundaries. (Labor's proposed boundary would therefore also result in more dislocation [ie more electors switching from their existing division to a new division] than would the Liberal Party's boundaries.<sup>31</sup>).

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<sup>29</sup> Public suggestion number 26

<sup>30</sup> Public objection number 1965 section 2

<sup>31</sup> Public objection number 1965 para 2.23

### 13. CORRECTIONS TO LIBERAL PARTY OBJECTION

- 13.1. The Liberal Party makes the following corrections to its objections<sup>32</sup>.
- 13.2. Para 2.10(d) – there are two additional Jewish congregations in Wentworth. These are the Adass Israel or Adath Yisroel congregation and the Tzemach Tzedek congregation. They both operate out of the same facility as the Bet Yosef Synagogue at 243 Old South Head Road, Bondi.
- 13.3. Para 3.10(b) - this should instead read:

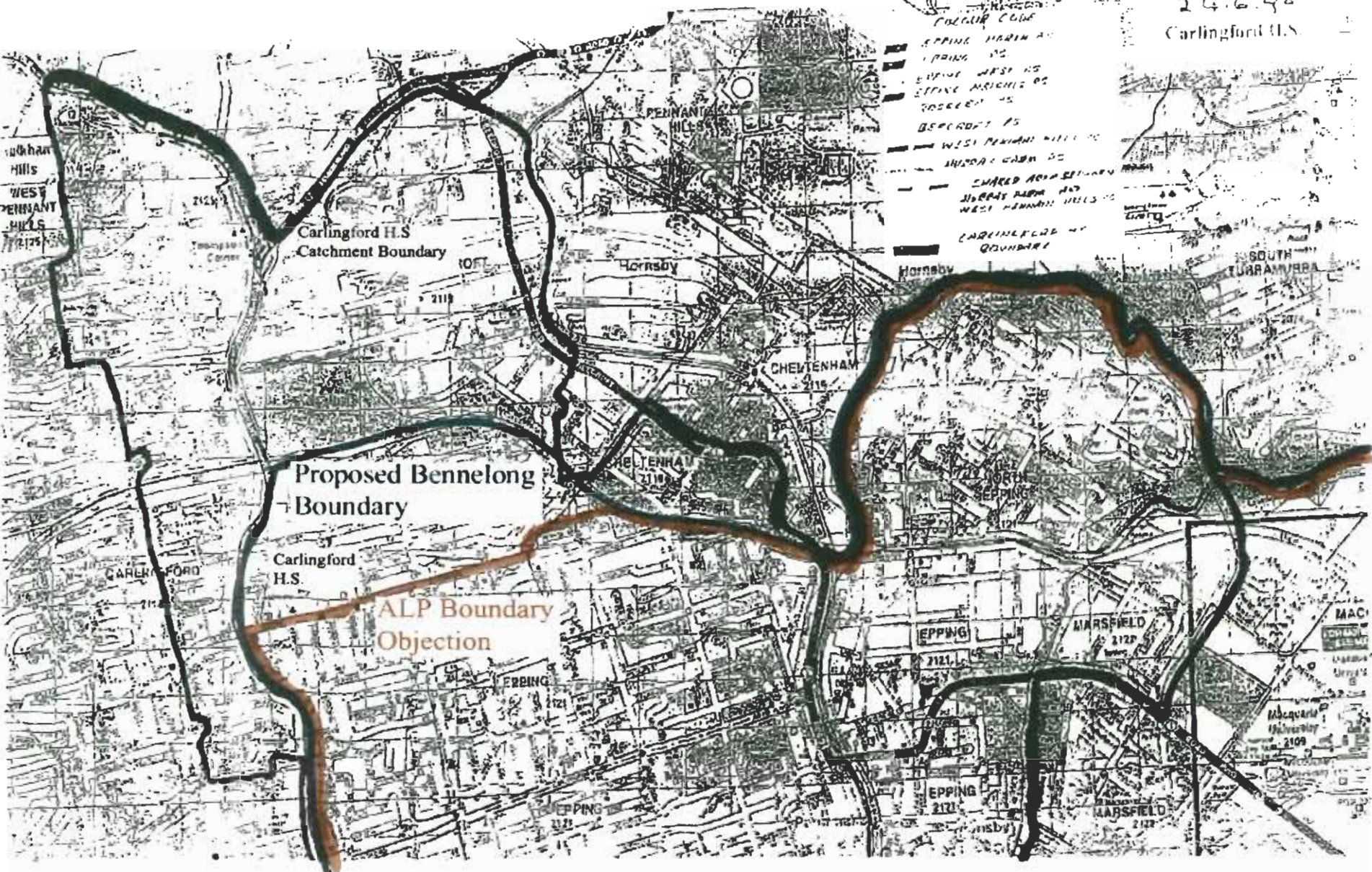
“Just over 91% of the population of the Port Stephens LGA will be within the State electoral division of Port Stephens at the 2007 State general election.”
- 13.4. Para 4.22(g) – the last sentence should be deleted.

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<sup>32</sup> Public objection number 1965

24.6.98  
Carlingford U.S.

- COLOUR CODE
- EPHING MARSH AS
- EPHING NS
- EPHING WEST AS
- EPHING MARSH AS
- ROSEBURY NS
- BERKLEY AS
- WEST PENNANT HILLS NS
- WINDRA GARD NS
- SHARED AREA BETWEEN
- EPHING MARSH AND
- WEST PENNANT HILLS NS
- CARLINGFORD U.S.
- BOUNDARY



Proposed Bennelong Boundary

ALP Boundary Objection

Carlingford H.S. Catchment Boundary

WEST PENNANT HILLS

PENNANT HILLS

CHEVENHAM

EPHING

MARSHFIELD

MAC

## Epping Boys' High School Boundary

The boundary for Epping Boys' High School's drawing area runs from the Lane Cove River east down to the Parramatta River, across to Spofforth Street, Ermington, up to Kissing Point to Stewart Street, to Marsden Road, onto Jenkins and Oakes Roads (Carlingford/Pennant Castle Hill Road and across to the Lane Cove River again.

It covers the suburbs of Epping, North Epping, Beecroft, Cheltenham, Marsfield, North Macquarie Park, Eastwood, Denistone, East Ryde, West Ryde, Ryde, Meadowbank, Gladesville, Putney, Tennyson, Hunters Hill and Woolwich.

Students in this indicative drawing area may apply to come to the school but due to heavy demand there is no guarantee of placement.