



**THE FEDERAL
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NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 7

SL

2 pages

Submission on proposed boundary changes to Mackellar

I'd like to pick up on and expand the points made in submission Anonymous 13.

Expanding Mackellar West as suggested in other submissions makes no sense. It is counter intuitive and frankly smacks of political game playing from those with vested interests bent on keeping power in surrounding electorates.

Expanding the Mackellar electorate south to encompass the whole northern Beaches community – from Palm Beach to Manly - into a single, cohesive electorate however does make sense.

Mackellar is currently the largest electorate on the Northern Beaches of Sydney (at least geographically) and the community has distinct characteristics that tie it together. Changing the boundaries to keep this established, cohesive community together as a federal electorate has manifest advantages. Incorporating an alien suburb like St Ives to the West does not.

The Northern beaches is already a cohesive community with strong social, economic and recreational links in place:

- Our main arterial transport route is the Pittwater Road turning into Barrenjoey Road at the northern end from Mona Vale. It connects all the beach side suburbs and is the route of our main public transport link to central Sydney the B1 bus. Other roads like the Mona Vale Road, connect us to other parts of Sydney on the North Shore, which are very different communities with few common interests or concerns on key issues like transport, educations, and coastal protection to name but a few.
- The Northern Beaches suburbs are where residents of the Northern Beaches shop and go out, many of us work here, and our sporting and recreational clubs are combined into competitions across the Northern Beaches. This again gives us many common experiences and concerns, and results in established community ties.
- Our hospital and medical services are also mostly within our community.
- The Northern Beaches is also where the vast majority of our children go to school. There are very few children who attend schools on the beaches who come from outside the beaches – partly because the dominant transport links run south to north. Children at the Northern Beaches Secondary Campuses, for example, come from all over the beaches not the North Shore. Even children at non-government schools on the Beaches tend to stay in the Northern Beaches and very few students come from outside this community.
- Economically we have common interests on the Northern Beaches that are different to the North Shore suburbs. We have a high number of people working in hospitality, sports and recreation and coastal and ocean industries, that make us distinct from

the North Shore, which is dominated by city commuters.

- We are also linked by the local council municipality of the Northern Beaches. Deliberately splitting the electorate across several local council areas throws up unnecessary complications for the Federal member and local councils. It would be inefficient, over-complicated and not in the financial or governmental interests of the local community.

Moving the boundary south has a lot to recommend it as it mirrors the established community. Randomly bolting on a North Shore community that has no transport, social, educational, sporting, local governmental, medical or economic ties looks like an exercise in numerical convenience and political pressure than in the interests of the community.