



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 184

Charlie Kent

1 page

Charles Kent

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Submission to the Australian Election Commission (AEC)

Re: Support for Current Mackellar Electorate Boundaries and Opposition to Inclusion of St Ives and St Ives Chase

I am writing to express my support for the recently proposed changes to the Mackellar electorate boundaries and to oppose the suggestion of including St Ives and St Ives Chase in Mackellar. The current proposal to unite the Northern Beaches suburbs under Mackellar is logical and beneficial for the following reasons:

1. **Distinct Communities of Interest:** St Ives and St Ives Chase are usually considered part of the Upper North Shore, while Mackellar is wholly within the Northern Beaches. These regions are distinct and separate communities with different councils, sporting competitions, school catchments, shopping, business precincts, and transport networks. Including St Ives in Mackellar would dilute the cohesive representation of the unique Northern Beaches culture.
2. **Geographical Separation:** The Garigal and Ku-ring-gai National Parks, along with Cowan and Middle Creeks, have long served as natural boundaries, marking the division between the Upper North Shore and the Northern Beaches. These physical features reinforce the separation and should continue to be respected in the electorate boundaries.
3. **Weak Transport Links:** Public transport connections between St Ives and the rest of Mackellar are minimal. There are no direct links between St Ives and Frenchs Forest, or St Ives and the southern parts of Mackellar. This lack of connectivity would hinder effective representation and community integration.
4. **Logical Council Alignment:** The Redistribution Committee's decision to keep Mackellar wholly within the Northern Beaches Council area is the most logical outcome. As highlighted by the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council, it is also beneficial for the residents of St Ives to remain within the Ku-ring-gai Council area, ensuring that their specific needs and interests are adequately addressed.

In conclusion, the current proposal to include Dee Why, Forestville, Frenchs Forest, Killarney Heights, and North Curl Curl within Mackellar strengthens community cohesion and aligns well with the AEC's considerations. Conversely, including St Ives and St Ives Chase would disrupt this balance and undermine the effective representation of both regions.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Charlie Kent