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NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Comment on objections 185

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2 pages

**Aim: To address the objections to the proposed AEC redistribution of extending the Mackellar electorate division to the south and to recommend moving the Mackellar boundary west to include St Ives.**

**This response supports the AEC proposal regarding the Mackellar redistribution and disagrees with the objections raised by Zali Steggall OAM MP (671), Kylea Tink MP (686), and others.**

This submission addresses the critical factors considered by the AEC and emphasises the distinct communities of interest, physical features, and transport links. It argues against the inclusion of St Ives in Mackellar and supports the proposed southern redistribution.

## **Submission to the AEC Redistribution Committee**

**Subject: Support for the Proposed Redistribution of the Mackellar Electorate Division**

### **Introduction**

The recent draft boundaries for electorates in NSW proposed by the AEC bring logical and coherent changes to the Mackellar electorate. The proposed adjustments include incorporating the suburbs of Dee Why, Forestville, and Frenchs Forest wholly within Mackellar while adding Killarney Heights and North Curl Curl. These changes strengthen the unique Northern Beaches culture and unite "communities of interest" within Mackellar.

However, objections have suggested that Mackellar's boundary should move west to include St Ives and St Ives Chase on the Upper North Shore. This submission outlines why the proposal to move the Mackellar boundary south is more appropriate and why including St Ives is unsuitable.

### **Key Points Against Including St Ives in Mackellar**

#### **1. Distinct Communities of Interest**

- St Ives is part of the Upper North Shore, while Mackellar is distinctly part of the Northern Beaches. These regions have different councils, sporting competitions, school catchments, shopping and business precincts, and largely unrelated transport networks.
- The Northern Beaches is a cohesive community defined by its coastal and forest lifestyles. It encompasses surf clubs, schools, community groups, and local services.

#### **2. Physical and Geographical Separation**

- The Garigal, Ku-ring-gai National Parks, Cowan, and Middle Creeks have long served as natural boundaries separating the North Shore from the Northern Beaches.
- These physical features are significant and form a clear division, making the inclusion of St Ives in Mackellar impractical and illogical.

#### **3. Transport Links**

- Public transport links between St Ives and Mackellar are not presently easily accessed. Such links would need to be strengthened or made more present. There are no direct links between St Ives and key areas within Mackellar, such as Frenchs Forest or the southern parts of the electorate.
- This lack of connectivity would isolate St Ives from the rest of Mackellar, failing to provide a cohesive and accessible electorate for its residents.

#### **4. Council Boundaries**

- The most logical outcome is Keeping Mackellar within the Northern Beaches Council area. As the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council highlighted, it would benefit the people of St Ives to remain in the Ku-ring-gai Council area.
- Aligning council areas with electoral boundaries improves the effective representation of local communities when appropriately situated within its local government structure.

#### **Support for the Proposed Redistribution**

- **Enhancing Community Unity**
  - The proposed redistribution enhances the unity of the Northern Beaches community, bringing together areas that share common interests and characteristics.
  - It strengthens the representation of Mackellar by consolidating communities with similar lifestyles and needs.
- **Boosting Elector Numbers**
  - The inclusion of electors from North Curl Curl, Killarney Heights, and additional parts of Dee Why, Forestville and Frenchs Forest will increase Mackellar's projected number of electors by 15,222 by April 2028. This change is a critical factor for the redistribution, as it supports the sustainability and growth of the electorate.

#### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the proposed initial changes by the AEC to the Mackellar electorate are reasonable and supportable as they maintain and strengthen the existing communities of interest, respect natural and physical boundaries, and ensure effective representation within the Northern Beaches Council area. The objections suggesting the inclusion of St Ives do not recognise these fundamental aspects and would disrupt the coherence and connectivity of the Mackellar electorate.

Thank you to the Redistribution Committee of NSW for their thorough and considered work to date. I urge the Committee to finalise the proposed redistribution in line with the current draft and reject the objections suggesting the westward extension to include St Ives.