



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 696

Paul Murphy

2 pages

I commend the AEC's suggestions for the Mackellar electorate. I wish to note my support to the proposal to contest some objections I am aware of. As a Dee Why resident I am pleased to see the inclusion of all of Dee Why, as well as North Curl Curl as this is a natural geographical boundary.

Being active in the community I am aware of a number of features of the area that are cherished by the community. A strong connection to the area which is seen in the strong community spirit arising from a common connection to the area. The beaches, walking trails and natural bushland connects us all.

While the electorate is large the beach culture, restaurants, sporting facilities, schools and provide a great local feel that we all can relate to. Aligning the electorate to these natural boundaries (both geographical and community related) makes sense.

The broad range of common activities across the proposed new electorate ranging from volunteer services, music and arts, various clubs all have a local affinity and identity.

The economic base of Mackellar and the Northern Beaches is quite different to the Upper North Shore, as it is heavily based on small and medium businesses and people working in trades.

Importantly, the electoral division of Mackellar is situated entirely within the boundaries of the Northern Beaches Council. This fact adds to the strong sense of community cohesion in Mackellar and assists with collaboration between the different levels of government on important issues affecting our community.

There is no doubt that the people of Mackellar overwhelmingly identify themselves as being from the Northern Beaches of Sydney. The beaches and arts lifestyle and culture, the Rural Fire Service community, and the significant benefits of being serviced by only one Council area and one Federal representative, together constitute the key communities of interest for the people of Mackellar.

I respectfully request that the Committee conducting the NSW electoral division review respects the importance of maintaining these existing unifying threads of the Northern Beaches community. The majority of suggestions made by the public to the AEC and published on 30 October 2023 agree with the basic proposition that the electorate of Mackellar should extend slightly to the south. The above suggestions allow Mackellar to remain within a single local government area (the Northern Beaches Council)², as well as wholly within the culturally unique Northern Beaches region. The suggestions also take into account major and minor boundaries, such as National Parks, creeks, lagoons, and major roads – and reflect the fact that the western boundary between Mackellar and Bradfield is a major topographical boundary

Kind Regards,

Paul Murphy

