



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on suggestion 65

Joseph Lin

6 pages



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Comment on Suggestion 16 made by Darren McSweeney

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This comment on Public Suggestion 16 made by Darren
McSweeney was lodged on 19 October 2023 by

Joseph Lin

an Australian Citizen and resident of Victoria.

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters throughout Australia, recognise their custodianship for many thousands of years and their continuing living culture. I pay my respects to their ancestors and Elders, past and present.

Comment on division names

Divisions proposed to be abolished or renamed

First and foremost, naming divisions after colonial-era persons, which are predominantly European white men, have become an outdated practice and no longer reflects the modern Australian society that increasingly values recognition as well as gender, cultural and ethnic diversity. Therefore, I agree with Darren in that when renaming or abolishing divisions, considerations should be given to retire divisions named for colonial-era men of European descent in favour of divisions named for more contemporary or diverse individuals, especially women and indigenous Australians.

Apart from names of colonial persons that should be avoided as much as possible, geographic names should also generally be avoided according to AEC guidelines. Given that one division must be abolished, I agree with Darren's suggestion that, all other criteria being considered, that the candidates for division names to be retired are selected from among the above colonial-era or geographic names.

According to Darren's proposal, more than 80% of voters of the proposed new division of Hughes do not come from the old division of Hughes. In fact, most voters of the proposed new Hughes come from the old Werriwa. To minimise the number of voters changing electorate, the proposed Hughes, an electorate based in the eastern part of the Liverpool City Council, should be more appropriately named Werriwa.

Since Hughes is named after former PM Billy Hughes who was also the longest serving member of the House of Representatives, its name should be retained. If the electorate based in the eastern part of the Liverpool City Council isn't named Hughes, then the name Hughes must be given to another seat. Cunningham is named after a colonial British man, making it a candidate for a division name to be retired. Under Darren's proposal, the largest number of voters in the old Hughes go to the new Hughes, followed by the new Cunningham. Therefore, it would be appropriate to rename the proposed Cunningham to Hughes, with the name Cunningham retired.

I propose that: The division name of CUNNINGHAM be retired.

Suggestion for new division names

Since the name Werriwa has been given to the electorate based in the eastern part of the Liverpool City Council, the Camden-based electorate that Darren proposed to be named Werriwa should be given a new name. I suggest that the committee give the division a new name called WALTON, in recognition of Nancy Bird Walton, AO, OBE (16 October 1915 – 13 January 2009).

Walton was a pioneering Australian aviator, known as "The Angel of the Outback", and the founder and patron of the Australian Women Pilots' Association. In 1933, at the age of 18, her passion drove her to take flying lessons. Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, who was the first man to fly across the mid-Pacific, had just opened a pilots' school near Sydney, and she was among his first pupils. In 1934, she became a fully qualified pilot at the age of 19 to become the youngest Australian woman to gain a pilot's licence. In 1950, she founded the Australian Women Pilots' Association (AWPA), where she remained president for five years. Nancy-Bird Walton became Patron of the AWPA in 1983, following the death of Lady Casey, the original Patron. She has become the inspiration for generations of female pilots.

Throughout her life, Walton was notable for her support of charities and people in need. As a result, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1966. In 1990 she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for "Service to aviation, particularly the participation of women in aviation". The National Trust of Australia declared her an Australian Living Treasure in 1997, and in 2001 she was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

The new Western Sydney Airport will be named Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport in her honour. Considering that one of Walton's teachers, Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, has both an airport (Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport) and a division (Division of Kingsford Smith) named after him, it's only fair that Walton also has a division named after her. Besides, the proposed division of Walton will also contain the new Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport.

I propose that: A division named WALTON be created to commemorate Nancy Bird Walton, AO, OBE.

Comment on proposed division boundaries

The proposed seat of Bradfield is essentially a merger of the old Bradfield and the old North Sydney, since most voters of the new division of Bradfield come from the former division of North Sydney and most voters of the former division of North Sydney have been transferred to Bradfield. Since both North Sydney and Bradfield are serviced by the T9 railway line, communities in North Sydney have much more common interest than communities in Warringah with completely different modes of transport, merging North Sydney and Bradfield makes much more sense than merging North Sydney with Warringah. Although North Sydney is a federation name, since the merged division no longer contains most of the North Sydney Council, retaining the name North Sydney is no longer appropriate. Therefore, I endorse Darren's submission that abolishes North Sydney and merges it with Bradfield.

Updated division maps

Metropolitan Sydney



Illawarra and Southeast NSW

