Suggestion 26

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17 pages

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1 Introduction

In this submission, I propose new boundaries for electoral divisions in the northern half of Greater Sydney.

Following the release of enrolment figures, I have been investigating potential boundaries for this redistribution. Having resided in North West Sydney for over half of my life, I have confined my suggestions to this region and its surroundings.

My submission should be taken as relating only to boundaries of divisions, and not names. For discussion purposes, I will refer to proposed divisions by the name of the existing division they most closely resemble or as a "new" division.

I have attached maps of each proposed division at the end of this document. These maps are indispensible to my submission as I have not elsewhere described boundaries in precise detail. (I find doing so is tedious both for me and the reader!)

2 North Sydney, Mackellar, and Warringah

The decision on whether to retain or alter the existing boundary between North Sydney and Bennelong (and if altered, in what manner) will greatly influence the boundaries further west. This is one of the pivotal choices the committee will face. Besides maintaining the current boundary, the committee might opt to shift it to the A3 or have Bennelong forgo its Parramatta LGA component and cross the Lane Cove River.

From my perspective, retaining the current boundary between Bennelong and North Sydney simplifies the committee's task and leads to more cohesive boundaries:

- It allows for a Parramatta division running east-west between the M4 and M2.
- There's the inherent advantage of minimal change to Bennelong. The existing boundaries of Bennelong are exemplary. Major shifts in the boundary between Bennelong and North Sydney will split either the Ryde or Willoughby LGAs.
- Retaining the boundary may alleviate some challenges further west, removing the need for a division that combines the northern parts of the current Greenway and Mitchell. Though a division of this sort might have merit based on community of interest, the dual quotas will make drawing such a division challenging.

There are significant enrolment deficiencies on the North Shore and Northern Beaches. If the boundary between Bennelong and North Sydney remains unchanged, North Sydney will need to incorporate much of the Upper North Shore. This boundary can roughly follow the A3, resembling the borders between the state electoral districts of Davidson and Wahroonga. In this scenario, both Mackellar and Warringah would move southward, with Warringah encompassing most or all of North Sydney LGA.

Alternatively, Mackellar could stretch across the Garigal National Park, but this might be less appealing.

3 Bennelong

The current boundaries of the Bennelong division rank among the nation's best. However, due to numerical constraints, adjustments are necessary for this redistribution. A simple and logical approach is to incorporate Beecroft and Cheltenham into Bennelong.

4 Berowra

With the eastern half of the Ku-ring-gai LGA now falling under North Sydney, the division to its north will resemble the existing Berowra more than Bradfield. This division can encompass the rest of the Ku-ring-gai LGA and the majority of the Hornsby LGA.

5 Parramatta

An optimal configuration for the Parramatta division is to have it stretch east-west, predominantly between the M4 and M2. Such a configuration is attainable in this redistribution. Given population growth in the northwest and the abolition of a division in the northeast, Mitchell will not need to extend south of the M2. This allows the M2 to act as the boundary separating Mitchell and Parramatta.

6 Mitchell

It is obvious that Mitchell should bring together as much of the southern suburban core of the Hills District as possible subject to numerical requirements. The outcome is quite ideal. Mitchell can expand up to Glenhaven in the northeast and Rouse Hill in the northwest. Of The Hills, this excludes only the semirural parts and the newest suburban developments along the Hawkesbury boundary.

7 New division

Consider the parts of Blacktown, Hawkesbury, Hornsby, Penrith, and The Hills LGAs not already allocated to a division, with the exception of the Emu Plains area west of the Nepean River. This region can be divided into four divisions. These boundaries are very natural and eliminate the anomaly of having Erskine Park, Minchinbury, and St Clair incongruously in McMahon. Additionally, this approach might allow the committee to define Macquarie as encompassing the Emu Plains area, along with Bathurst, Blue Mountains, Lithgow, and Oberon LGAs.

The Chifley, Greenway, Lindsay, and Mitchell divisions are projected to be well above quota. The abolition of a division further east has caused Berowra to move eastward. Each of these divisions has a distinct northern end:

- For Chifley, Greenway, and Mitchell, the northern ends are newer suburban areas, contrasting with the more established southern suburbs.
- In Chifley and Greenway, the northern suburbs are more affluent than their southern counterparts.
- In Berowra and Lindsay, the northern suburbs have a semirural character.

To accommodate the increased enrolment in northwestern Sydney while respecting communities of interest, I propose creating a new division in this area. This division will combine the northern parts of the aforementioned divisions with the Hawkesbury.

This new division would resemble the Greenway boundaries from the 2007 election, though it will not extend as far south. Suburban sprawl in the northwest now reaches much closer to the Hawkesbury. There is a pronounced community of interest in the northern suburbs of Blacktown LGA. Along Windsor Road, emerging residential devel-

opments and transport links in Box Hill, Gables, Grantham Farm, and Tallawong have given rise to a new community of interest in this area.

8 Chifley, Greenway, and Lindsay

Taking the previous section into account, the remaining divisions should cover the rest of the Blacktown LGA and the Penrith LGA, excluding the Emu Plains area.

Lindsay, therefore, has relinquished the Londonderry area (to the new division) and the Emu Plains area (to whichever division lies to its west).

To the east of South Creek, Chifley could take in St Marys, with Lindsay absorbing Erskine Park and St Clair, or vice versa. Given the demographics of these areas and the rest of the two divisions, the former arrangement is more suitable. St Marys shares similarities with the suburbs northwest of Mount Druitt, whereas Erskine Park and St Clair are demographically aligned with other Penrith LGA suburbs.

The demarcation between Chifley and Greenway will need to shift slightly westward from its current position. Ideal boundaries would be Richmond Road, Balmoral Road, and then Reservoir Road. However, to meet numerical requirements, Greenway will need to incorporate a few thousand more electors.

All three divisions continue to encompass their foundational communities of interest. Additionally, shifting St Marys to Chifley, moving the northern sections of these divisions to the proposed new division, and relocating Erskine Park, Minchinbury, and St Clair out of McMahon further enhance alignment with communities of interest.
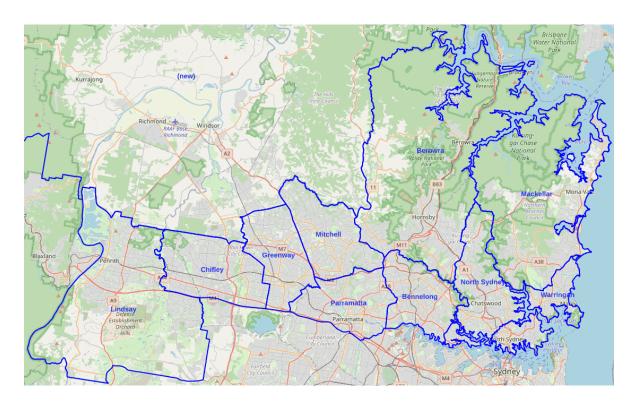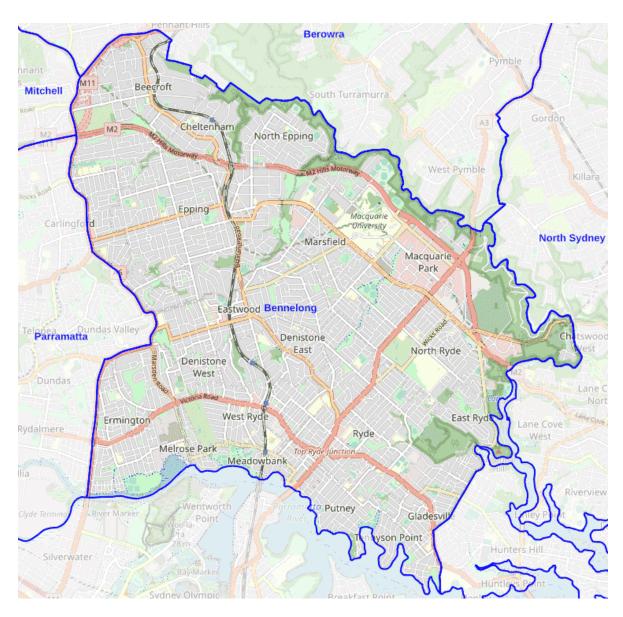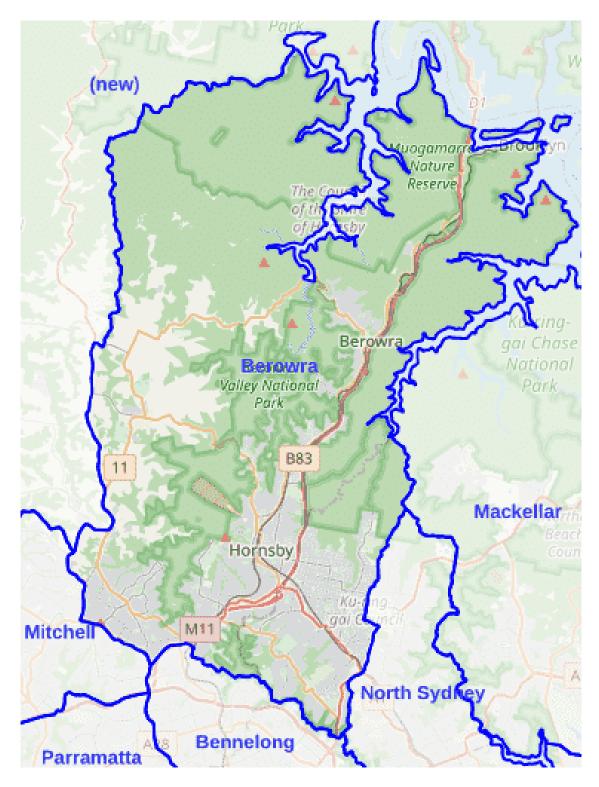
9   Maps

Figure 1: Overview map
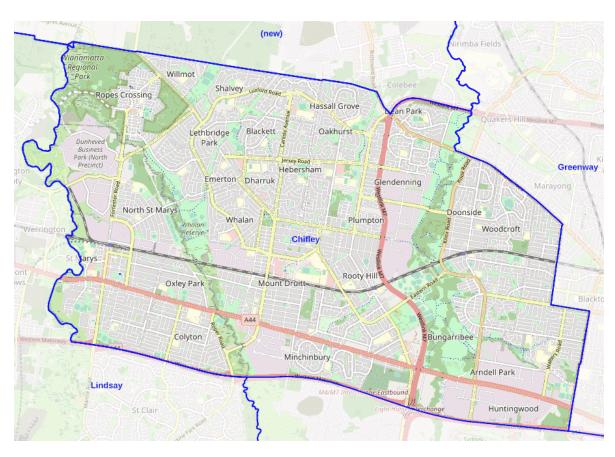
Figure 2: Bennelong
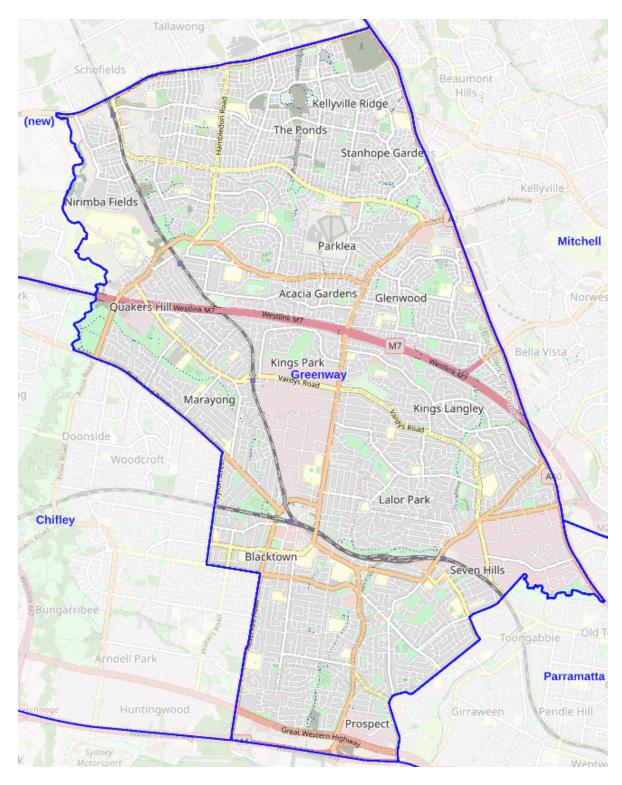
Figure 3: Berowra

Figure 4: Chifley
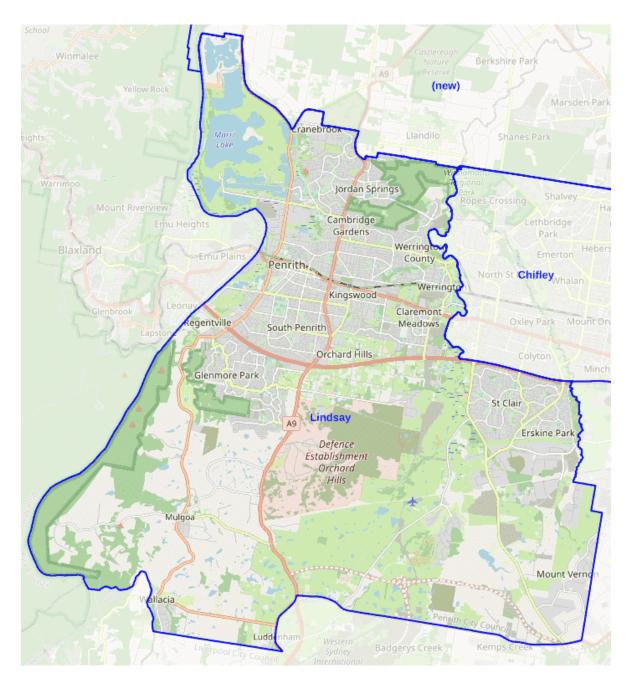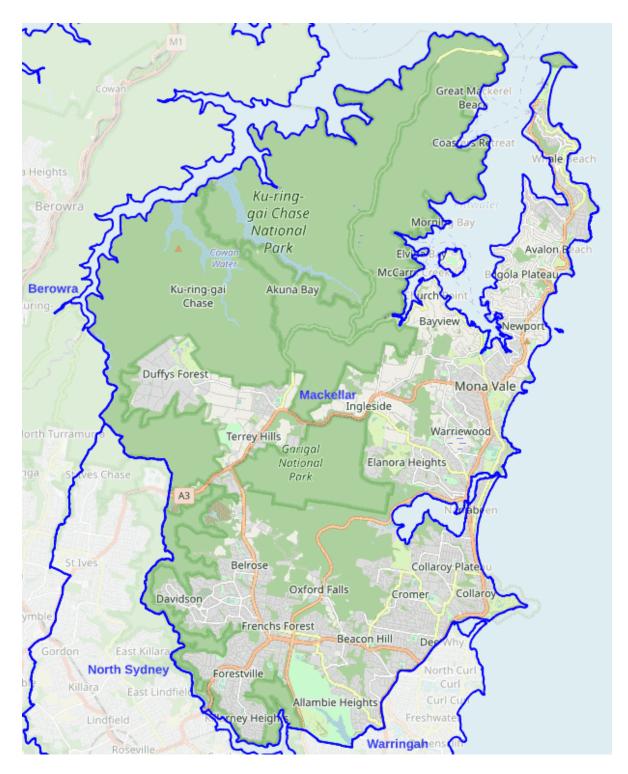
Figure 5: Greenway

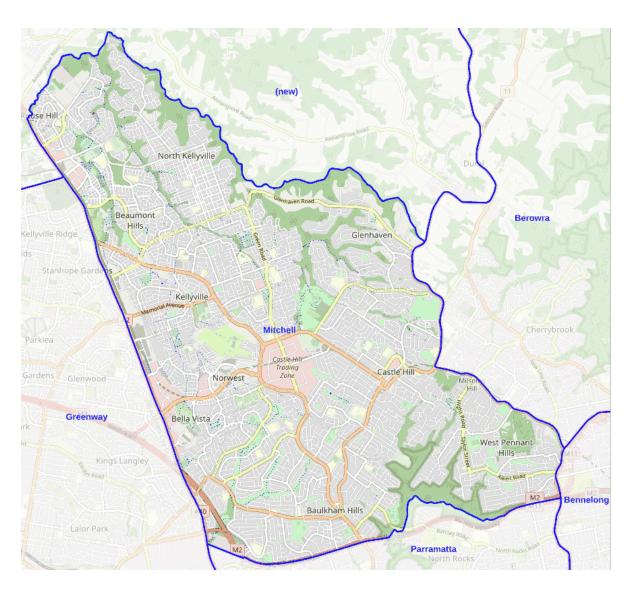Figure 6: Lindsay

Figure 7: Mackellar
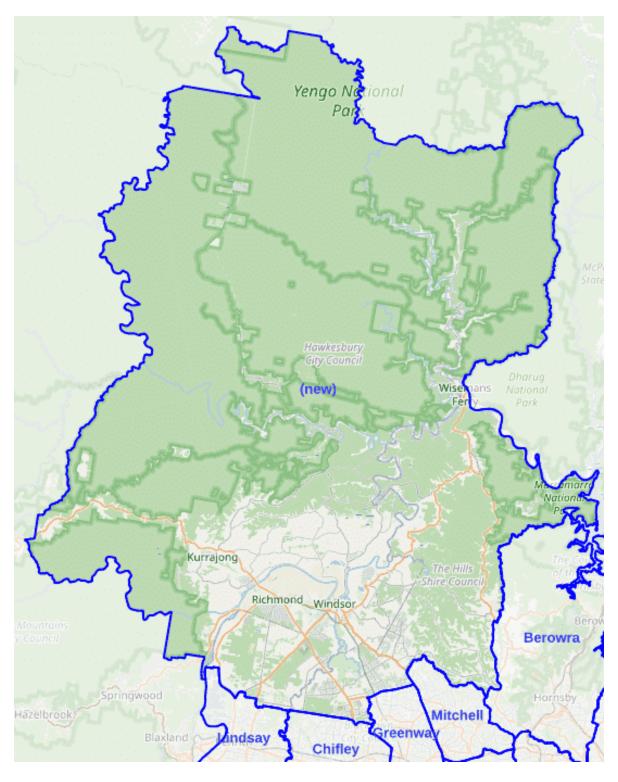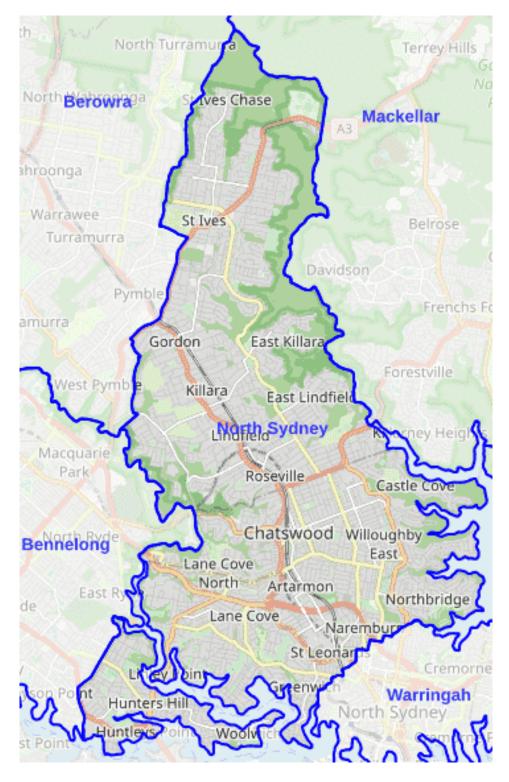
Figure 8: Mitchell

Figure 9: New division
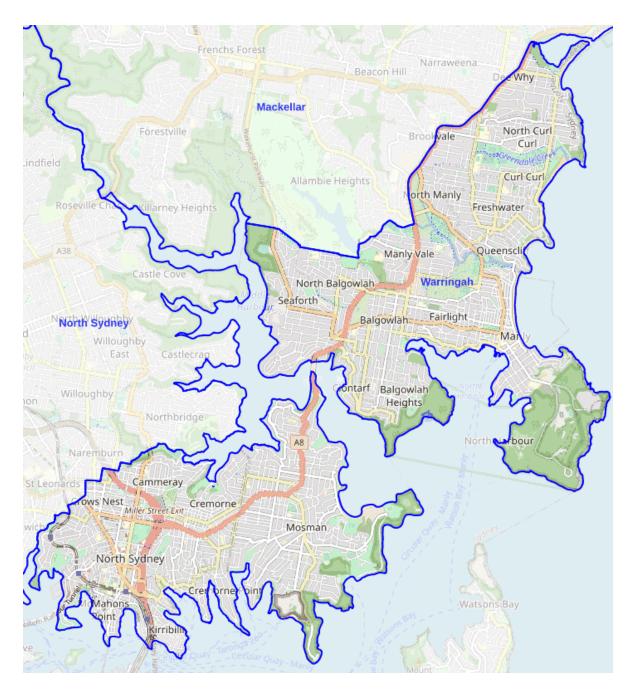
Figure 10: North Sydney

Figure 11: Parramatta

Figure 12: Warringah