



**THE FEDERAL
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NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 129

Mathew Tse

2 pages

25th July, 2024

AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Objection to Proposed Boundary Changes for the Federal Electorate of Bennelong

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed boundary changes for the federal electorate of Bennelong, as outlined in your recent draft plan. The removal of Epping, North Epping, and Carlingford from Bennelong raises several significant concerns.

North Epping has been an integral part of Bennelong since 1977, and Epping town center has been part of Bennelong for over 20 years. These areas have developed strong historical and community ties with Bennelong, which would be disrupted by the proposed changes. The proposal to include Epping town center in Berowra, crossing the M2, is particularly troubling. The M2 has long been a natural boundary that delineates distinct communities and crossing it to incorporate Epping town center into Berowra would undermine established communities and history.

Furthermore, there is a robust community of interest between Epping, Eastwood, and Marsfield, which share numerous cultural, social, and economic links. The connection between these areas is significantly stronger than their connection to the regions north of the M2. Splitting the suburb of Epping across two federal electorates disregards the years of effort to maintain single-seat representation for the Epping Town Centre across all three levels of government. Such a division would create confusion and weaken the cohesive representation that the community has benefited from.

Additionally, the current state and federal representation in Bennelong has established very strong ties with Epping, North Epping, and Carlingford, demonstrating a deep commitment to these communities. The proposed boundary changes threaten to sever these established relationships, which could adversely affect the community's interests and representation.

Considering these reasons, I respectfully urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the proposed boundary changes and maintain the inclusion of Epping, North Epping, and Carlingford within the federal electorate of Bennelong.

Thank you for considering this objection.

SINCERELY,

MATTHEW TSE (RESIDENT OF NORTH EPPING)