



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 138

Susan Margaret Steggal

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ZALI STEGGALL'S OBJECTION: #671

I agree with Zali Steggall's interpretation of 'Warringah' as a distinct area encompassing the beaches of the Lower Peninsula, Middle Harbour, the northern coastline of Sydney Harbour and its hinterlands. The residents of the Division share similar age demographics, income and levels of education. It is an actively engaged community with many charitable, sporting, social and recreational groups providing not only amenities and services to local residents but also the collegiate environments necessary to health and wellbeing. In its geographical features, unique identity and strong community links it meets the criteria set out in the Electoral Act to be deserving of its own Federal Division.

Since the 2019 Federal Election I have seen a remarkable revival of civic engagement in Warringah uniting thousands of residents from diverse backgrounds and age groups – many as first-time participants in democratic processes. These communities have volunteered countless hours to support independent MPs who prioritise local interests and represent their communities. This community movement has instilled a strong sense of pride in residents belonging in the Warringah electorate.

Warringah has been a Division since 1922, covering areas east of the North Sydney CBD. Although the precise boundaries have varied since the creation of the Division its core has always been Mosman, Manly and their surrounding suburbs. The proposal maintains this core, although moving its boundaries south and west shifts the balance of constituents in the Division from north, to a majority south, of Middle Harbour.

I strongly support the objection to the redistribution of the Division of Warringah in that it represents unnecessary elector disruption caused by the excision of the areas of Dee Why, North Curl Curl, Frenchs Forest, Killarney Heights and Forestville. In particular the proposed redistribution gives insufficient consideration to the following requirements set out in Section 66 of *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*:

- * community of interests, including economic, social and regional interests;
- * the physical features of the area, and
- * the boundaries of existing divisions in the State

It is imperative that the composition of the House of Representatives accurately reflects the Australian population and upholds principles of gender equality and diversity. Women made up close to 51 % of the Australian population at the last census in 2021 yet compose only 39 % of members of the House of Representatives. I am concerned, like many other Warringah constituents that the draft redistribution proposals in NSW and Victoria include the abolition of two electorates represented by women, making it less likely that representation in the House of Representatives will reflect the principle of gender equality. Consistent with this and the other points made above, I support Zali Steggall objection to either the Divisions of Warringah or North Sydney being considered for abolition.

2. KIRSTY GOLD'S OBJECTION: #618

3. KYLEA TINK'S OBJECTION: #686