



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 200

Councillor Brad Bunting

3 pages

26 July 2024

The Australian Electoral Commission
(Attn: NSW Redistribution Secretariat)
Locked Bag 4007,
Canberra ACT 2601

By webform: <https://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2023/nsw/comments-objections.html>

Dear Members of the New South Wales Augmented Electoral Commission,

I am writing to provide feedback on the proposed boundary changes for the Greenway electorate.

I support the submission by NSW Labor to review the proposed boundary between Mitchell, Greenway, Parramatta and McMahon.

Old Windsor Road

Old Windsor Road has served as an electoral boundary at either the federal or state level for over 50 years. Moreover, it is utilized for various community planning purposes, including school catchment zones.

Rouse Hill is a well-established suburb with a stable population and significant connections to adjacent suburbs such as Beaumont Hills and North Kellyville that are within the electoral division of Mitchell. These suburbs form a 'community of interest'.

In contrast, Box Hill currently lacks strong connections to adjacent areas. Box Hill is a relatively recent suburb with significant projected growth like the suburbs of Riverstone, Grantham Farm and Tallawong in the State Electoral District of Riverstone and Ward 1 of Blacktown Council.

If Old Windsor Road must be crossed, I recommend the Redistribution Committee consider separating Box Hill and Rouse Hill, retaining the latter in Mitchell.

Seven Hills

The current southern boundary of Greenway extends south to encompass parts of Blacktown, Prospect, and Seven Hills. It is inconsistent with the 'communities of interest' requirement to propose a separation of the suburbs of Seven Hills, Lalor Park, and Kings Langley.

These suburbs are similar, interconnected, and share the same postcode (2747). In previous redistributions all three suburbs have been moved together. Presently, they fall within Ward 2 of Blacktown City Council.

Seven Hills & Fairfield CBD

It would not be in the best interest of the residents of Seven Hills to be included in the Division of McMahon, which also includes Fairfield CBD within its boundaries. Communities like Seven Hills do not consider themselves part of the Fairfield community nor do they have any significant connection to Fairfield CBD.

Fairfield is a very distinct community which is disconnected from Blacktown LGA - this separation is intentional, not coincidental. The Blacktown Local Government Area, with its significant size and presence, has cultivated a sense of community that is distinct and should not be further divided amongst federal electorates.

Residents of Lalor Park rely on Seven Hills and Blacktown train stations for their major public transport needs. The role of a local Member of Parliament's office is critical. For residents of Seven Hills to seek assistance from their Federal MP, they would need to travel on public transport to Fairfield, requiring multiple bus changes to reach the McMahon Electorate Office.

Shared Community Resources

Lalor Park and Seven Hills have similar socio-economic backgrounds and share a significant number of community resources, including:

- Blacktown Hospital
- PCYC in Blacktown
- A number of Blacktown City Council libraries: Max Webber Library in Blacktown, Lalor Park Library
- A number of Blacktown City Council community halls: Bowman Hall, Lalor Park Community Centre, Lalor Park Community Hub, Seven Hills Community Centre
- Parks and sporting fields for local sporting clubs
- Interlinked religious communities

There are also several primary and secondary school catchment areas that cover both Seven Hills and Lalor Park.

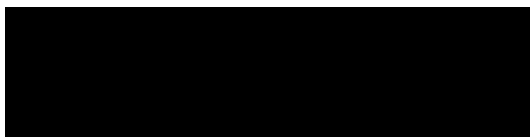
Summary

These communities should remain together in the electorate of Greenway as that is the best way to draw upon the strong bonds and identity that exists in support of the community.

Therefore, I support NSW Labor's proposal that at least the majority of Seven Hills (north of Lucretia Road) including the industrial area of Seven Hills be retained in Greenway as these adjustments will keep more electors within their current boundaries while consolidating communities with shared interests into a single electoral division.

These adjustments will help ensure that communities with shared interests and established connections are appropriately represented within their respective electoral divisions and to better reflect the differences in the communities on either side.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Brad Bunting
Mayor Blacktown City