



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 214

Simon Morgan

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Whale Beach, NSW

26th July, 2024

The Australian Electoral Commission

Suite 13.03, 59 Goulburn Street

Haymarket, NSW 2000

Subject: Observations relating to Objections to AEC proposed changes to Mackellar electorate

Dear Sir/Madam,

Regarding the recent AEC proposed changes to the federal electorate of Mackellar I write to challenge suggestions (Objections #676 & #686) that the electorate should expand into the Upper North Shore area of St Ives.

- The Redistribution Committee decided to keep Mackellar wholly within the Northern Beaches Council area as the most logical outcome. As the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council said in his submission, there are numerous reasons it would also benefit the people of St Ives to remain in the Ku-ring-gai Council area.
- St Ives is part of the Upper North Shore, and Mackellar is part of the Northern Beaches. The North Shore and the Northern Beaches are different and separate communities as they have different councils, different sporting competitions, different school catchments, different shopping and business precincts and largely unrelated transport networks.
- The two regions are also divided physically by significant distance and geography by the Garigal and Ku-ring-gai National Parks and Cowan and Middle Creeks which for many decades have formed what is considered a major boundary by the AEC.
- The public transport links between St Ives and the rest of Mackellar are weak. There are no direct links between St Ives and Frenchs Forest, or St Ives and the southern parts of Mackellar.
- There are significant cultural differences across these areas, life on the beaches is a world apart from the upper North Shore and the two are seriously incompatible.

These changes as proposed by the AEC to expand Mackellar to the south into Warringah engage other area of "the Beaches" and are broadly considered logical as they strengthen the unique Northern Beaches culture and unite "communities of interest" within Mackellar.

Yours sincerely

Simon Morgan