



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 226

Joseph Lin

12 pages

Proposed Abolition of the Division of North Sydney

Nearly two thirds of objections to the proposed NSW redistribution object to the abolition of the Division of North Sydney. I do not support their arguments that North Sydney should NOT be abolished. Most submissions to save North Sydney have come from a coordinated campaign by the current MP for North Sydney, Kylea Tink. Tink has instructed her supporters to lodge objections to her seat's proposed abolition using a set of arguments published on [her website](#). None of these arguments are convincing or worthy of serious consideration.

The vast majority of these submissions didn't put forward the case of why another seat should be abolished instead of North Sydney and what that would look like. You can't just say a seat shouldn't be abolished. You have to outline which seat should be abolished instead and the case for it.

Almost everyone agrees that a seat must be abolished in Northern Sydney. In the suggestion phase NSW Labor's submission is the only submission that did not abolish a seat in Northern Sydney.

Division	Actual enrolment 31/07/2022	Actual enrolments 9/08/2023	Enrolment growth% between 31/07/2022 and 09/08/2023	Actual variation from quota 9/08/2023	Projected enrolment 10/04/2028	Projected Growth (%)	Projected variation from quota 10/04/2028
Bennelong	115,437	116,790	1.17%	-3.49%	122,124	4.57%	-5.78%
Mackellar	110,926	111,700	0.70%	-7.69%	117,968	5.61%	-8.99%
North Sydney	111,280	112,630	1.21%	-6.93%	112,566	-0.06%	-13.16%
Bradfield	108,356	109,126	0.71%	-9.82%	109,523	0.36%	-15.51%
Berowra	105,916	106,739	0.78%	-11.79%	109,154	2.26%	-15.79%
Warringah	104,776	105,759	0.94%	-12.60%	105,958	0.19%	-18.26%
NSW Total	5,480,352	5,566,489	1.57%		5,962,555	7.12%	
46-seat quota		121,011			129,621		

Table 1 Actual and projected enrolment and growth rates for Northern Sydney divisions

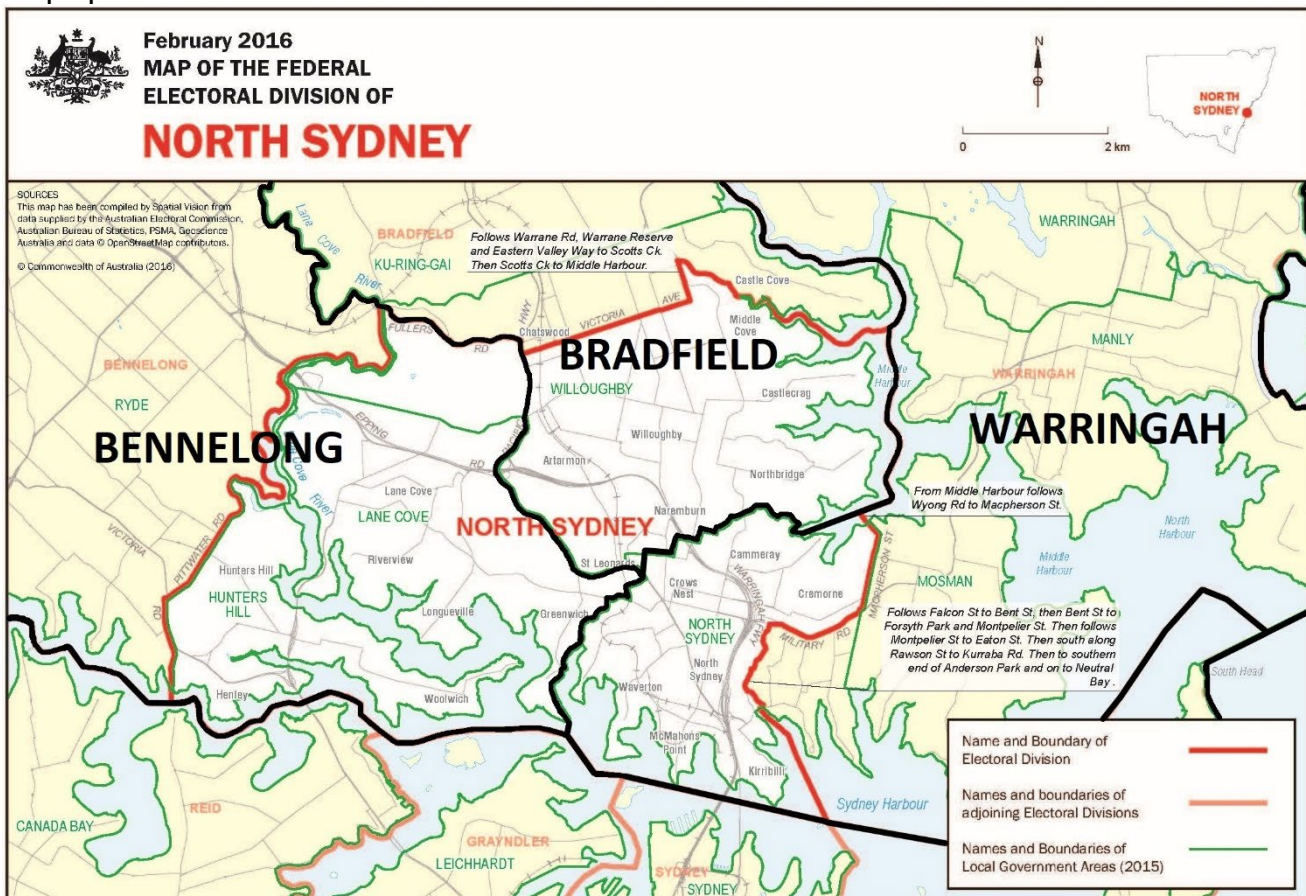
As Table 1 shows, the six Northern Sydney seats of Bennelong, Mackellar, North Sydney, Bradfield, Berowra and Warringah have only 5.2 projected quotas, and they all have rates of actual and projected enrolment growth lower or even significantly lower than the statewide average, which means one of these six seats must be abolished. I'll put forward my arguments as to why North Sydney is the optimal choice to be abolished among these six seats and why I disagree with the arguments objecting to its abolition.

Why North Sydney is the most optimal choice to be abolished

As the maps below shows, on existing boundaries, the division of North Sydney contains the entirety of Hunters Hill and Lane Cove councils, as well as most of Willoughby and North Sydney councils. This makes it easy to divide North Sydney among surrounding seats mostly along council boundaries, which avoids splitting councils from the middle along arbitrary boundaries, resulting in solid boundaries for all Northern Sydney seats. North Sydney is the only Northern Sydney seat that contains most of or the entirety of four councils, making it easier to dismember than other Northern Sydney seats.

In the map below, black lines are boundaries as proposed by the Redistribution Committee, which divides North Sydney among the surrounding divisions of Bennelong, Bradfield and Warringah, mostly among council boundaries. The proposed boundaries between Bennelong, Bradfield and Warringah are solid. I would like to advise the Augmented Electoral Commission not to make major changes to these boundaries, although I will propose a minor change later in this submission by putting the remainder of Willoughby Council into Bradfield.

Note that all maps used in this submission are derived from the proposed or current electoral maps published on the AEC website.



Map showing how easily North Sydney's population can be distributed to neighbouring electorates. The remainder of North Sydney Council except a small part of St Leonards can be sent to Warringah, all of Lane Cove and Hunters Hill Councils as well as a small part of Willoughby Council south of Fullers Road – Pacific Highway sent to Bennelong, and the remainder of Willoughby Council sent to Bradfield

In Objection 686, Kylea Tink argued for Berowra to be abolished instead of North Sydney, and proposed boundary changes that only affect the divisions of Bennelong, Bradfield, North Sydney, Mackellar, Mitchell and Parramatta. Her proposal splits Ku-ring-gai Council and Hornsby Shire in

the middle along arbitrary artificial boundaries and forces major changes on Mitchell, causing it to extend all the way up to the Hawkesbury River. Her proposed boundaries caused much greater disruptions to Northern Sydney seats and unnecessarily splits the Ku-ring-gai Council and Hornsby Shire, tearing apart communities of interest, while the Redistribution Committee's proposed boundaries put all of Hornsby Shire into Berowra and all of Ku-ring-gai Council into Bradfield, keeping the two communities of interest together.

For these reasons, I believe that the Redistribution Committee's proposed boundaries are much less disruptive and much more solid than those proposed by Kylea Tink.

North Sydney is also a geographic name that should be retired. Considering the federation seats of East Sydney, West Sydney and South Sydney have all been abolished decades ago, keeping the name North Sydney makes little sense.

Arguments against the abolition of the Division of North Sydney

1. North Sydney is a community of interest

The current boundary of North Sydney is solid and encloses a cohesive community of interest, but one can argue that every other division in NSW and around the country shares the same characteristic. Since "community of interest" is a subjective and vaguely defined concept, it should not be used as a criterium to decide which seat should be abolished.

2. North Sydney is a fast-growing seat

Many submissions noted that North Sydney was a fast-growing seat with new homes being built, citing the following projections:

- "The NSW Planning Department website refers to changes to LEP's that will deliver 8680 new homes by 2036", including "6680 in Crows Nest and 2000 in St Leonards" (cited by Objection 686).
- "Local Councils in the division are forecasting 13,100 newly completed homes in the next five years" (cited by Objection 686), including "5900 new homes built in the North Sydney LGA alone by 2029" (cited by Objections 561 – 567).
- "North Sydney Council is expecting 19,500 new residents to move into the area by 2036" (cited by Objections 561 – 567).

There's no guarantee that any of these projections will be realised. Even if all 13,100 homes could be delivered, due to the high cost of housing in this area and many other factors, these homes may not attract enough people, let alone enrolled voters, to make the electorate's growth rate of electors catch up with the statewide average. Even if all these projections can be realised, they only reflect the **absolute** population growth rate, not **relative** population growth rate. One of the criteria to decide which seat to abolish is to assess whether **enrolment (not population)** in this seat and surrounding seats is growing faster or slower than most other seats in the state. None of these projections tell us whether the growth rate of **enrolment** in North Sydney will catch up with the statewide average.

Division	Actual enrolment 31/07/2022	Actual enrolments 9/08/2023	Enrolment growth% between 31/07/2022 and 09/08/2023	Actual variation from quota 9/08/2023	Projected enrolment 10/04/2028	Projected Growth (%)	Projected variation from quota 10/04/2028
Macarthur	134,207	140,280	4.53%	15.92%	171,700	22.40%	32.46%
Werriwa	127,046	132,460	4.26%	9.46%	159,054	20.08%	22.71%
Mitchell	121,600	126,812	4.29%	4.79%	148,572	17.16%	14.62%
Chifley	122,324	126,954	3.79%	4.91%	148,639	17.08%	14.67%
Greenway	121,390	125,882	3.70%	4.03%	144,158	14.52%	11.22%
Fowler	109,155	112,414	2.99%	-7.10%	127,624	13.53%	-1.54%
McMahon	108,096	111,293	2.96%	-8.03%	125,817	13.05%	-2.93%
Lindsay	124,766	127,763	2.40%	5.58%	144,334	12.97%	11.35%
Cook	110,230	111,384	1.05%	-7.96%	125,069	12.29%	-3.51%
Hughes	107,098	108,110	0.94%	-10.66%	120,601	11.55%	-6.96%
Blaxland	107,772	110,001	2.07%	-9.10%	122,692	11.54%	-5.35%
Watson	109,139	110,765	1.49%	-8.47%	123,370	11.38%	-4.82%
Robertson	112,789	112,982	0.17%	-6.63%	125,241	10.85%	-3.38%
Banks	107,255	108,512	1.17%	-10.33%	119,557	10.18%	-7.76%
Hume	122,265	125,549	2.69%	3.75%	138,104	10.00%	6.54%
Parramatta	105,950	109,049	2.92%	-9.88%	119,570	9.65%	-7.75%
Dobell	118,678	119,946	1.07%	-0.88%	131,442	9.58%	1.41%
Barton	110,418	112,326	1.73%	-7.18%	121,919	8.54%	-5.94%
Macquarie	107,885	108,671	0.73%	-10.20%	117,867	8.46%	-9.07%
Reid	115,513	116,485	0.84%	-3.74%	125,674	7.89%	-3.04%
Paterson	132,621	135,332	2.04%	11.83%	144,824	7.01%	11.73%
Eden-Monaro	117,184	116,732	-0.39%	-3.54%	124,402	6.57%	-4.03%
Newcastle	122,470	123,370	0.73%	1.95%	130,623	5.88%	0.77%
Mackellar	110,926	111,700	0.70%	-7.69%	117,968	5.61%	-8.99%
Richmond	120,483	122,977	2.07%	1.62%	129,794	5.54%	0.13%
Page	123,741	123,663	-0.06%	2.19%	129,995	5.12%	0.29%
Lyne	124,969	126,513	1.24%	4.55%	132,775	4.95%	2.43%
Shortland	116,423	117,337	0.79%	-3.04%	122,767	4.63%	-5.29%
Kingsford Smith	114,994	115,481	0.42%	-4.57%	120,776	4.59%	-6.82%
Gilmore	128,100	128,991	0.70%	6.59%	134,884	4.57%	4.06%
Bennelong	115,437	116,790	1.17%	-3.49%	122,124	4.57%	-5.78%
Farrer	119,777	121,734	1.63%	0.60%	127,265	4.54%	-1.82%
Whitlam	125,551	128,272	2.17%	6.00%	132,897	3.61%	2.53%
Cowper	129,706	131,515	1.39%	8.68%	135,536	3.06%	4.56%
Calare	121,477	122,798	1.09%	1.48%	126,537	3.04%	-2.38%
Hunter	128,545	131,588	2.37%	8.74%	135,536	3.00%	4.56%
Berowra	105,916	106,739	0.78%	-11.79%	109,154	2.26%	-15.79%
Bradfield	108,356	109,126	0.71%	-9.82%	109,523	0.36%	-15.51%
Grayndler	109,549	111,079	1.40%	-8.21%	111,454	0.34%	-14.02%
Warringah	104,776	105,759	0.94%	-12.60%	105,958	0.19%	-18.26%
North Sydney	111,280	112,630	1.21%	-6.93%	112,566	-0.06%	-13.16%
Riverina	116,390	117,550	1.00%	-2.86%	117,407	-0.12%	-9.42%
Cunningham	117,446	118,123	0.58%	-2.39%	117,869	-0.22%	-9.07%
New England	113,638	115,732	1.84%	-4.36%	115,345	-0.33%	-11.01%
Sydney	124,609	122,549	-1.65%	1.27%	121,661	-0.72%	-6.14%
Parkes	109,215	110,690	1.35%	-8.53%	109,528	-1.05%	-15.50%

Wentworth	103,197	104,081	0.86%	-13.99%	102,383	-1.63%	-21.01%
NSW Total	5,480,352	5,566,489	1.57%		5,962,555	7.12%	
46-seat quota		121,011			129,621		

Table 2 Actual and projected enrolment figures and growth rates for NSW divisions

Table 2 shows between 31 July 2022 and 9 August 2023, the growth rate of electors of the Division of North Sydney, which was 1.21%, was lower than the statewide average of 1.57%. North Sydney is also one of the only 7 divisions in NSW with enrolment projected to **decline** between 9 August 2023 and 10 April 2028. The actual growth rate of enrolment between 31 July 2022 and 9 August 2023 for the surrounding divisions of Bennelong, Bradfield and Warringah were also below statewide average. North Sydney and its three surrounding divisions also have the slowest projected growth rates of enrolment between 9 August 2023 and 10 April 2028 in the state. Both actual and projected growth rates of enrolment in North Sydney and surrounding divisions make the case **for** North Sydney to be abolished to fill the current and projected enrolment shortfalls in surrounding seats.

Many objections suggest that the projected elector figures are likely to be exceeded due to the projected number of homes being built. However, a comparison of projected enrolment figures for 25 August 2019 made in the 2016 redistribution and actual enrolment figures on 31 August 2019 show that the Northern Sydney seats of Bennelong, Berowra, Bradfield, Mackellar, North Sydney and Warringah all fell short of their enrolment growth projections (see Table 3). It's likely that seats in these areas will again fall short of their enrolment growth projections when enrolment figures are released on 31 March 2028. This also makes the case **for** North Sydney to be abolished.

Division	Proj. 25-8-19	Proj. Growth	Proj. Var.	Actual 31-8-19	Var %	Var Num	Num. Growth	% Growth	Actual Var from Proj.
Banks	110,782	7,782	0.22%	106,981	-5.11%	-5,755	3,981	3.87%	-3,801
Barton	113,157	10,120	2.37%	108,891	-3.41%	-3,845	5,854	5.68%	-4,266
Bennelong	110,876	8,183	0.30%	109,236	-3.10%	-3,500	6,543	6.37%	-1,640
Berowra	110,861	7,541	0.29%	106,245	-5.76%	-6,491	2,925	2.83%	-4,616
Blaxland	110,746	10,242	0.18%	105,526	-6.40%	-7,210	5,022	5.00%	-5,220
Bradfield	110,742	7,715	0.18%	107,188	-4.92%	-5,548	4,161	4.04%	-3,554
Chifley	108,528	10,604	-1.82%	112,564	-0.15%	-172	14,640	14.95%	4,036
Cook	109,035	7,718	-1.36%	106,841	-5.23%	-5,895	5,524	5.45%	-2,194
Fowler	112,158	9,249	1.46%	107,032	-5.06%	-5,704	4,123	4.01%	-5,126
Grayndler	109,912	9,110	-0.57%	109,383	-2.97%	-3,353	8,581	8.51%	-529
Greenway	111,643	11,984	1.00%	111,128	-1.43%	-1,608	11,469	11.51%	-515
Hughes	108,867	7,623	-1.52%	106,085	-5.90%	-6,651	4,841	4.78%	-2,782
Kingsford Smith	112,719	8,983	1.97%	110,888	-1.64%	-1,848	7,152	6.89%	-1,831
Lindsay	112,273	10,268	1.57%	119,177	5.71%	6,441	17,172	16.83%	6,904
Macarthur	109,620	12,847	-0.83%	120,414	6.81%	7,678	23,641	24.43%	10,794
Mackellar	111,364	7,100	0.74%	110,742	-1.77%	-1,994	6,478	6.21%	-622
Macquarie	106,949	7,433	-3.25%	107,583	-4.57%	-5,153	8,067	8.11%	634
McMahon	113,968	10,033	3.10%	106,825	-5.24%	-5,911	2,890	2.78%	-7,143
Mitchell	108,266	9,450	-2.06%	111,167	-1.39%	-1,569	12,351	12.50%	2,901
North Sydney	111,629	9,400	0.98%	109,450	-2.92%	-3,286	7,221	7.06%	-2,179
Parramatta	111,097	11,554	0.50%	102,509	-9.07%	-10,227	2,966	2.98%	-8,588
Reid	111,623	10,647	0.98%	108,932	-3.37%	-3,804	7,956	7.88%	-2,691
Sydney	112,695	11,703	1.95%	114,222	1.32%	1,486	13,230	13.10%	1,527
Warringah	107,752	9,181	-2.52%	104,648	-7.17%	-8,088	6,077	6.17%	-3,104
Watson	113,268	10,478	2.47%	107,878	-4.31%	-4,858	5,088	4.95%	-5,390
Wentworth	106,774	8,030	-3.41%	103,401	-8.28%	-9,335	4,657	4.72%	-3,373
Werriwa	113,284	11,478	2.48%	118,226	4.87%	5,490	16,420	16.13%	4,942
Metropolitan Div. (27)	2,990,588	256,456	0.20%	2,953,162	-2.98%	-90,710	219,030	8.01%	-37,426

Table 3 Projected vs actual enrolment figures and growth rates for metropolitan Sydney divisions (source: [Suggestion 14](#))

3. North Sydney has a long history

A lot of objections, such as Objections 7, 187 and 458, mentioned that North Sydney has existed since federation and has a history of 123 years. History should not be used as a criterium to decide which seat should be abolished. The argument for why seats should and shouldn't be abolished should instead be based on current and projected enrolment figures and geography.

4. North Sydney has a female independent MP

Some objections cited community achievements in electing an independent MP. For example, Objections 561b- 567 stated that "It is telling that we are one of the first electorates to stand up for independent representation in 2022"; Objection 7 stated that "In the most recent federal election, the North Sydney community achieved a historic victory with the election of Community Independent Kylea Tink"; Objection 686 stated that "The election of an Independent MP at the 2022 General Election marked the second time in 25 years the electors of North Sydney returned a representative from outside the major parties"; Objection 671 pointed out that "a consequence of the draft redistributions is that the divisions proposed to be abolished in both NSW and Victoria are currently represented by female Members of Parliament".

Although I do acknowledge and congratulate the North Sydney community for its achievement in electing independent MP Kylea Tink as well as the contribution she has made in federal Parliament and I want more women like Kylea Tink in Parliament, people who submitted these objections need to understand and respect the apolitical nature of the deliberations of the Redistribution Committee and the Augmented Electoral Commission.

The apolitical nature of the Committee and the Commission's deliberations means they cannot and should not consider the incumbent MP's party, gender or achievements in Parliament when deciding whether a seat should be abolished. The only factors they should consider in deciding whether a seat should be abolished are whether a seat and its surrounding seats have current and projected enrolment well below quota, are the easiest to abolish in terms of geography and has the smallest flow-on effects if it is abolished.

The division in which the suburb of Epping is located

The Redistribution Committee has proposed to split the suburb of Epping between the Divisions of Parramatta and Berowra. In my opinion the Division of Berowra should not include part of Epping because Epping has much closer links with the City of Parramatta in the Division of Parramatta and the City of Ryde in the Division of Bennelong. I think ideally the entirety of Epping should be located in the Division of Bennelong if current and projected enrolment numbers allow it, and if not, being split between the Divisions of Parramatta and Bennelong.

I propose that:

- The proposed Division of Bradfield gain the remainder of Willoughby Council from the proposed Division of Bennelong.
- The proposed Division of Bennelong gain the remainder of the suburb of Eastwood from the proposed Division of Parramatta and part of the suburb of Epping east of the T9 railway line from the proposed Division of Berowra, while losing the remainder of Willoughby City Council to the proposed Division of Bradfield.
- The proposed Division of Parramatta lose the remainder of the suburb of Eastwood to the proposed Division of Bennelong while gaining the part of the suburb of Epping between Midson Road and the T9 railway line from the proposed Division of Berowra.
- The proposed Division of Berowra lose part of the suburb of Epping east of the T9 railway line to the proposed Division of Bennelong and part of the suburb of Epping between Midson Road and the T9 railway line to the proposed Division of Parramatta, while regaining part of West Pennant Hills SA2 lost to Mitchell.
- The proposed Division of Mitchell lose part of West Pennant Hills SA2 it gained from the proposed Division of Berowra back to the proposed Division of Berowra.

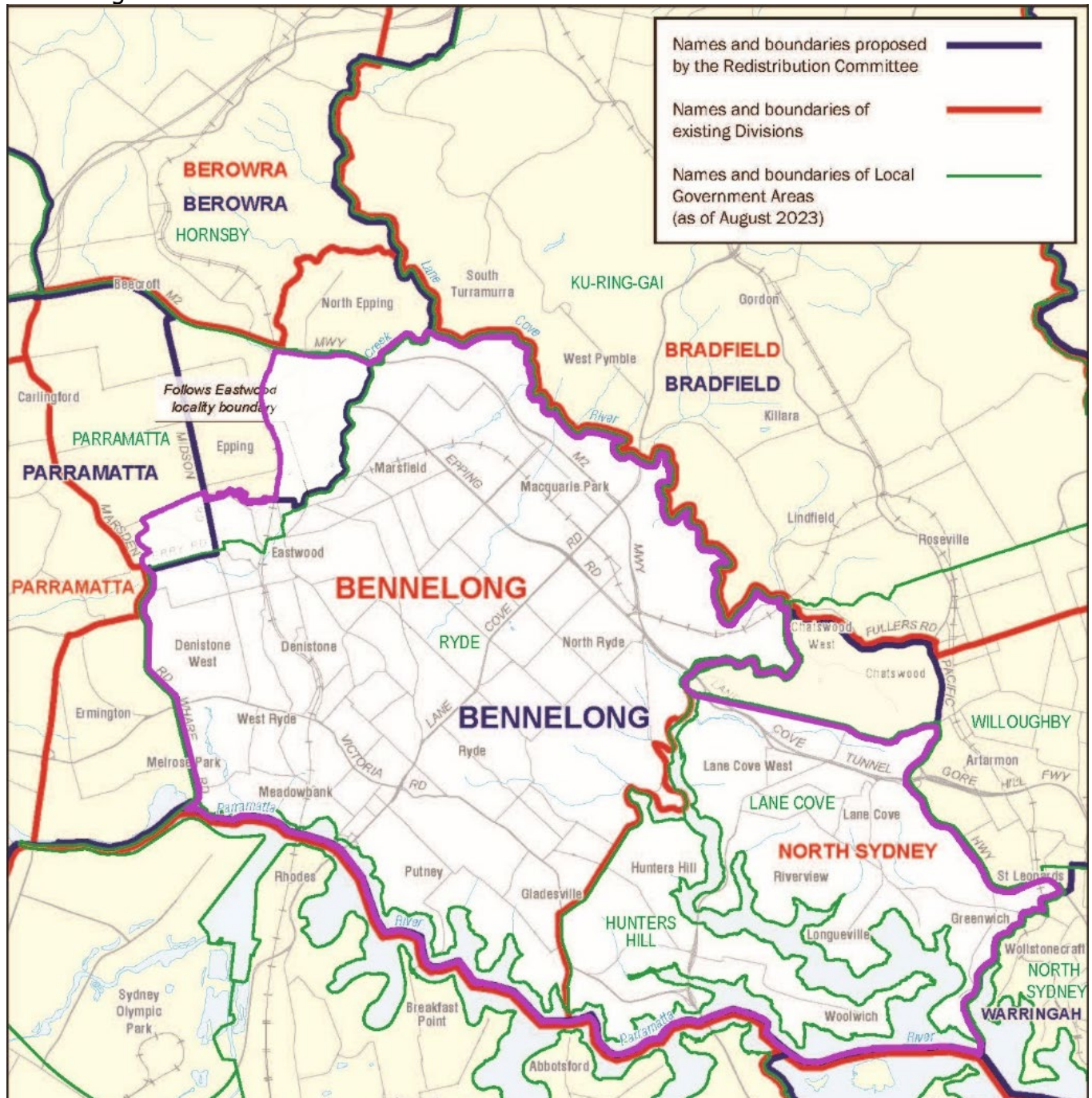
Electoral division	Enrolment as of 9 August 2023	Percentage variation from the redistribution quota	Projected enrolment as of 10 April 2028	Percentage variation from the projected enrolment quota
Bennelong	124,521	2.90%	129,236	-0.30%
Berowra	125,669	3.85%	127,985	-1.26%
Bradfield	130,758	8.05%	130,882	0.97%
Mitchell	111,613	-7.77%	125,745	-2.99%
Parramatta	120,248	-0.63%	130,882	0.97%

Table 1 Current and projected enrolments and their deviation from quota for my five proposed divisions

Maps:

Note that in the maps below, purple lines denote the boundary for my proposed divisions.

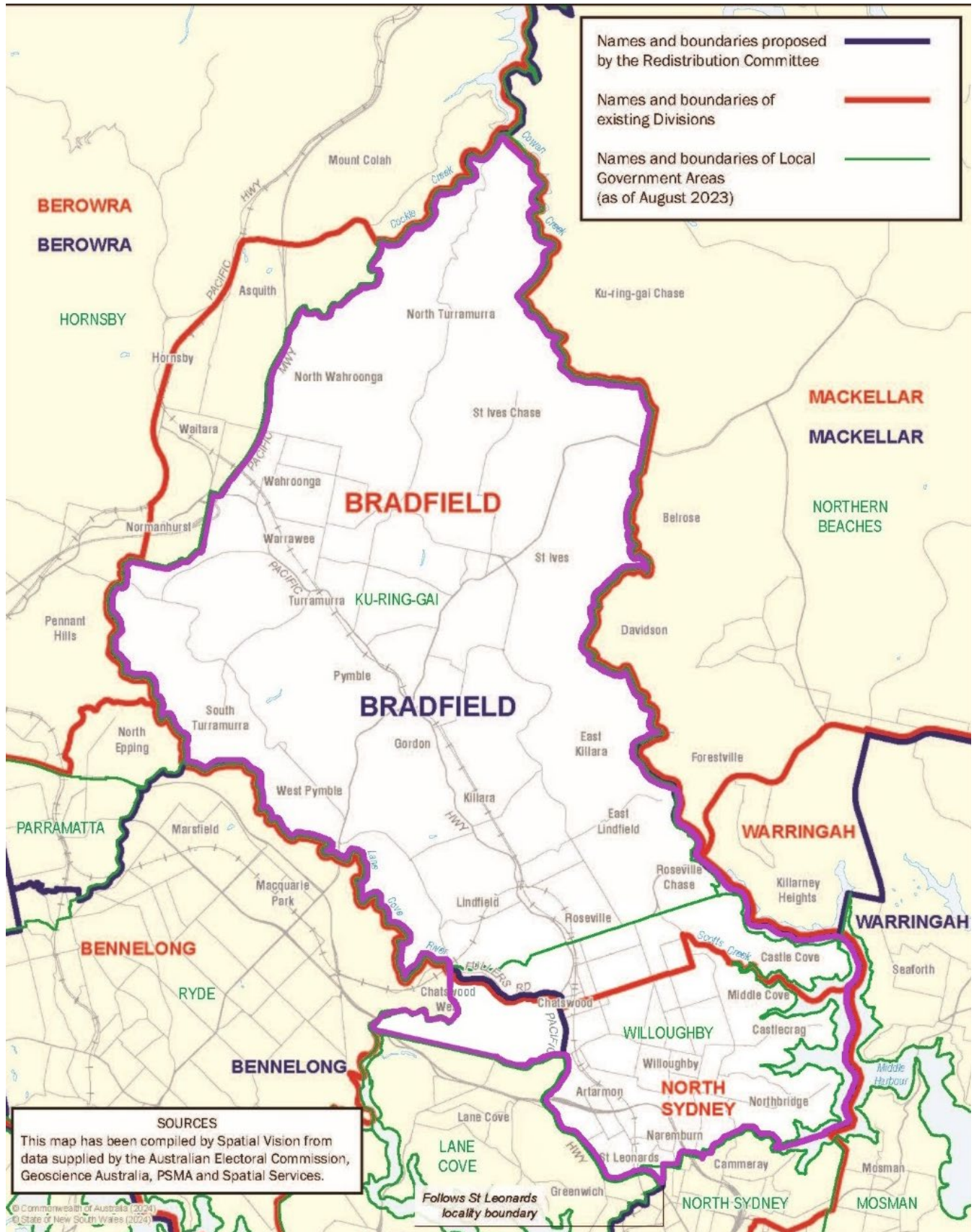
Bennelong:



Berowra:



Bradfield:



Names and boundaries proposed by the Redistribution Committee

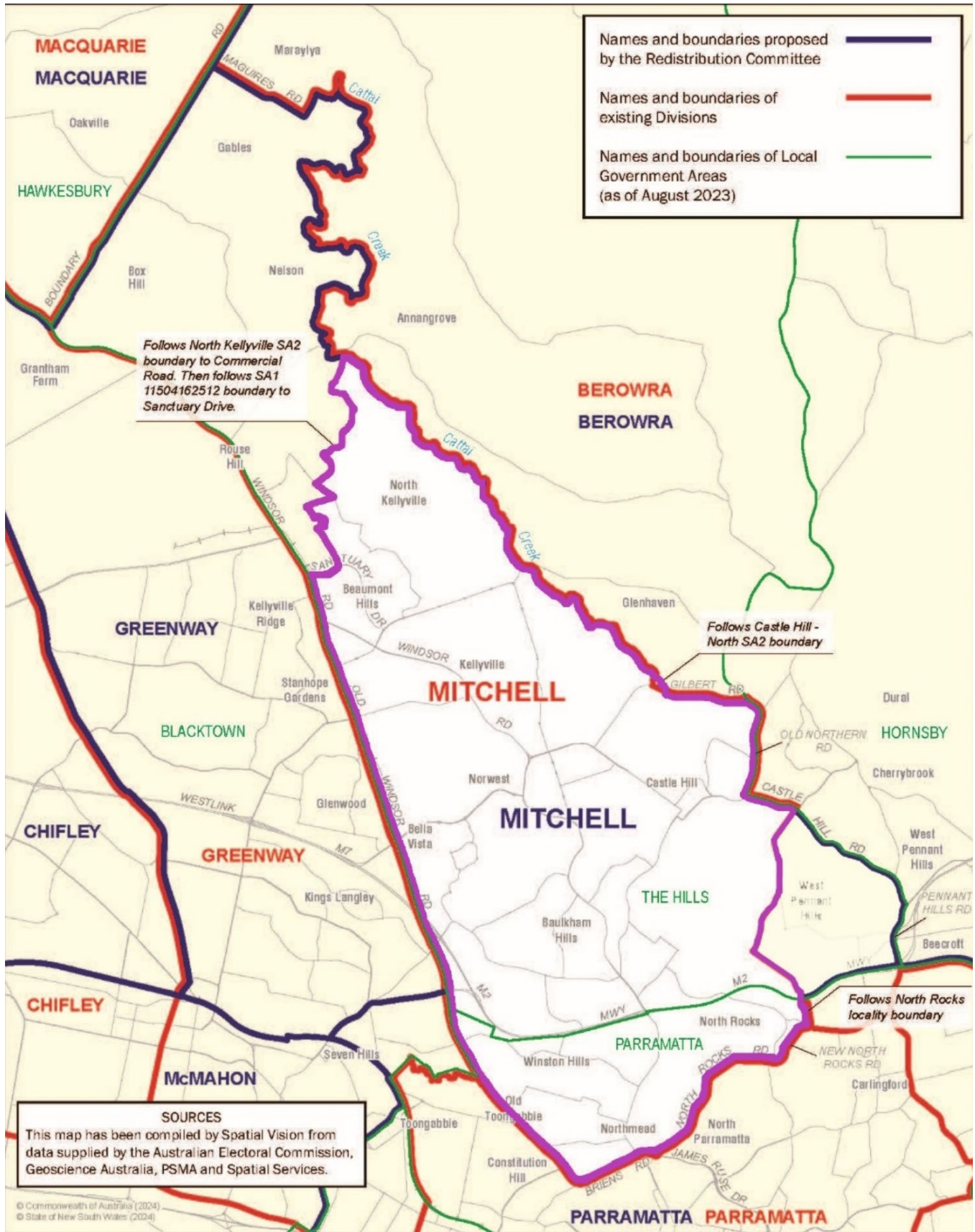
Names and boundaries of existing Divisions

Names and boundaries of Local Government Areas (as of August 2023)

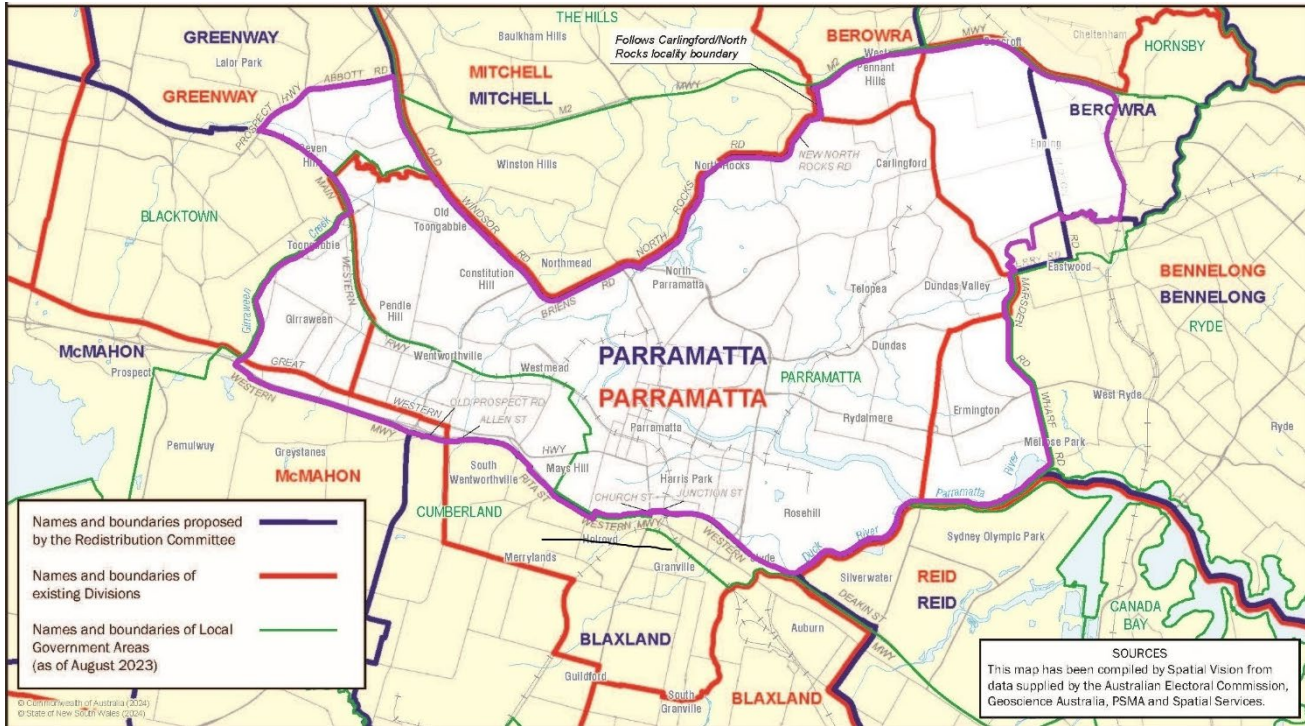
SOURCES
 This map has been compiled by Spatial Vision from data supplied by the Australian Electoral Commission, Geoscience Australia, PSMA and Spatial Services.

© Commonwealth of Australia (2024)
 © State of New South Wales (2024)

Mitchell:



Parramatta:



You can download a spreadsheet for all SA1s contained in my proposed Bennelong, Berowra, Bradfield, Mitchell and Parramatta [here](#).