



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Comment on suggestion 90

Roderick Simpson

4 pages

## Comment on the NSW 2023-24 Redistribution

Roderick Simpson 231110

I am on the electoral roll of the federal electorate of North Sydney. I have lived in the electorate my entire life and have a very good understanding of the economic, environmental and social geography of the lower North Shore and the Northern Beaches. I have an understanding of their relationship to the entire metropolitan area through my profession as an architect, planner and urban designer, having been directly involved in the 2005 Metropolitan Strategy and more recently as the inaugural Environment Commissioner of the Greater Sydney Commission.

My comment is focussed on the current electorates of NORTH SYDNEY, BENNELONG, BRADFIELD, MACKELLAR AND WARRINGAH. My comment is principally concerned with two aspects of the redistribution:

- 1 The current and proposed boundaries in relation to the communities of interest, means of communication and travel, and the physical features of the proposed districts (as set out in Section 66 (3.b.i, ii, iv) of the Electoral Act 1918.
- 2 The misalignment of the AEC population projections with NSW Department of Planning and Environment population projections ("Common Planning Assumptions"), the changes in the demographic profiles and the proposal to accelerate development in Crows Nest and St Leonards.

Of these matters, the first is in my opinion more significant, while the second should be considered and rectified in the redistribution process.

- 3 Lastly, I put forward a proposal that considers these factors and may be considered a 'comment' on a number of the 'suggestions' none of which seem to address the interrelationship between the 5 subject electorates.

I thank the Commission for the opportunity to comment.

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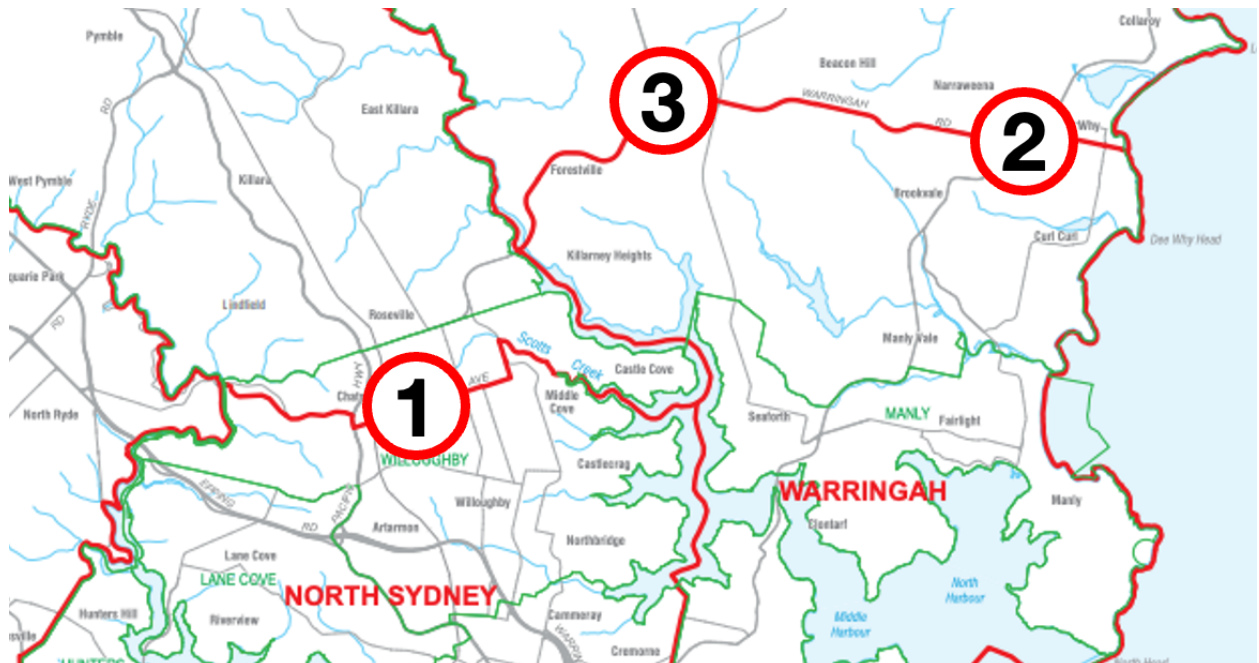
### 1 Issues relating to geography

- 1.1 The current boundaries bisect strategic centres that are clearly concentrated "communities of interest":

Please refer to the diagram below:

1. The BRADFIELD / NORTH SYDNEY boundary bisects Chatswood
2. The WARRINGAH / MACKELLAR boundary bisects DEE WHY
3. The WARRINGAH / MACKELLAR boundary bisects the proposed FRENCHS FOREST town centre

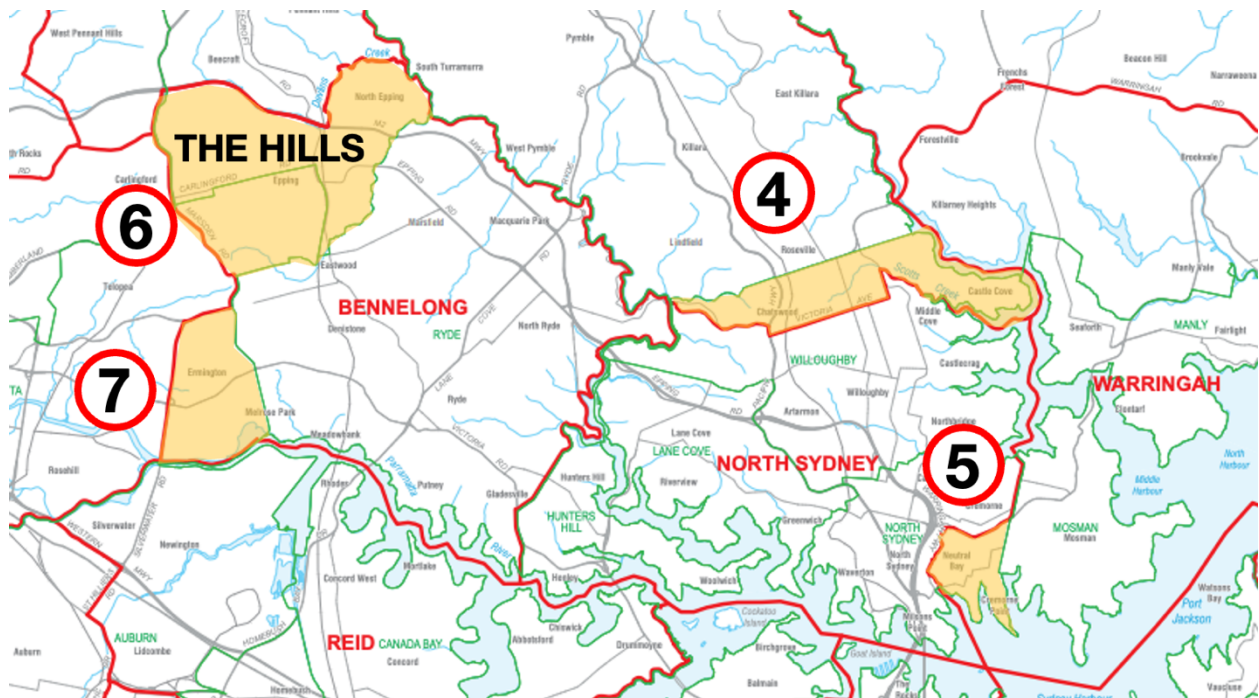
All of these are significant urban centres and are indisputably coherent 'communities of interest.'



1.2 The current boundaries do not align with Local Government Boundaries. Although this is not a consideration in the Act, clearly such an alignment would be desirable. In the case of the 5 subject electorates this would appear possible as indicated on the diagram below.

- 4. The northern part of Willoughby LGA up to Boundary Road is in BRADFIELD
- 5. The eastern part of North Sydney LGA Cremorne is in WARRINGAH

Local governments are in effect formalised 'communities of interest'



1.3 Mosman is currently part of WARRINGAH but has very little in common with the Northern Beaches. The population of the Northern Beaches far exceeds the maximum number of electors for a single electorate so it is inevitable that two electorates are required . It is worth noting the term ‘insular peninsula’, often used derisively, also has a very positive aspect; that is the very high degree of ‘self containment’ in terms of employment and lower out-commuting compared to other ‘subregions’ of Sydney. Physically, Mosman is connected by only by one road.

## 2 Issues relating to population projections

Given the relative latitude in the number of electors in any electorate as allowed for in the Act, (+/- 3.5%) compared to the anticipated growth in the population (+2-3%) this issue is not as significant as the potential and need to align the boundaries with communities of interest and outlined above and as recognised in the Act (Section 66 (3.b.v)).

Nevertheless, it would be reasonable to expect the AEC population projections to be aligned with NSW projections, that in turn should take into account the natural growth, emigration and immigration from the electorates, as well as projected increased in dwellings and therfor residents as well ad changes in the age profile of the population.

In addition to this, recent NSW Government strategic planning policies should all be accounted for.

These are compounding factors that become far more significant when taken together. This is illustrated in the table below that is drawn from a number of NSW sources.

The methodology would need more detailed explanation, but that is not really the point. The point is that what ever figures are used should be based on ‘common assumptions’.

I have highlighted the clear anomalies in yellow.

	AEC			DPE projected		DPE projected		ABS	
.+ve anomaly	Voters	2028	Change 23-28	Population	Voters	Dwellings	Voters	.+ Ageing factor	Voters
.-ve anomaly	2,023	2028	Change 23-28	Change 23-28	2028	Change 23-28	2028	% +>18yrs	2028
NORTH SYDNEY	112,630	112,566	-0.06%	2.9%	115,854	6.1%	119,539	0.90%	120,615
BRADFIELD	109,126	109,523	0.36%	2.6%	111,957	3.4%	112,839	0.70%	113,629
WARRINGAH	105,759	105,958	0.19%	1.3%	107,135	1.5%	107,345	1.20%	108,633
BENNELONG	<b>116,790</b>	<b>122,124</b>	<b>4.57%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	126,726	5.8%	123,514	0.70%	124,378
MACKELLAR	111,700	117,968	5.61%	1.4%	113,272	3.4%	115,501	1.20%	116,887
	556,005	568,139	2.2%	2.7%	574,943		578,738		584,142
<b>Additional Voters Over AEC</b>		<b>12,134</b>			<b>18,938</b>		<b>22,733</b>		<b>28,137</b>
<b>% increase in voters</b>		<b>102%</b>			<b>6,804</b>		<b>10,599</b>		<b>16,003</b>
					<b>103%</b>		<b>104%</b>		<b>105%</b>

Sources:

<https://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/2023/nsw/enrolment-projections.htm>

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/populations>

<https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA14700>

<https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/greater-sydney-urban-development-program/resource/c>

<https://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/information-public-entities/nsw-common-planning-assumptions>

The table below shows NSW growth projections used to interpolate 2023 and 2028 growth and estimate growth rates used in the tables above.

Note that I have simply applied the same growth rate from Northern Beaches to MACKELLAR and WARRINGAH. This is not correct growth is likely to be much higher in WARRINGAH but would require more detailed analysis.

Projected Population Growth according to NSW used to approximate a growth factor

Approximate*		Population	Interpolation		2028	Change 23-28	%	Change	Annual %
Federal Electorate	LGA	2021	2041	2023					
NORTH SYDNEY	NORTH SYDNEY	75,190	83,980	76,069	78,267	2,198	2.9%	8,790	0.55
	WILLOUGHBY	81,036	89,235	81,856	83,906	2,050	2.5%	8,199	0.48
	LANE COVE	40,652	47,579	41,345	43,077	1,732	4.2%	6,928	0.79
	HUNTERS HILL	14,947	15,562	15,009	15,162	154	1.0%	615	0.20
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>211,825</b>	<b>236,356</b>	<b>214,278</b>	<b>220,411</b>	<b>6,133</b>	<b>2.9%</b>		
WARRINGAH	MOSMAN	30,783	31,208	30,826	30,932	107	0.3%	426	0.07
	NORTHERN BEACHES	274,015	289,529	275,566	279,445	3,879	1.4%	15,514	0.28
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>304,798</b>	<b>320,737</b>	<b>306,392</b>	<b>310,377</b>	<b>3,985</b>	<b>1.3%</b>		
BRADFIELD	KU-RING-GAI	127,402	140,760	128,738	132,077	3,339	2.6%	13,358	0.50
	RYDE	133,360	180,341	138,058	149,803	11,745	8.5%	46,981	1.52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>989,210</b>	<b>1,114,550</b>	<b>1,308,136</b>	<b>1,343,457</b>	<b>35,321</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>100,811</b>	

Source <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/populations>  
 \* some of Willoughby in Bradfield, some of North Sydney in Warringah

### 3 Proposal.

This paper is in response to a number of the Suggestions that have been made. In the interests of full disclosure, I am the president of Voices of North Sydney a community group whose aim is to 'strengthen and facilitate participation in our democracy'. However, I am making this submission as an individual, and does not represent the views of any group or organisation. Having said that, we Australian citizens are very fortunate to have processes such as this, that do indeed have the potential to further 'strengthen' our democracy, unlike other nations that suffer from blatant gerrymandering. I strongly support the emphasis the Act gives to 'communities' of interest, and with that in mind the proposal illustrated below may have merit.

- 4 Extend NORTH SYDNEY to boundary with Ku-ring-gai
- 5 Extend NORTH SYDNEY to the boundary with Mosman
- 6 Excise the area of BENNELONG that is in The Hills and include in BEROWRA
- 7 Excise the area of BENNELONG that is in Parramatta LGA and incorporate into PARRAMATTA
- 8 Include Mosman LGA in NORTH SYDNEY
- 9 Include Hunters Hill LGA in BENNELONG
- 10 Move the boundary of WARRINGAH as far north as needed to balance the removal of Mosman
- 11 Create a new electorate that is the combination of MACKELLAR and BRADFIELD
- 12 In consultation with the Aboriginal community; consider a name for the new electorate (for example GARIGAL?)

