



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 26

Martin Gordon

2 pages

Australian Electoral Commission

New South Wales Redistribution Secretariat

Objection

I wish to lodge an objection to the proposed redistribution for New South Wales. I had earlier made a proposal submission.

I would like to point to areas of agreement with the Commissioners proposals:

The minimalist or no changes made to Richmond, Page, Calare, Cowper, Dobell, Farrer, Lyne, Macquarie, Robertson are quite reasonable. Similarly the revised boundaries proposed for Paterson and Hunter have tidied up boundaries in the lower Hunter.

Several changes with Kingsford Smith and Sydney have created tenuous links between parts of the proposed Divisions by way of road bridges. I raise an alternative treatment in respect of Kingsford Smith below.

Comment:

I have in the past argued that strong continuous boundaries are desirable and I note that with Barton and Banks the Commissioners have made use of Canterbury Road. Whereas I had proposed Blaxland be abolished (which mirrors the abolition of Lakemba at the state level in the same area due to elector shortages). The commissioners have managed to retain Blaxland, but it has required very large elector transfers to do so.

Areas of disagreement:

My underlying logic is to rely on strong continuous boundaries if possible.

In respect of **Kingsford Smith** a long coastal strip on the west part of Botany Bay is included in the Commissioners proposal. I consider this to be less than ideal, as the western boundaries of Kingsford Smith run along creeks, back streets, and post code boundaries. An alternative approach would be to use The Princes Highway and Bay Street as the boundary between Kingsford Smith and Watson.

There is no point in isolating Barton from the ocean, and the use of a narrow strip of streets. A major Highway and a major suburban road seem clearer boundaries. From a rough calculation the elector numbers seem to make this possible.

In relation to **Hughes** the Commissioners encountered the same issue that State Electoral Redistributions have struggled with on the upper Georges River. An alternative to tidy up boundaries would be to include Chipping Norton from Fowler in Hughes (which it has in the past) and then the Main Southern Railway could be used as a boundary with Werriwa. An adjustment between Werriwa and Fowler could be made with Bonnyrigg Heights which is part of the Fairfield Council which is overwhelmingly in Fowler.

In relation to **Eden-Monaro, Gilmore and Whitlam**, the commissioners have come up with reasonable boundaries. However some minor changes it is possible to create a more south eastern Eden-Monaro, a more Shellharbour based largely urban Division in Whitlam and a Gilmore more like in the past combining the Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven. Eden-Monaro with the full or near full inclusion of Eurobodalla Council, rather than Goulburn Mulwaree would return Eden-Monaro to a form more like it has for some decades.

The portions of Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama councils with the addition of Berry would be a compact Division and which would be very like Throsby was before renamed Whitlam (the adoption of this was suggested by me some years back). The numbers stack up.

Similarly the restoration of Gilmore as a largely rural Division (which has extended as far west as Cowra) with Goulburn Mulwaree, Wingecarribee and Shoalhaven council less Berry would have quite good community of interest.

I wish the commissioners the best.

Martin Gordon

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