



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 461

Narelle Turner

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The Australian Electoral Commission

(Attn: NSW Redistribution Secretariat)

Objection to Redistribution and proposed changes to Bennelong boundaries

I would be extremely disappointed to see the current Bennelong boundaries changed. I have lived in Raimonde Road, Carlingford for nearly 40 years. My street starts in Eastwood and half way along becomes Carlingford. I live very close to the borders of Carlingford, Eastwood and Epping. The current Bennelong area is my natural community where I am both socially and politically active. Every week I use services (such as: the doctor, dentist, supermarkets, bank, butcher, green grocer, physio therapist, community college, public transport and roads etc) that are all easy for me to access in Epping, Eastwood, West Ryde and the Eastern end of Carlingford because they are only five to ten minutes from home. This is my local community. Even though my address is in Parramatta City Council I have little affinity with Parramatta and rarely go there. By coincidence I went there today for the first time in approximately two years.

I have accessed the Bennelong office in Epping a few times just recently. Last year I went to the Bennelong office to collect material related to the Voice referendum. I have also been in contact with the Bennelong Federal member, Jerome Laxale, not only about the Voice but also expressing my concerns about my Aged Care experiences with my husband and the recent proposed changes to relevant legislation. I'm pleased to say he was responsive to my concerns and I also observe that he is very active and supportive of the needs in our community. My experience with John Alexander, the previous federal member was similar. I strongly believe it would be very detrimental to split the community and delegate representation to other wards who probably won't feel the same connection with the community as a whole and won't necessarily prioritise the needs of this community as a whole.

I understand that there has been a lot of development and growth in population in Bennelong but the same is true of Parramatta and Berowa. In fact Parramatta is on the brink of significant population growth. I noticed today that the massive Mirvac development on Pennant Hills Road in Carlingford is already under construction. Bennelong needs to remain a community and having a federal office in Epping helps maintain cohesion. There are enough complications to navigate due to arbitrary changes in councils boundaries when councils were dissolved. Please do not split Bennelong.