



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 668

Anonymous 29

10 pages

INTRODUCTION

Thank you to the Commission for receiving this submission of objection.

Performing a redistribution for Australia's largest state after 8 years, 3 federal elections and significant changes in population composition is no easy task, and I commend the Committee for their genuine attempt at this, particularly the intelligent handling of regional New South Wales.

However, as a keen observer and participant in this redistribution process, I would be lying if I said I wasn't disappointed by some of the proposed divisions within the Greater Sydney area. I feel that the Committee has missed the opportunity to draw divisions for Sydney as it is now in 2024. Instead, it has opted to maintain a number of division arrangements – some established decades ago – that no longer represent a cohesive community of interest, if they ever did.

From an outside perspective, it seems that the Committee has prioritised the goal of minimising elector transfers, oftentimes over the requirement to give “due consideration” to the factors set out by Section 66.3.b. of the Electoral Act. The Committee is certainly allowed to do so, but this would not seem to be in alignment with the true aim of the redistribution process, especially one triggered after so many years.

I submit that the proposed divisions of **Bennelong**, **Hughes**, **Kingsford Smith** and **McMahon** all have clear deficiencies that could be avoided by more constructive transfers of electors.

I also submit that the Committee has made an error in not abolishing a second division somewhere in Southern Sydney and should give strong consideration to the abolition of **Banks** or **Hughes** as this would lead to significantly improved outcomes for a considerable number of divisions.

In this submission, I am proposing 3 sets of amendments that would ensure that boundaries and division identities are more clearly defined, local government areas are split across fewer divisions, and would also ensure that specific groups of electors are not marginalised by their proposed division placement.

Thank you for giving consideration to these arguments.

KEY POINTS

1. It's reasonable to abolish **North Sydney** but keep more of the Lower North Shore community united in a single division by transferring Lane Cove Council to **Bradfield**.
2. It's neater for **Parramatta** to extend northwards into **Mitchell** than eastwards into **Bennelong**, which simply needs to gain Hunters Hill Council.
3. Despite the existence of Bayside Council, the western shore of Botany Bay should not be in **Kingsford Smith**.
4. **Cook** should not retain any territory north of Georges River.
5. **Lindsay** should retain Emu Plains and **Macquarie** should gain Box Hill instead.
6. The three Blacktown divisions of **Chifley**, **Greenway** and **McMahon** should be rotated to properly focus on the communities of Mount Druitt, northern Blacktown and southern Blacktown respectively.
7. To improve the boundaries of Southwestern Sydney, **Fowler** should gain the remainder of Fairfield City Council, and **Banks** or **Hughes** should be abolished.

1. NORTHERN SYDNEY

Mitchell + Berowra + Bradfield + Mackellar + Warringah + North Sydney (ABOLISHED) + Bennelong + Parramatta

The abolition of **North Sydney** is unavoidable, but bringing **Bennelong** across the Lane Cove River results in boundaries that are less clear, and which divide communities across the entirety of Northern Sydney.

Firstly, the proposed transfer of the remainder of Dee Why and the Forest District to **Mackellar** is sensible, as is the proposed transfer of North Sydney Council to **Warringah** given the numerical constraints.

Bennelong is an exceptionally well-defined division that simply needs to gain Hunters Hill Council to be within the enrolment quota. There is no good reason to split Epping from its associated communities in Eastwood, Macquarie Park and Ryde. Additionally, arguments that **Bennelong** should include Lane Cove Council because of historical associations are bizarre – Lane Cove Council has not been in this division since 1993!

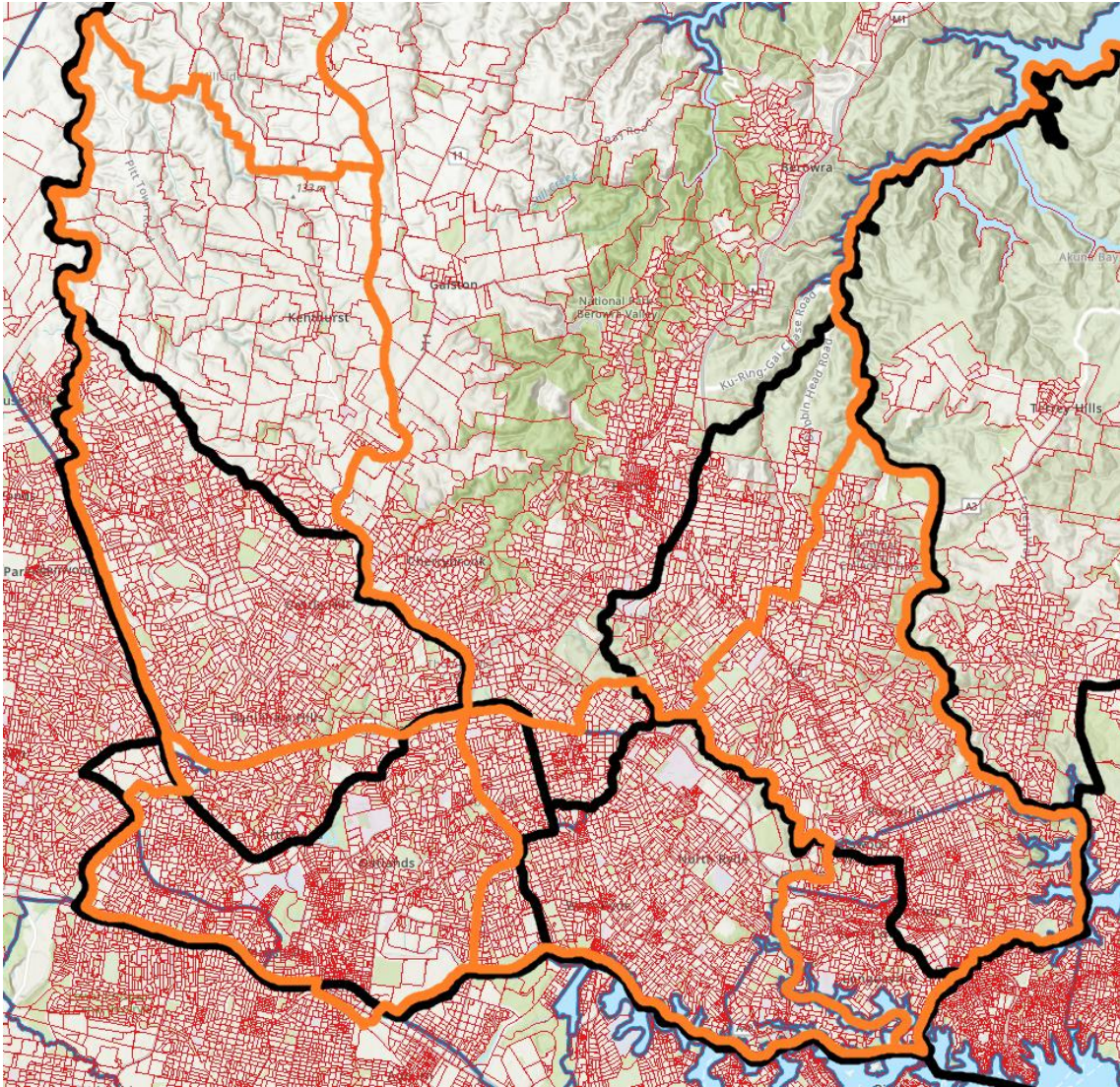
It's very likely that the residents of **North Sydney** will strongly object to the abolition of their division. While the Lower North Shore is a distinct community, the numerical reality simply means that **North Sydney** cannot be retained. However, this does not mean that the division should be carved-up between its 3 neighbours. To avoid further marginalising the Lower North Shore community, the strongly connected council areas of Lane Cove and Willoughby should remain united together in **Bradfield**. The Lane Cove River would act as a far stronger boundary than the Pacific Highway, which as proposed splits up the communities of Chatswood and St Leonards for no good reason.

If Lane Cove Council is transferred to **Bradfield** instead of **Bennelong**, then **Bradfield** would need to transfer Wahroonga and Turramurra to **Berowra**. However, this would lead to clearer boundaries for all of **Berowra**, **Mitchell** and **Parramatta** when compared to the current proposal, which leaves unresolved splits of The Hills Shire and Parramatta City Council.

Berowra is already a geographically strained division and stretching it below the M2 to take in Epping does not improve this situation. By taking in those areas of northern Ku-ring-gai Council that are more strongly associated with Hornsby, its share of The Hills Shire can be removed, and the division can become firmly centred on the activity hub of Hornsby. Alternatively, it can cede Beecroft and Cheltenham to **Bennelong** which would then cede Ermington to **Parramatta**.

If **Berowra** shifts eastward to centre on Hornsby, the opportunity arises to neatly align **Mitchell** to the boundaries of The Hills Shire, taking in all of its suburban core. **Mitchell's** share of Parramatta Council would be a more natural inclusion in **Parramatta** than its proposed extension into Epping, with the M2 providing a clear boundary between the 2 divisions.

To balance elector numbers, **Parramatta** may need to gain **Blaxland's** small portion of Parramatta Council.



SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS

1. Revert all changes to **Bennelong** except for the transfer of Hunters Hill Council
2. Transfer Lane Cove Council and the balance of Willoughby Council to **Bradfield** instead
3. Transfer Wahroonga and Turrumurra from **Bradfield** to **Berowra**
4. Transfer **Berowra's** share of The Hills Shire to **Macquarie** and **Mitchell** according to state district boundaries
5. Transfer **Mitchell's** share of Parramatta City Council to **Parramatta**
6. Transfer **Blaxland's** share of Parramatta City Council to **Parramatta**

2. EASTERN & SOUTHERN SYDNEY

Blaxland + Watson + Reid + Grayndler + Sydney + Wentworth + Kingsford Smith + Barton + Banks + Cook + Hughes

Firstly, the proposed **Wentworth** is sensible, striking a good balance between not extending the division too far into the Sydney CBD or too far into Randwick, and utilising clear boundaries along Oxford Street and Alison Road. This division should not be changed.

However, the proposed inclusion of the communities along the western shore of Botany Bay in **Kingsford Smith** is bizarre, particularly when these areas are far more strongly connected to Kogarah and Rockdale in **Barton** than they are to Mascot and Randwick. Bayside Council is a particularly contrived amalgamation of two distinct areas and it should not be given any weight in the Commission's considerations.

The Cooks River needs to be crossed by at least one division, but **Grayndler** is the only viable option to do so. It should gain Earlwood from **Barton** which has multiple crossings and cultural similarities to Marrickville.

While part of Sydney City Council, the localities of Rosebery, Beaconsfield and Zetland are generally isolated from the remainder of the division by industrial areas and have strong demographic and transport connections to Kensington and Mascot in **Kingsford Smith**.

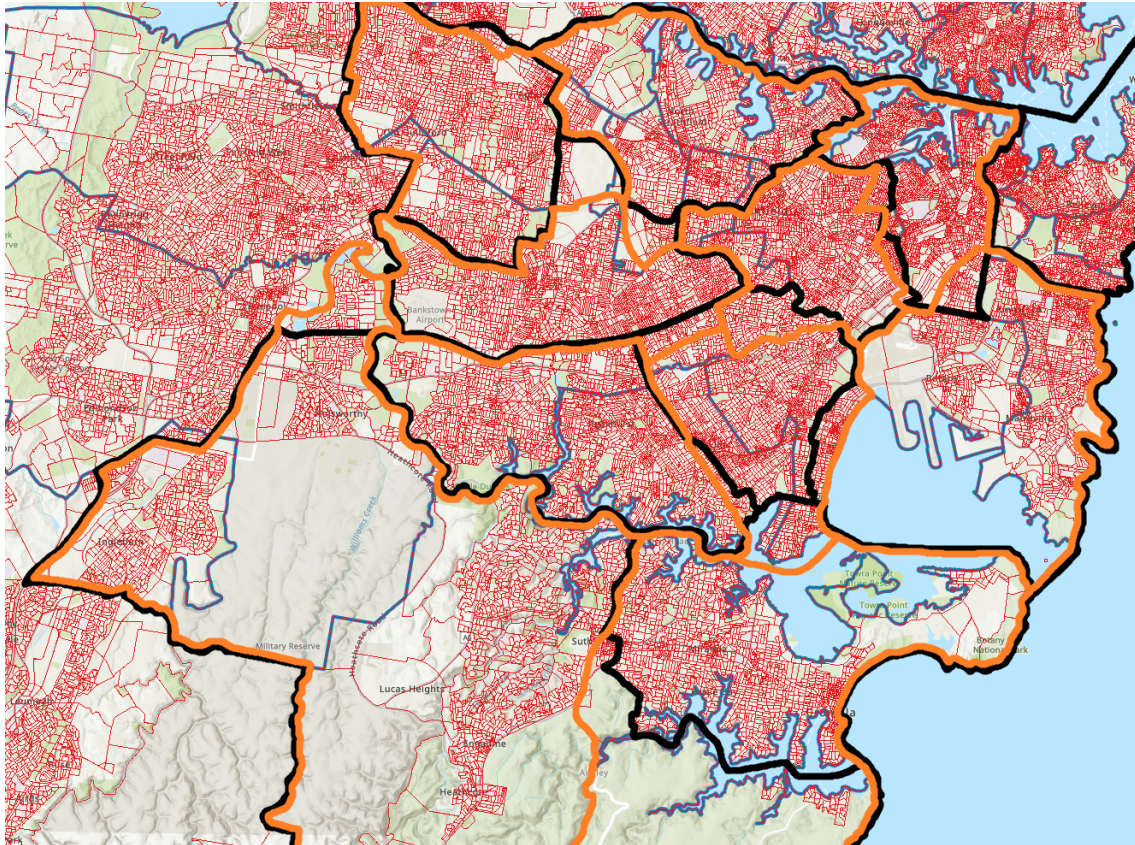
If **Sydney** loses its southern localities, it would be an opportunity to ensure that the Balmain Peninsula is properly connected to the division by taking in Annandale and the remainder of Lilyfield. Alternatively, Newtown is currently split along King Street and the balance of this suburb along with Enmore would be a sensible addition to **Sydney**.

Furthermore, there's no good reason to retain a small part of the area north of Georges River in **Cook**, unless there's no other option available.

It is possible to make room for **Cook** to become a Sutherland Shire-only division and to reduce the geographical scope of **Hughes** if **Hughes** takes in Chipping Norton from **Fowler**. **Cook** can then take in Bundeena and the parts of the locality of Sutherland east of the railway line.

In this instance, **Barton** would have to return the balance of Canterbury-Bankstown Council excluding Kingsgrove to **Watson**, however it can also adjust its boundary with **Banks** to follow King Georges Road all the way to Georges River.

Watson's boundaries would be improved by gaining Belmore, Campsie, Clemton Park and Roselands from **Barton**. To compensate, the transfer of Lidcombe to **Blaxland** and Strathfield South to **Reid** would also help to reduce the number of local government area splits.



SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS

1. Transfer Kyeemagh, Brighton-Le-Sands, Monterey and Ramsgate Beach from **Kingsford Smith** to **Barton**
2. Transfer Rosebery, Beaconsfield and Zetland from **Sydney** to **Kingsford Smith**
3. Transfer Annandale, and the balance of Lilyfield or the balance of Newtown from **Grayndler** to **Sydney**
4. Transfer Earlwood from **Barton** to **Grayndler**
5. Transfer Chipping Norton from **Fowler** to **Hughes**
6. Transfer Bundeena and the part of Sutherland east of the railway line from **Hughes** to **Cook**
7. Transfer the area north of Georges River from **Cook** to **Barton**
8. Transfer the area east of King Georges Road from **Banks** to **Barton**
9. Transfer Belmore, Campsie, Clemton Park and Roselands from **Barton** to **Watson**
10. Transfer Strathfield South from **Watson** to **Reid**
11. Transfer Lidcombe from **Watson** to **Blaxland**

3. NORTHWESTERN SYDNEY

McMahon + Greenway + Chifley + Lindsay + Macquarie + Mitchell

The transfer of Emu Plains to **Macquarie** and the use of the Nepean River as a boundary is elegant, but this area is an integral part of Penrith and should remain in **Lindsay**. It would be better for the surplus of electors in **Lindsay** to be addressed by the transfer of Colyton, Oxley Park and North St Marys to **Chifley**.

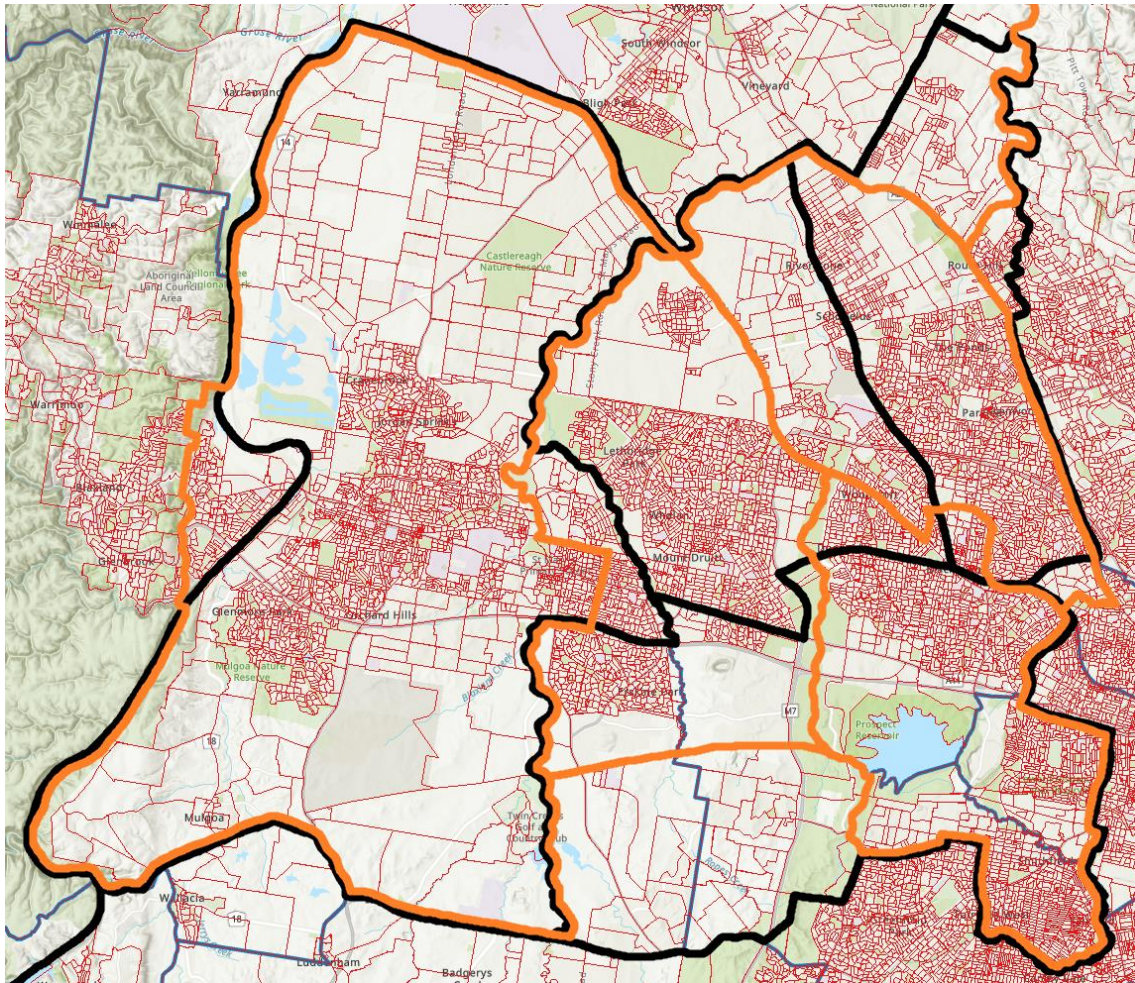
Consequently, it would be a better outcome for **Macquarie** to gain the Box Hill area from **Greenway** in alignment with the state district of Hawkesbury.

With the increase of population in Blacktown City Council, it has become time for a proper realignment of the divisions in this area. The 3-way split of central Blacktown along railway lines is a particularly poor outcome, as is the proposal for **McMahon** to include an even more disconnected group of suburbs than before.

Chifley can and should be properly based on the Mount Druitt area by taking in Minchinbury, Erskine Park and St Clair from **McMahon**, as well as the aforementioned Colyton, Oxley Park and North St Marys from **Lindsay**.

Greenway should take in those parts of **Chifley** that are east of Richmond Road to broadly represent the growth areas of northern Blacktown. It should return all areas east of Windsor Road to **Macquarie** and **Mitchell**.

While it retains Fairfield, **McMahon** is not going to be a particularly well-defined division, but the split of Blacktown can be minimised if it takes in those parts of **Chifley** that are east of Eastern Creek and south of Richmond Road, as well as most of the locality of Blacktown from **Greenway**.



SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS

1. Revert transfer of Emu Plains area from **Lindsay** to **Macquarie**
2. Transfer Colyton, Oxley Park and North St Marys from **Lindsay** to **Chifley**
3. Transfer the Box Hill area from **Greenway** to **Macquarie**
4. Transfer the part of Rouse Hill east of Windsor Road from **Greenway** to **Mitchell**
5. Transfer the majority of Blacktown from **Greenway** to **McMahon**
6. Transfer the area east of Richmond Road from **Chifley** to **Greenway**
7. Transfer Doonside, Woodcroft and Blacktown from **Chifley** to **McMahon**
8. Transfer Minchinbury, Erskine Park and St Clair from **McMahon** to **Chifley**

4. SOUTHWESTERN SYDNEY

Hume + Macarthur + Werriwa + Fowler + Hughes

Despite longstanding historical precedent, the proposed boundaries for **Hughes** and **McMahon** fail to define a clear community of interest.

With its necessary shift into the Blacktown area, it's clear that it's no longer sensible to retain Fairfield in **McMahon**. The Committee should have used this opportunity to shift **Fowler** northwards to be largely conterminous with Fairfield City Council, utilising the strong boundary of Prospect Creek, and removing Liverpool to be united with more strongly associated areas in **Hughes** or **Werriwa**. The Commission is encouraged to rethink the proposed boundaries, as this 'status-quo' proposal no longer benefits the electors of Fairfield and Liverpool.

If **Hughes** was not named after a prime minister, then it's possible it would have been a strong candidate for abolition. In fact, this should have been a consideration regardless, as division names should be a secondary concern to the drawing of the actual communities involved.

The need for **Hughes** to stretch from Bundeena to Ingleburn is a result of the Committee's decision to not abolish a division in Southern Sydney, even though the enrolment projections meant that this could be done with relatively little impact. The Commission should consider whether it would be better to amalgamate **Banks** and **Hughes** instead of trying to force **Hughes** into Campbelltown City Council.

