



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Suggestion 22

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6 pages



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Redistribution Committee for New South Wales  
Locked Bag 4007  
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lodged via AEC website

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Dear Committee

## **Submission to the New South Wales federal redistribution: North Sydney**

Thank you for the opportunity to engage in the process of the New South Wales federal electorate redistribution.

This submission is lodged regarding the Division of North Sydney ('the Division'), the Division I have represented in the Federal Parliament since 21 May 2022. Except to the extent that it directly affects the Division of North Sydney, no comment is made regarding any other electorate within New South Wales.

In preparing this submission, I have adhered to the considerations set out in section 66(3) of the Electoral Act 1918, that is, maintaining community of interests within the Division, means of communication and travel, physical features and existing boundaries.

## **Recommendation**

My recommendation is that the current boundary of the Division of North Sydney be retained and increase the projected number of electors by expanding north and east. To the move north, the Division would absorb the balance of Willoughby Local Government Area ('LGA') and move east, would absorb the balance of North Sydney LGA, whilst the other boundaries within the Division are retained.

The effect of this simple adjustment would be to see the projected number of electors increase by 20,271 electors, easily satisfying the enrolment requirement for both 2025 and 2028 elections.

## **Redistribution parameters**

On 9 August 2023, pursuant to section 59(1) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (Cth)* ('the Act'), the Australian Electoral Commission directed that a redistribution of New South Wales electoral boundaries occur, with the State being divided into 46 electoral divisions, a reduction of one from the number of electorates at the last Federal election.

The effect of reducing New South Wales' allocation of Divisions by one is that the boundaries and elector numbers within the remaining 46 electorates will need to be adjusted. In the case of North Sydney, with its enrolment at the last election of 112,112, its boundaries and elector numbers will need to be increased to satisfy the new quota for both the 2025 election and 2028.

I understand that the current enrolment quota for the 46 Divisions for the next election will be 121,011 electors, with a Division needing to be within plus or minus 10% of that number, (that is, between 108,910 and 133,112 electors). The projected figure of electors per Division for 2028 is 129,621, with the Division needing to be with 3.5% plus or minus that figure, (that is, between 125,05 and 134,157 electors).

### **North Sydney at present**

North Sydney includes the entirety of Lane Cove LGA and Hunters Hill LGA and parts of North Sydney LGA, which it shares with the Division of Warringah in its east, and Willoughby LGA, which it shares with the Division of Bradfield in the north.

North Sydney covers a 53 square kilometre area from Sydney Harbour in the south to Fullers Road, Victoria Avenue, Warrane Road to Eastern Valley Way and Scotts Creek in the north and from Middle Harbour, Wyong Road, Macpherson Street, Military Road, Falcon Street, Bent Street, Forsyth Park, Montpelier Street, Eaton Street, Rawson Street, Kurraba Road, Andersons Park and Neutral Bay in the east to Punt Road, Pittwater Road and Lane Cove River in the west.

The electorate includes suburbs such as Artarmon, Castlecrag, Cremorne, Crows Nest, Greenwich, Henley, Hunters Hill, Kirribilli, Lane Cove, McMahons Point, Middle Cove, Naremburn, Northbridge, North Sydney, Riverview, St Leonards, Waverton, Willoughby and Woolwich.

North Sydney central business district is the third largest business centre in Australia, with large commercial hubs at North Sydney, Chatswood and St Leonards, with St Leonards also including the Royal North Shore Hospital and allied health businesses, while the western half of Artarmon has a considerable number of light industrial businesses.

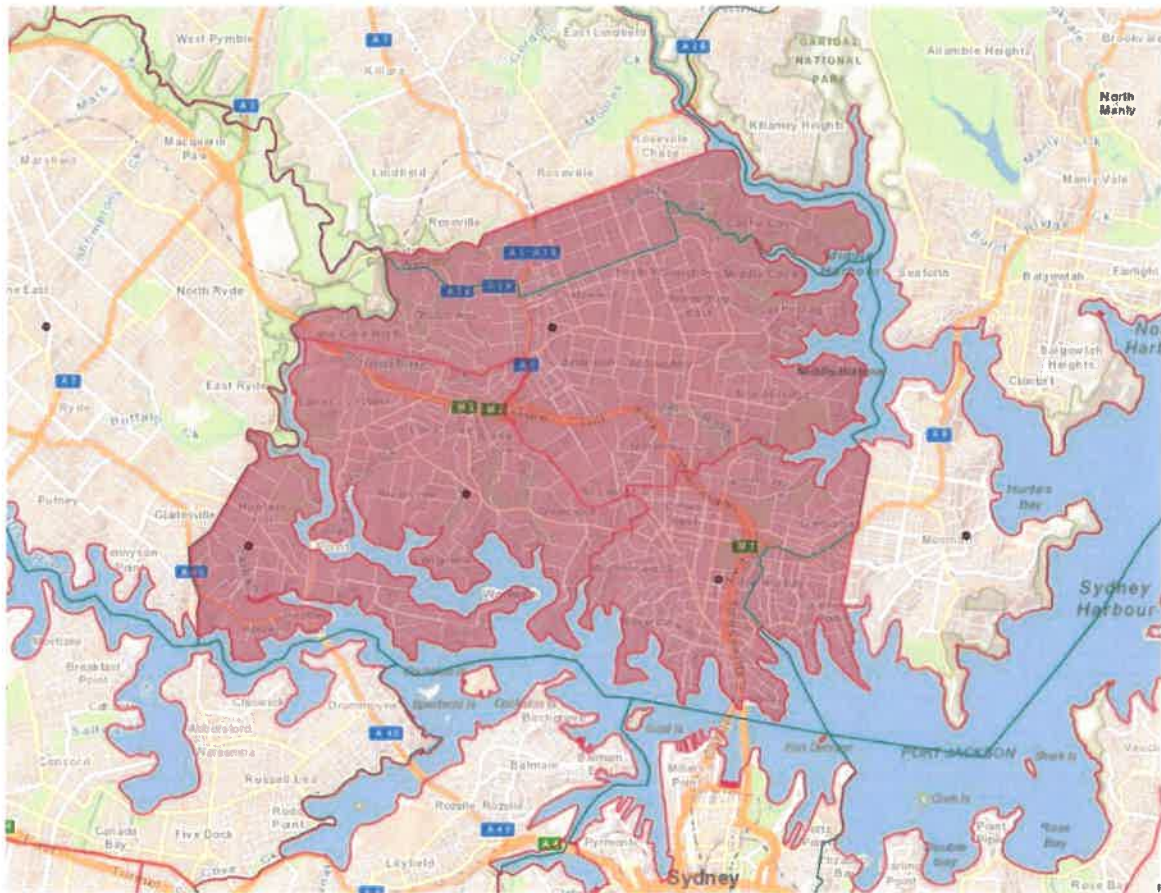
### **Boundaries**

As at the 21 May 2022 election, the Division had an enrolment of 112,112 electors. Clearly, North Sydney's boundaries will need to be adjusted to increase the number of electors by approximately 9,000 people in the short term and around 17,000 to meet the projected target for 2028.

There are two proposals made with respect to the alteration of North Sydney's boundaries:

1. That the current northern boundary of the Division be moved north and east; and
2. All other boundaries with the Division remain the same.

My proposal completes the existing LGA's within the Division to form a logical boundary for communities of interest as they share the same social infrastructure including advocacy for the same social issues and infrastructure development/ priorities.



In summary, the effect on elector numbers if the Division's boundaries were pushed north and east as suggested would be:

Actual enrolment needs to be +/-10%	Projected 2025	132,383
	Quota goal	121,011
	difference	11,372
	difference %	9.40% above
Projected enrolment needs to be +/-3.5%	Projected 2028	131,371
	Quota goal	129,621
	difference	1,750
	difference %	1.35% above

**1. That the current northern and eastern boundaries of the Division be altered**

The Northern boundary

The current northern boundary of the electorate runs from Fullers Road and Victoria Avenue Chatswood to the intersection of Warrane Road, Eastern Valley Way and Scotts Creek at North Willoughby. There are two obvious difficulties with the current boundary: a split in the middle of Chatswood centre, and a split in the Willoughby LGA.

Firstly, the community of interest is best served by having the entirety of any one suburb within the one electorate. At present the suburb of Chatswood is divided in two. Chatswood

has undergone enormous development over the past 20 years, becoming not only a business and shopping hub, but a significant population centre due to increased urban density around Chatswood train station, which is reflected in the projected elector figures. At present the southern part of Chatswood is in North Sydney and the northern part is in Bradfield. This creates confusion for electors, who are unsure which electorate they are in and splits the community of interest.

Part of the confusion of electors is likely to have been caused by the fact that since 2006 there have been three different northern boundaries, each splitting Chatswood in a different way. It would be easier for electors if the entire suburb was part of one electorate.

Importantly, the new development of apartments around Chatswood train station has led to an influx of much younger, often Chinese speaking voters. This community of interest is currently split between Bradfield and North Sydney.

With the exception of the densely populated apartments around Chatswood train station, the balance of the southern part of Chatswood within the Division shares a lot of similarities to the northern part of Chatswood which it is proposed the Division absorbs, with the properties largely single dwelling family homes.

The second difficulty with the current boundary is that it results in Willoughby LGA being represented by two electorates in Federal Parliament. This is not optimal from a community interest perspective. It would be preferable for North Sydney to represent all electors in the one municipality. It is also easier for the LGA itself to deal with one Member of Parliament. The fact that part of Willoughby LGA is in North Sydney and part in Bradfield, also leads to voter confusion come election time.

If the balance of Willoughby LGA was brought within the Division, it would also see Castle Cove move into the Division of North Sydney from Bradfield. This also makes sense from a community of interest point of view. Much of Castle Cove is single dwelling homes; its public transport starts or finishes at Chatswood; Chatswood is its key shopping precinct as it is for the Division generally; sporting teams are based around Chatswood; those children who live there attend schools in neighbouring areas including Chatswood, Willoughby and Northbridget: and it is served by the main local newspaper that services the balance of the Division, *The North Shore Times*.

The geographic divide between Willoughby LGA and Ku-ring-gai LGA is the aptly named Boundary Road, which is a major four lane arterial road. If my submission was accepted, this road would act as a clear dividing line between the Divisions of North Sydney and Bradfield.

In addition to removing the two difficulties with the current boundary, moving the Division northwards would mean the Division covers the entirety of the New South Wales electorate of Willoughby. At present, part of the Willoughby electorate is in the Division of Bradfield.

The geography of the proposed new boundary will be easy to understand as electors will quickly recognise that if they are in Willoughby LGA and the NSW seat of Willoughby, they are also in the Division of North Sydney.

If the balance of Willoughby LGA was brought within the Division, it would generate approximately 9,000 electors (based on 2023 Council data).

### The Eastern boundary

It is suggested that the balance of North Sydney LGA, that is, the suburb of Neutral Bay, be brought within the Division, for the same reasons that the balance of Willoughby be brought within the Division: greater community of interest being within the one LGA and efficiencies with representation being the most important.

Currently Neutral Bay residents are in Warringah. Warringah is predominantly a northern beaches seat and shares little community of interest with the lower north shore suburb of Neutral Bay. The demographics of electors within Neutral Bay are closely aligned with other parts of the North Sydney Division with many working in the wider North Sydney community with children attending schools more often in a direction that draws them back into the centre of the current North Sydney Division

The current placement of Neutral Bay in Warringah only began in 2009. To the extent that previous boundary maps are available, prior to 2009 it had always been part of the Division of North Sydney.

If the balance of North Sydney LGA was brought within the Division, it would generate approximately 10,000 electors (based on 2023 Council data).

### **2. All other boundaries remain the same**

The balance of the Division's boundaries should remain as they are in order to ensure the Division meets the quota goal.

It is recognised that the Division's neighbouring seats of Bennelong, Bradfield and Warringah are all projected to be below the projected target, particularly Warringah.

Any proposal for moving Warringah west towards North Sydney would create a more significantly bifurcated electorate, split by Middle Harbour with three distinct zones (Manly Peninsular/Northern Beaches, Allambie Heights/French's Forest and the lower north shore North Sydney/Cremorne/Kirribilli) which do not share cultural, sporting, community or issues links. For example, local children's cricket, netball, rugby union and rugby league competitors have no overlap between the lower north shore and the northern beaches.

If Warringah's deficit of electors was to be cured by pushing further west into the current boundary of the North Sydney, the consequence would be that North Sydney has to press either further north into Ku-ring-gai LGA or west into Ryde LGA, meaning the Division would have potentially two new additional LGAs to contend with. If the Division moved both north and west that would result in the Division covering an extraordinary six LGAs: Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Willoughby, North Sydney, Ku-ring-gai (part) and Ryde (part) which would be impractical and fail to meet the Act's requirement that the Division represent a 'community of interest.'

If Cremorne was removed from the Division and placed into Warringah, this would cause the NSW seat of Willoughby to be split. Cremorne is also part of North Sydney LGA and although Cremorne was not part of the Division in 2009, that is the exception. Cremorne, like Kirribilli, is part of North Sydney LGA and for that reason there is a strong community of interest in maintaining it with the balance of the electors in the other part of North Sydney LGA. Any move by Warringah into Kirribilli would result in the Division of North Sydney losing one of its iconic original suburbs, which is part of North Sydney LGA.

If I could be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office via  
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Yours sincerely



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