



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Suggestion 24

The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull AC

3 pages

# MALCOLM TURNBULL

25 October 2023

The Redistribution Committee for New South Wales  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Level 13, 59-61 Goulburn Street  
Haymarket, Sydney NSW 200

Dear Committee Members

## **Division of Wentworth**

I am writing concerning the redistribution of federal electorates in New South Wales in which the number of such divisions is to be reduced by one. This will of necessity mean that all, or almost all, remaining divisions will require their boundaries to be expanded to accommodate a larger enrolment.

My submission is limited to the Division of Wentworth which I had the honour of representing in the House of Representatives from 2004 to 2018.

I understand that on the current boundaries Wentworth has 104,081 electors and is therefore 16,930 electors short of the new quota of 121,011. The Bureau of Statistics has projected that the number of electors in Wentworth on current boundaries will fall by 1.63% by 2028 which would give the seat an enrolment of 102,383 and therefore about 27,238 electors short of the project quota for 2028.

**Here may I sound a word of caution.** In 2006 Wentworth's boundaries were expanded into the city because the Bureau forecast the population in the electorate would decline. It did not decline, it rose! And so in 2016 the boundaries retreated to where they are today.

I recognise the enrolment forecasts are a given assumption, but many years of experience with forecasting makes me realise that there should be a reality check. Given the obvious densification going on throughout the Wentworth area, on what basis would there be a decrease in enrolment between now and 2028? Apartments are going up everywhere, there is pressure to build more, schools are packed....I would respectfully suggest that forecast be treated with some scepticism.

Wentworth is located on the peninsula of the eastern suburbs of Sydney the northern tip of which is South Head. Because it is bounded by Sydney Harbour on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other any expansion of Wentworth in practical terms has to go in one or both of two directions.



The first is to go into the inner east and to take up the suburbs of Potts Point, Darlinghurst, East Sydney and Woolloomooloo. If the number of These suburbs were included in the electorate following the redistribution of 2006 and remained part of Wentworth until the redistribution preceding the 2016 election. If such an expansion were not sufficient to give the additional numbers required a logical additional expansion would be to take up part of Surry Hills between Oxford Street and Cleveland Street.

The second is to expand south into Kingsford Smith and take up parts of Randwick and Coogee.

In my view the best option is to expand Wentworth by taking the boundary down Oxford Street to College Street, along Art Gallery Road and down to Mrs Macquarie's Point. Another option, which would not make a lot of difference in terms of enrolment, would be to continue down Macquarie Street to Bennelong Point.

These suburbs of the inner east have a very close community of interest connection with Paddington and Elizabeth Bay. Boundary Street is a boundary in name only. Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay are essentially the same community and an electorate boundary on Macleay Street is less than ideal. On the other hand having the western boundary of the electorate set on College and Macquarie Street there is a clear delineation between what is understood to be the Central Business District of Sydney and the beginning of the eastern suburbs. The natural western frontier of Wentworth is, in fact, the edge of the CBD; having regard to all of the factors referred to in section 66(3)(b) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.

On any view the community of interest between Potts Point, Woolloomooloo, Darlinghurst and East Sydney with Paddington and Elizabeth Bay is far greater than between those inner east suburbs and either the CBD itself or Pyrmont, Ultimo and Chippendale on the west of the CBD.

On the western side, the boundary of Oxford Street is clearly recognisable. There is a community of interest between Surry Hills and Darlinghurst and so if further expansion were needed some of Surry Hills could be included.

Turning to the south of the electorate, there is a powerful case for not moving the Kingsford Smith boundary north because it would likely place one and possibly two Jewish day schools (Emmanuel and Moriah) into Kingsford Smith. As I successfully argued in 2006, those schools should remain in Wentworth because the majority of the families whose children attend those schools live in Wentworth.

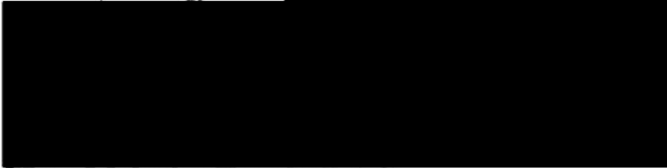
Schools issues are a major part of any MP's duties and it would create real practical problems for the Member for Wentworth if she had hundreds of Jewish families in her electorate whose children were at schools just outside it and therefore seen as the responsibility of the member for Kingsford Smith.

Should Wentworth expand by moving south to, say, Alison Road, or Coogee Bay Road effectively taking in the rest of Randwick and some or most of Coogee? Objectively there is a community of interest between suburbs north and south of the current boundary (on Clovelly Road), but equally there is strong community of interest between the suburbs north and south of either Alison Road or Coogee Bay Road.

Those areas to the south of Clovelly Road have not, to my recollection, ever been in Wentworth and an expansion in that direction lacks any compelling logic, whereas an expansion of Wentworth to the west into the edge of the CBD definitely does.

I trust this is of assistance to you in your deliberations and am happy to respond to any questions you may have as the redistribution proceeds.

Yours sincerely

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Hon. Malcolm Turnbull AC