



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on suggestion 82

Mayor Sam Ngai, Ku-ring-gai Council

2 pages

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To the Australian Electoral Commission,

As the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council (“Council”) I write in relation to the forthcoming redistribution of federal electorates in New South Wales.

Council’s primary concern is to maintain the nexus which presently exists between the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area and the federal electoral division of Bradfield. Today the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area falls wholly within Bradfield, with approximately 80 percent of Bradfield electors living within the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area.

With Ku-ring-gai being a large subset of Bradfield, it creates certain efficiencies which largely benefit our residents. From a local government perspective, we find it much easier to co-ordinate key events such as Australian Citizenship Ceremonies, Remembrance and ANZAC Day commemorations, and the opening of new facilities with just one federal member. The alternate arrangement of having to co-ordinate the calendars and civic duties of multiple federal members of parliament is suboptimal, with each having their attention divided across multiple Local Government Areas. Ultimately it is our constituents who suffer from having federal members with divided attention, and it is in their interest to retain the current situation where the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area sits entirely within the electoral division of Bradfield.

There is also a clear and distinct community of interest formed by the suburbs within the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area and extending somewhat beyond the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area to comprise the Upper North Shore.

The terms Upper North Shore and Ku-ring-gai tend to be used interchangeably to describe the collection of suburbs running from Chatswood to Wahroonga, and including St Ives. While there is no formal definition of the Upper North Shore, it is generally understood to include the entirety of the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area as well as a few additional suburbs. For example, parts of Chatswood which are not within the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area would generally be thought of by residents as forming part of the Upper North Shore.

In short, under the present arrangements:

- all of the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area falls within Bradfield;
- all of the Upper North Shore falls within Bradfield;
- there is a clear community of interest covering the suburbs within the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area and extending beyond it to those parts of the Upper North Shore which are not within the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area; and
- that community of interest presently sits entirely within the electorate of Bradfield.

Evidence of the existence of this community of interest includes:

- The many community organisations with Ku-ring-gai in their name (Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra, Ku-ring-gai Art Society, Ku-ring-gai Horticultural Society, Ku-ring-gai Netball Association);
- Its key geographical features, being bounded on the east and the north by Middle Harbour, Garigal National Park and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, and being bounded on the west by Lane Cove River and Lane Cove National Park;
- being laid out in a corridor running north west along both sides of a transport spine consisting of the Pacific Highway and the North Shore Line; and
- the role of the major town centres serving this community of interest: Chatswood at the southern end, Hornsby just to the north, and Turramurra, St Ives, Gordon and Lindfield.

Council notes with concern that some of the suggestions made to the Australian Electoral Commission's Redistribution Committee for New South Wales would, if accepted, have the effect of dividing the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area across more than one federal electorate.

Suggestion Number 48 (NSW Labor) would move the suburbs of Roseville, Roseville Chase, East Lindfield and Lindfield into the electorate of North Sydney while the remainder of the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area would remain in Bradfield). This would split off a large community including my own home away from Ku-ring-gai and the Upper North Shore, despite our community's strong association with the area.

Suggestion Number 46 (The Greens NSW) would see Bradfield abolished and its suburbs (and in turn the Ku-ring-gai Local Government area) divided amongst at least three federal electorates: Mackellar (St Ives, Pymble), North Sydney (Roseville, Lindfield), and Berowra. This would fragment into several parts an existing community of interest.

Suggestion Number 22 (Kylea Tink MP) involves, by implication, suburbs presently within Bradfield being moved into Mackellar. This would mean suburbs within the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area would be included in a federal electorate which otherwise consists of suburbs on the other side of Middle Harbour. It would divide across two federal electorates the community of interest formed by the suburbs within the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area.

For the reasons I have given, Ku-ring-gai Council would not support these three suggestions, or any outcome which see the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area broken up between two or more federal electorates.

I trust this comment is of assistance to the Redistribution Committee.

Kind Regards



Mayor Sam Ngai, Ku-ring-gai Council

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