



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 9

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Submission to SEC re the Federal electorate of Mackellar

Primarily, I do not agree with the Redistribution Committee's proposals involving hacking away at the present electorates of Warringah and Mackellar and in abolishing the electorate of North Sydney. Perhaps coincidentally, each of these coastal electorates has an Independent member, for whose election electors struggled mightily for some years. The electors of North Sydney must be especially dissatisfied with the Committee's recommendation.

Regarding proposals by some submitters about the possibility of adding areas of the North Shore into the current Mackellar electorate, please note my comments below relating to these and Objection 671:

- St Ives is part of the Upper North Shore, and Mackellar is part of the Northern Beaches. The North Shore and the Northern Beaches are different and separate communities as they have different councils, different sporting competitions, different school catchments, different shopping and business precincts and largely unrelated transport networks.
- The two regions are also divided physically by distance and geography by the Garigal and Ku-ring-gai National Parks and Cowan and Middle Creeks which for many decades have formed what is considered a major boundary by the AEC.
- The public transport links between St Ives and the rest of Mackellar are very weak. There are no direct links between St Ives and Frenchs Forest, or St Ives and the southern parts of Mackellar
- The Redistribution Committee decided to keep Mackellar wholly within the Northern Beaches Council area as the most logical outcome. As the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council said in [his submission](#) it would also benefit the people of St Ives to remain in the Ku-ring-gai Council area.

I feel it is not logical to incorporate a small part of the upper North Shore into Mackellar as it will be isolated from the rest of the electorate by distance, geography, weak or absent public transport links, lie within a different council area, and have different communities of interest and different sporting, shopping and business precincts that do not lie within Mackellar.

The Northern Beaches is a cohesive community with a strong and unique culture, which is defined by the coastal and forest lifestyles (surf clubs, schools, community groups including RFS, sporting competitions, services).

AEC boundary changes should unite and strengthen communities of interest, not divide them.