



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on objections 10

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1 page

The Redistribution Committee
NSW Australian Electoral Commission
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AEC Proposal - Draft Redistribution

Dear Committee Members

Having seen the draft resolution put forward by the AEC, I wanted to lend my support to the suggested changes the committee is proposing.

I think the committee has made the correct decision in keeping the Division of Mackellar wholly within the Northern Beaches Council area, instead of crossing the local government boundary between the Northern Beaches Council and the Ku-Ring-Gai Council.

The suggested boundaries make abundant sense because they utilise the existing major roads and significant waterways and bushland – all boundaries that are recognisable and historic for people living on the Northern Beaches.

The new distribution also unifies suburbs such as Dee Why, Forestville, Frenches Forest and Oxford Falls into the one electorate, whereas previously they have been split between two electorates.

The changes keep Mackellar within the one LGA, which will help unify and maintain links between and within these communities. Major community services and transport links will be within the same local government area, and families will find their children are attending schools in the same electorate rather than in separate ones.

As with all proposed redistributions, not everybody will be happy and I'm sure there will be a minority of submitters who will argue the boundaries of Mackellar should be altered in some other way, but the committee has made the commonsense decision in its proposal.

Mackellar requires very few new voters to reach the quotas so it makes little sense to dramatically redraw the boundaries of the electorate. Equally, when it comes to adjusting the boundaries, it makes far more sense to go south and incorporate areas in the same LGA rather than to push west into the leafy suburbs known as the North Shore.

I am fully in favour of the proposed changes.

Best wishes

Vivien Robotham