



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on objections 140

Helen Wheeler

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Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
Australian Electoral Commission
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

Re: Response to objections 671 & 686 boundary redistribution

Thank you for the opportunity to respond. I do not support the recommendations of objection 671 and 686 which propose moving the boundaries of the Division of Mackellar westward into St Ives.

The recommendations in these objections are completely at odds with the requirements set out in Section 66 of Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, which must consider

I. community of interests, including economic, social and regional interests.

II. the means of travel and communication

III. the physical features of the area, and IV. the boundaries of existing divisions in the State

I have lived in many different suburbs of the North Shore and Mackellar before settling in Collaroy. From personal experience the community of Mackellar has a shared sense of identity across the electorate which is distinctly different and geographically isolated from St Ives.

St Ives is part of Ku-ring-gai Council LGA while the entire Mackellar Electorate is located within the Northern Beaches LGA. These distinctly different areas do not share sporting competitions, school catchments, shopping or business precincts.

There is no link between these areas except by Kuringai Chase and Garigal National Parks. Transport links are minimal with no direct connection the southern area of Mackellar or between Frenchs Forest and St Ives. The connection between the Northern area of Mackellar is negligible.

I echo the concerns outlined in the submission from the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council which states *“from a local government perspective, we find it much easier to coordinate 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.”*

The draft changes to Mackellar Boundaries to include areas of Dee Why, North Curl Curl, Frenchs Forest, Killarney Heights and Forestville are logical and strongly supported.

Keeping the Mackellar boundary wholly within the Northern Beaches Council Local Government area is the most appropriate inclusion for Mackellar.

Your sincerely,

Helen Wheeler

Collaroy