



**THE FEDERAL
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NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 150

Susanne Weress

2 pages

From: Susanne Weress [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission to reword
Date: 25 July 2024 at 6:29 pm
To:



To the attention of the AEC.

The pertinent points in my submission are:

- Mackellar and St Ives are distinctly different to one another, lacking geographic and cultural cohesion to each other, they are more oriented to their own communities. 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. 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. On what expert advice has this changed?
- The public transport links between St Ives and Mackellar are 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. 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.

Finally - the logic to incorporate a small part of the upper North Shore into Mackellar is not apparent. That part of the North Shore 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. None of these lie within Mackellar. The lack of logic begs the question - for whom to benefit and why has this been proposed?

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.

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