



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 181

Conor Magee

5 pages

Dear Augmented Commission,

Thank you for providing this opportunity to provide comments on the objections to the draft redistribution of New South Wales.

I note that there are three key issues that have arisen as a result of the objections

- The abolition of the division of North Sydney
- The transfer of the suburbs of Epping and North Epping from Bennelong to Berowra
- The three way split of the Bayside LGA between Barton, Cook and Kingsford Smith

This comment does not seek to deal with all three of these issues in detail. I will briefly make commentary on the first two issues. The primary purpose of this comment is to compile objections to the boundaries of the electorate of Kingsford Smith and propose a better solution to the boundaries.

Bennelong, Berowra, Bradfield and North Sydney.

The vast majority of objections to the proposed redistribution deal with the divisions of Bennelong, Berowra, Bradfield and North Sydney.

Objections that oppose the abolition of the division of North Sydney without proposing the abolition of an alternative division should be disregarded by the augmented commission.

I am supportive of the decision by the commission to abolish the division of North Sydney. Conversely, I am appreciative of the concerns of the community of Epping and North Epping surrounding the transfer of their community from Bennelong to Berowra.

I believe that the augmented commission can find a more appropriate solution to address the concerns raised with the divisions of Bennelong, Berowra, Bradfield and North Sydney through adjustments to the boundaries of the proposed divisions of Bennelong, Berowra and Bradfield.

I would support the retention of Epping and North Epping in Bennelong, with Berowra instead taking in territory from Bradfield on the North Shore. This would allow Bradfield to take Lane Cove LGA instead of Bennelong, alleviating many of the concerns raised by those objecting to the abolition of North Sydney.

Barton, Cook, Kingsford Smith, Wentworth, Sydney, Grayndler

Far fewer objections were made in relation to proposed changes south of Sydney Harbour. However, when compared to objections north of Sydney Harbour, these objections were generally more extensive. They generally attempted to provide solutions to the issues with the proposed electoral boundaries south of Sydney Harbour.

Most of these objections surrounded the poor construction of the proposed division of Kingsford Smith.

The following objections proposed a number of solutions that the augmented commission could use to improve the borders of the proposed division of Kingsford Smith. I note that the following changes were proposed

Changes to Proposed Divisional Boundaries	Objections in Support
<p>Retain existing division boundary between Kingsford Smith and Barton at the Cooks River.</p> <p>Retain existing boundary between Kingsford Smith and Wentworth at Clovelly Road.</p> <p>Transfer the balance of Rosebery from Sydney to Kingsford Smith, using Epsom Road and Botany Road as the division boundary between Sydney and Kingsford Smith</p>	<p>OB687 Hilde Risseeuw</p> <p>OB723 Conor Magee</p> <p>(This was my objection)</p>
<p>Retain existing division boundary between Kingsford Smith and Barton at the Cooks River.</p> <p>Transfer all of Beaconsfield, Rosebery and Zetland from the proposed division of Sydney to Kingsford Smith</p>	<p>OB 269 Nicholas Peppercorn</p> <p>OB375 Ben Raue</p> <p>OB421 Darren McSweeney</p> <p>OB504 Leon Shinkai</p> <p>OB668 Anonymous 29</p> <p>OB705 The Greens</p>
<p>Move proposed division boundary between Barton and Kingsford Smith west to Princes Highway</p>	<p>OB26 Martin Gordon</p>
<p>Move proposed division boundary between Barton and Kingsford Smith west to the locality border between Rockdale and Bexley</p> <p>Transfer the balance of Coogee and Randwick and the suburbs of Kensington and Kingsford from Kingsford Smith to Wentworth</p>	<p>OB40 Benjamin Close</p>
<p>Move proposed division boundary between Cook and Kingsford Smith south so Kingsford Smith takes in the entire Sans Souci Peninsula</p> <p>Move proposed division boundary between Barton and Kingsford Smith west so Kingsford Smith takes more of Rockdale and Beverley Park</p> <p>Transfer the balance of Coogee and Randwick and the suburbs of Kensington and Kingsford from Kingsford Smith to Wentworth</p>	<p>OB708 Peter Mitchell</p>
<p>Retain existing division boundary between Kingsford Smith and Barton at the Cooks River, but do not provide any suggestions for how to do so.</p>	<p>OB08 Lara Lyons</p> <p>OB86 John Smith</p> <p>OB515 Ruixing Zhang</p> <p>OB649 Michael Ritchie</p>

Of the 15 objections to the border of Kingsford Smith, 12 object to the electorate crossing the Cooks River. Just 3 are supportive of the proposal for the electorate to cross the Cooks River, but all call for a more sensible border with Cook and Barton, south of the Cooks River.

It is my view that the augmented commission has two options when it comes to Kingsford Smith.

1. Return Kingsford Smith to its historical position north of the Cooks River, or
2. Move Kingsford Smith further south such that its boundaries to account for communities of interest south of the Cooks River.

It is my recommendation that the commissioners heed the objections from interested parties and chose to return Kingsford Smith to its historical position north of the Cooks River.

If the commissioner do indeed chose to return Kingsford Smith to its historical position north of the Cooks River, they then have two options as to what territory to include in Kingsford Smith as suggested in the objections.

1. Transfer all of Beaconsfield, Rosebery and Zetland from the proposed division of Sydney to Kingsford Smith
2. Retain existing boundary between Kingsford Smith and Wentworth at Clovelly Road. Transfer the balance of Rosebery from Sydney to Kingsford Smith, using Epsom Road and Botany Road as the division boundary between Sydney and Kingsford Smith

Both of these options will lead to flow on effects to the divisions of Barton, Cook, Grayndler and Sydney. In determining which of these two options is the most optimal, the augmented commission should consider the optimal arrangements for the divisions of Barton, Cook, Grayndler and Sydney, as well as the division of Wentworth.

It is my recommendation that the augmented commission use the boundaries suggested in Objections 687 and 723. Retain the existing boundary between Kingsford Smith and Wentworth at Clovelly Road. Transfer the balance of Rosebery from Sydney to Kingsford Smith, using Epsom Road and Botany Road as the division boundary between Sydney and Kingsford Smith. In order to meet numerical requirements, Wentworth would gain Surry Hills from the division of Sydney.

Most of Rosebery is made up of single-storey California or Federation Bungalows. It has a detached dwelling pattern that is not dissimilar to the dwelling pattern in the division of Kingsford Smith. Indeed, the part of Rosebery south of Gardeners Road is already located in Kingsford Smith and those parts north of Gardeners Road were included in the division until 2010. It is not debated that the balance of Rosebery should be transferred to Kingsford Smith.

Transferring Beaconsfield and Zetland from the proposed division of Sydney to Kingsford Smith would mean that the commissioners split the Green Square growth area in half. The parts of Green Square in Beaconsfield and Zetland would be located in the division of Kingsford Smith and those parts in Alexandria and Waterloo would be located in the division of Sydney. This is the highest density area in Australia, and an area subject to significant change. These areas are very different to the balance of the division of Kingsford Smith. Every effort should be made to retain these areas in one electoral division on community of interest grounds and that division should be the division of Sydney.

On the other hand, the areas of Coogee and Randwick that are currently located within Kingsford Smith and are proposed to be transferred to Wentworth, have no discernible difference from the parts of those suburbs proposed to remain in Kingsford Smith or the division of Kingsford Smith overall. Retaining these suburbs in Kingsford Smith would mean that Kingsford Smith would not have to gain Beaconsfield and Zetland to meet the numerical requirements of the redistribution.

However, retaining the areas of Coogee and Randwick are proposed to be transferred to Wentworth in Kingsford Smith would necessitate Wentworth to gain territory elsewhere to remain within the numerical requirements of the redistribution. Surry Hills is very similar to Darlinghurst that the commission recommends transferring to Wentworth and Paddington which is already in the division of Wentworth. Darlinghurst, Surry Hills and Paddington share school catchment zones, Police Local Command Areas, hospitals, shops and other local services. All of Darlinghurst, Surry Hills and Paddington form part of the Inner East region of Sydney and have comparable development patterns. There are strong community of interest grounds for including them all in the same electoral division. The inclusion of Surry Hills in Wentworth is further supported by the numerical requirement for Wentworth to gain significant additional territory at this redistribution.

Further, I would argue that including Surry Hills in Wentworth is a better community of interest outcome than including Beaconsfield and Zetland in Kingsford Smith. When you include the community of interest benefits from uniting Coogee in one electoral division and keeping Kingsford Smith north of the Cooks River, it is clear that this is the most optimal arrangement for the divisions south of Sydney Harbour.

Kind Regards,
Conor Magee

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Map of Proposed Division of Kingsford Smith

