



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Comment on Objections 210

Liberal Party of Australia, New South Wales Division

3 pages

# LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION

State President

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New South Wales Redistribution Secretariat  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Locked Bag 4007  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By Email: FedRedistribution-NSW@aec.gov.au

Dear Commissioners

## COMMENTS ON OBJECTIONS

The NSW Division of the Liberal Party of Australia has examined the 738 objections to your proposal.

The vast bulk of these can be characterised as a “paper war” solicited by three Federal Members using their parliamentary resources to support some very dubious propositions not built around any of the statutory criteria for which the Augmented Electoral Commission are required to have regard.

### **1. The abolition of North Sydney**

The abolition of North Sydney has been opposed by Ms Kylea Tink MP and Ms Zali Stegall MP, but not Ms Sophie Scamps MP. The premise of their proposal involves moving St Ives from Bradfield to Mackellar and abolishing the Division of Berowra instead of North Sydney

Neither Ms Tink or Ms Stegall, nor members of the community reinforcing this proposal have come up with a cogent argument why their alternative proposition is a superior application of the statutory criteria to the one proposed by the Commissioners.

Their proposition is more a re-litigation of their original suggestion, which you have already considered. In fact, it does not provide any substantive objections to your proposals and has re-advanced the transfer of St Ives to a northern beaches seat without any supporting arguments whatsoever. This is a proposition that you explicitly and rightly rejected in your report, based on community-based comments on that suggestion, and the submission of Ms Scamps, at an earlier stage of the process.

It is without merit and ought to be rejected.

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## **2. The removal of Epping from Bennelong**

NSW Labor, on behalf of Mr Jerome Laxale MP, is attempting to alter Bennelong by deleting Greenwich and Northwood (into Bradfield) and returning Epping to Bennelong. A series of unsatisfactory consequential changes in other seats are also advanced.

A number of formulaic letters accompany Mr Laxale's proposition to return Epping to Bennelong. Most of these letters stress Epping's links to areas to the east and south-east.

In fact, Epping's links are just as strong to the north, reflecting their traditional Council link to Hornsby. There are many connections linking Beecroft, Cheltenham and Epping. For example, this link north is reflected in the fact that the catchment areas for Epping Boys High School and Cheltenham Girls High School includes Cheltenham, North Epping and Epping.

Further, Epping is linked to Hornsby and eleven other localities in the Berowra seat by rail (Northern Line) and Cherrybrook by the new Metro rail.

Moreover, for all Labor's purported concern for Epping's fate in your proposals, their solution is a curious three-way split of Epping. North Epping is in Berowra, central Epping is in Bennelong and western Epping is split from the rest of the suburb at Midson Road and ends up in Parramatta.

Consequential changes include another split locality (Seven Hills) with the adoption of relatively minor roads (Leabons Lane and Lucretia Road) as a boundary – a departure from your stated preference for the use of major roads as easily discernible boundaries.

Your proposals are a much closer fit with the statutory criteria and Labor's alternative should be dismissed.

## **3. The inclusion of Rouse Hill, Box Hill and Nelson in Greenway**

Labor is trying to strengthen their vote in Greenway by deleting Rouse Hill and bringing back part of Seven Hills with, again, an unsatisfactory set of consequential changes linked to their Epping changes.

A third locality is split unnecessarily, namely Rouse Hill. They make no in-principle objection to an electoral boundary for Greenway which includes Blacktown and The Hills LGAs in the division. So why split the suburb which has residents in the two LGAs?

Given their fairly perfunctory attempt at a justification for these two sets of changes, it must be assumed that the only reason for NSW Labor proposing them is to bolster their margin in Bennelong and Greenway.

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#### **4. The inclusion of Ingleburn, Macquarie Fields and Glenfield in Hughes**

A number of non-Party objections have been lodged to this boundary proposal. The most notable is from Mr Ben Raue. Parts have some merit (eg. including Chipping Norton in Hughes, as we suggested). However the main thrust of his changes are to delete the three Campbeltown LGA suburbs – Ingleburn, Macquarie Fields and Glenfield – and then to replace them with two Bankstown LGA suburbs Bass Hill and Georges Hall. Despite Mr Raue's assertion on his website, he has not come up with a 'textbook' objection. He has merely swapped one anomaly with another. He also supplies no evidence that there is a greater compliance with the statutory criteria as a result.

#### **5. The inclusion of Brighton-le-Sands and Monterey in Kingsford-Smith**

Your report conceded that this outcome was less than ideal. But it has facilitated the alignment of an electoral boundary with the Cooks River. And, in fairness, a 'green belt' separates Brighton-le-Sands from Rockdale and Monterey from Kogarah.

Nevertheless, there have been objections from Mr Raue and other non-Party objectors. Mr Raue links his solution with changes to several other seats as far south-west as Ingleburn.

A smaller set of changes to Kingsford Smith, Sydney, Grayndler and Barton would correct the problem and are advanced by others, if the Commission is minded to dispense with its use of Cooks River as a boundary. However, the Commission's logic of having a clear river boundary across multiple electorates cannot be faulted by us.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours Sincerely,



Richard Shields  
**State Director**