



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 229

Alwyn Rubie

2 pages

Australian Electoral Commission

Re. NSW Electorate Redistribution – Comment on objections

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a constituent of the Mackellar electorate, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the objection to the proposed Mackellar boundary shift as decided by the AEC, including the proposal to move the electoral boundaries westward. This would incorporate parts of the Upper North Shore, specifically St Ives, into Mackellar. I believe this adjustment is not appropriate for several reasons incorporating the separate communities of interest, transport links, and physical features of the area.

1. Communities of Interest:

- St Ives is part of the Upper North Shore, while Mackellar is part of the Northern Beaches. These two regions are distinct and separate communities with different councils, sporting competitions, school catchments, shopping, and business precincts.
- The Northern Beaches and the Upper North Shore have largely unrelated transport networks, further highlighting their separation.

2. Physical Features:

- The two regions are divided by significant physical barriers, including the Garigal and Ku-ring-gai National Parks and Cowan and Middle Creeks. These geographical features have long been recognized as major boundaries by the AEC and serve as natural separations between the communities.

3. Transport Links and Communication:

- There are few public transport links between St Ives and the rest of Mackellar area. There are no direct links between St Ives and key areas such as Frenchs Forest or the southern parts of Mackellar.
- This lack of connectivity makes it impractical to incorporate St Ives into Mackellar, as residents would face significant challenges in accessing services and participating in the community.

The Redistribution Committee previously decided to keep Mackellar wholly within the Northern Beaches Council area, which is a logical and beneficial outcome.

Many residents, including myself, do not find it sensible to incorporate a small part of the Upper North Shore into Mackellar. This change would isolate the area from the rest of the electorate due to distance, geography, public transport links, different council areas, and differing communities of interest. The Northern Beaches is a cohesive community with a strong and unique culture defined by its surf clubs, schools, community groups (including the RFS), sporting competitions, and services.

I urge the AEC to reconsider the proposed boundary changes. The changes should aim to unite and strengthen communities of interest, not divide them.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Alwyn Rubie

[REDACTED]

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