



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on suggestion 66

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After reading all of the suggestions that have been put forward regarding redistributions of the NSW Federal Electorates, it is quite evident that there have been some great ideas put forward. These ideas for example highlight the importance of keeping regional seats within their regional areas rather than branching out to Sydney. Jeff Waddell, Ben Last, and myself have all indicated that Cunningham should stay within the Illawarra and extend its borders south by taking in suburbs like Berkeley, Cringila, Lake Heights, and possibly even Windang and Primbee. We also all advocate that Whitlam's borders should largely stay as is, but also extend to the other villages located to the east of the Hume Hwy. This is the best way to keep our region true to its historical and geographical borders as well as best represent each of the constituents in these electorates. Around half a dozen people had suggested against maintaining our regional boundaries but rather wanted to compromise this by moving Cunningham into the shire and Whitlam further away from Shellharbour and the Southern Highlands and into Wollongong. This is something that makes no logical sense and I urge the AEC against such a measure.

Another interesting issue is having to find an electorate to abolish, with many entries agreeing that it should be Berowra. David M, Anonymous1, Stephen Lesslie, Ben Last, Nimalan Sivakumar, Michael Albert Hedger, and myself highlight many reasons for this move. The first reason is that the electorate is very large geographically, covering a variety of areas without any real identity. Secondly due to its size and the fact that it borders 7 other electorates, it would be much easier dividing this seat to the neighbouring electorates. Third reason being that the population there is small and it is a declining area. The fourth reason being that the name of the electorate is of an insignificant geographical location, which is something that the AEC guidelines warns against when it comes to the naming of electorates. The fifth reason being that there are many people behind such a move and that it appears to be the logical option when looking at it on a map.

If the AEC does choose to abolish 2 electorates, for example Berowra and Warringah, then a new one in western Sydney around the Blacktown and Mount Druitt Areas could be created, and a name such as Druitt is a great option to be considered. The Macarthur region should retake Camden and its surrounding areas with Hume instead stretching from Wilton north to all of the suburbs south of Campbelltown such as Bradbury, Rosemeadow, St Helens Park etc. This gives integrity back to the region that was named after John MacArthur, whom was someone that always lived in the Camden area. Minor changes are needed throughout the inner west and east of Sydney, with most changes being required in the North West area that contains seats such as Chifley, Greenway, Mitchell, and Berowra. Only a handful of suggestions did number crunching and provided clear examples of how areas would be able to move around whilst balancing quotas. Most suggestions unfortunately just focused on towns they believed needed to be moved, without providing examples of how this would balance up the numbers. In my proposal it was detailed but very clear in the areas that I believed should move and the population attributed to each of these areas. I was able to balance all of the quotas, with most seats sitting around the 120,000 person ratio. Many people had an obvious bias in their proposals, which showed why they would choose to push positions that were not logical and that compromised electorates and regions. I hope that the AEC don't support any of these compromises. I agree with Joshua Lucock that mentions how it made little sense last time around, that the seat of Throsby was chosen to take the name of Whitlam rather than the seat of Werriwa whom that Prime Minister was a member of. Despite it being a federation seat, it was an insignificant geographical name for an electorate and therefore not worth keeping.

Kind Regards

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