



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Comment on suggestion 96

Anonymous 1

14 pages

## INTRODUCTION

It is encouraging to see a large amount of community engagement with the suggestions period for the NSW federal redistribution. Sadly, as is to be expected, the party submissions were largely self-serving and often asinine. However, there a large number of well-researched independent "hobbyist" submissions to which the Redistribution Committee should give ample consideration.

The following submission marks my reflections on the submissions presented and outlines a few alternative solutions to which the Committee would possibly do well to consider.

## PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

Many of the submissions have put forwards sets of guiding principles that are generally in agreement. I encourage the Committee to use these to support the legislative requirements related to community of interests.

One additional principle I have attempted to promote is that divisions should ideally be able to be summarised in sentence or two. Thus, divisions boundaries that rely on LGA and suburb boundaries where possible are more likely to assist in this endeavour.

At the outset of this redistribution, there are a number of divisions that are pretty weak in their application of the "community of interest" requirement. Many of these are in the Southern part of the state and improving these should be prioritised as much as possible.

Divisions that need particular attention:

- **Eden-Monaro:** Contains 3 separate communities (Western Slopes, Highlands, and Coastal Areas)
- **Whitlam:** Contains 2 separate communities (Southern Highlands and the Illawarra)
- **Hume:** Contains 2 very separated communities (Goulburn and Sydney's outer SW)
- **Hughes:** Contains 2 separate communities (Liverpool and Sutherland)
- **Cook:** Contains 2 separate communities (Bayside and Sutherland)
- **McMahon:** Contains 3 separate communities (Fairfield, Cumberland, and Penrith)

## ON METHODOLOGY

Many submissions have noted that allocating individual divisions to larger regions is a useful framework to support the drawing of boundaries, however very few have continued to use this framework beyond an initial analysis of population levels.

I encourage the Committee to embrace this methodology while drawing boundaries, rather than taking a "linear" or "cascading" approach starting at "corner seats" like Richmond, Robertson, Mackellar, or Wentworth.

In practice, this means that the Committee should first make "shaping changes" by transferring territory between regions to bring them in line with appropriate quotas, and then proceed to draw boundaries of the divisions within the regions.

This “top-down” regional approach leads to a better holistic drawing of divisions and improved communities of interest across the state.

I have found the following hierarchy helpful when considering boundaries. Regions are groups of divisions defined by strong boundaries, generally mountain ranges, rivers, highways, or undeveloped areas. Each of these regions and subregions have strong physical boundaries in most parts and have only a few locations where it would be sensible to gain or lose electors.

- **Northern and Western New South Wales (15 divisions)**
  - North Coast (10 divisions)
    - Richmond + Page + Cowper + Lyne + Paterson + Hunter + Newcastle + Shortland + Dobell + Robertson
  - Western New South Wales (5 divisions)
    - New England + Parkes + Calare + Riverina + Farrer
- **Southern New South Wales and Greater Southern Sydney (19 divisions)**
  - Southern New South Wales (4 divisions)
    - Cunningham + Whitlam + Gilmore + Eden-Monaro
  - Southwestern Sydney (4 divisions)
    - Fowler + Werriwa + Macarthur + Hume
  - Southern Sydney (4 divisions)
    - Barton + Banks + Hughes + Cook
  - Eastern Sydney (3 divisions)
    - Sydney + Wentworth + Kingsford Smith
  - Middle Sydney (4 divisions)
    - Reid + Blaxland + Watson + Grayndler
- **Greater Northern Sydney (13 divisions)**
  - Northwestern Sydney (6 divisions)
    - Macquarie + Lindsay + Chifley + Greenway + Parramatta + McMahon
  - Northeastern Sydney (7 divisions)
    - Mitchell + Berowra + Bradfield + Mackellar + Warringah + North Sydney + Bennelong

## **PROPOSED SHAPING CHANGES**

To support the goal of strong boundaries and sensible communities of interest, the Committee would do well to note the positive overall impacts of the following simple transfers.

In Western New South Wales:

- **New England** to take in Muswellbrook LGA from **Hunter**
- **Riverina** to take in Snowy Valleys, Yass Valley, Hilltops, and Upper Lachlan LGAs from **Eden-Monaro** and **Hume**

In Southern New South Wales:

- **Eden-Monaro** to take in Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA from **Hume**

- **Hume** to take in the remainder of Wingecarribee LGA from **Whitlam**

In Western Sydney:

- **Blaxland** to take in everything east of the Cumberland Railway Line and Prospect Creek from **Parramatta, McMahon, and Fowler**
- **Fowler** to take in the remainder of Fairfield LGA from **McMahon**
- **Werriwa** to take in the remainder of Liverpool LGA from **Hughes**

In Southern Sydney:

- **Grayndler** to take in everything north of Wolli Creek from **Barton**
- **Cunningham** to take in the Engadine/Loftus section of Sutherland LGA from **Hughes**

With the above changes, the following regions are formed with strong borders and can be tackled independently:

- **Northern & Western New South Wales (14.98 quotas – 15 divisions)**
  - Richmond + Page + Cowper + Lyne + Paterson + Newcastle + Shortland + Dobell + Robertson + Hunter + New England + Parkes + Calare + Riverina + Farrer
- **Southern New South Wales (3.95 quotas – 4 divisions)**
  - Cunningham + Whitlam + Gilmore + Eden-Monaro
- **Southwestern Sydney (5.06 quotas – 4 divisions)**
  - Fowler + Werriwa + Macarthur + Hume + A NEW DIVISION TO BE CREATED
- **Southern Sydney (3.04 quotas – 4 divisions)**
  - Barton + Banks + Hughes + Cook
  - ONE DIVISION MUST BE ABOLISHED
- **Inner Sydney (6.96 quotas – 7 divisions)**
  - Blaxland + Watson + Reid + Grayndler + Wentworth + Kingsford Smith
- **Greater Northern Sydney (12.01 quotas – 13 divisions)**
  - Macquarie + Lindsay + Chifley + Greenway + McMahon + Parramatta + Mitchell + Berowra + Bradfield + Mackellar + Warringah + North Sydney + Bennelong
  - ONE DIVISION MUST BE ABOLISHED

## MY PROPOSAL

In the suggestions period, I provided a map of a proposed drawing of the divisions in the Greater Sydney area, Suggestion #58. After careful consideration, this was found to be the best way to draw boundaries that were strong, recognisable, and would maximise community of interest requirements. After reviewing the other proposals, I am still confident that this general arrangement is one the Committee should pursue.

The key to this is the abolishment of the division currently named Hughes. Its four separate parts are divided between neighbouring divisions like so:

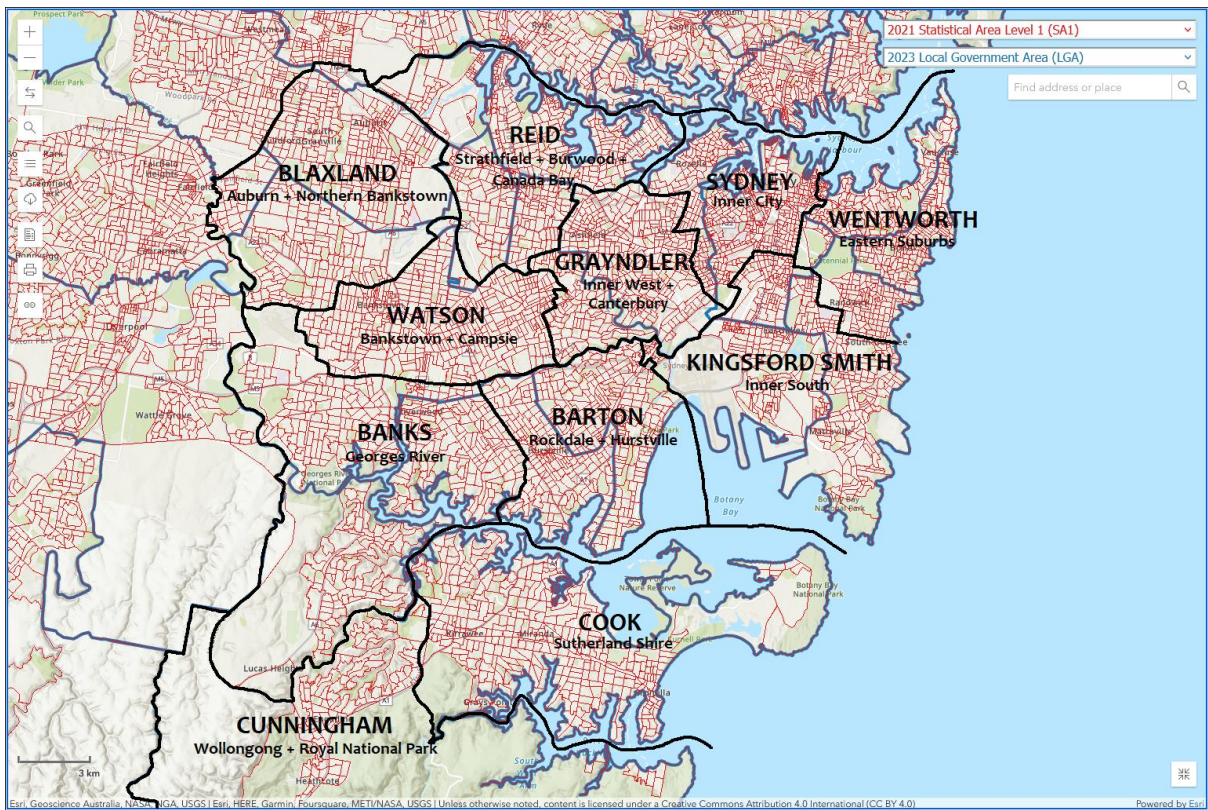
- The part east of Woronora River and north of Royal National Park is given to Cook, so that Cook can become a purely Sutherland Shire-based division
- The part south of Woronora River is given to Cunningham, so that it can move northward along the Illawarra and make room for Whitlam to become a purely coastal division
- The part west of Georges River is given to Werriwa, so that Werriwa can become a Liverpool-centred division and Fowler can become a Fairfield-centred division
- The part north of Woronora River is given to Banks, so that it can move westward and make room for Barton to sit completely south of the M5 and Wolli Creek

Hughes is currently the least cohesive division in Southern Sydney and with its abolishment, strong borders are able to be drawn for many neighbouring divisions. Due to this division name honouring a former prime minister, the name should be retained for one the neighbouring divisions.

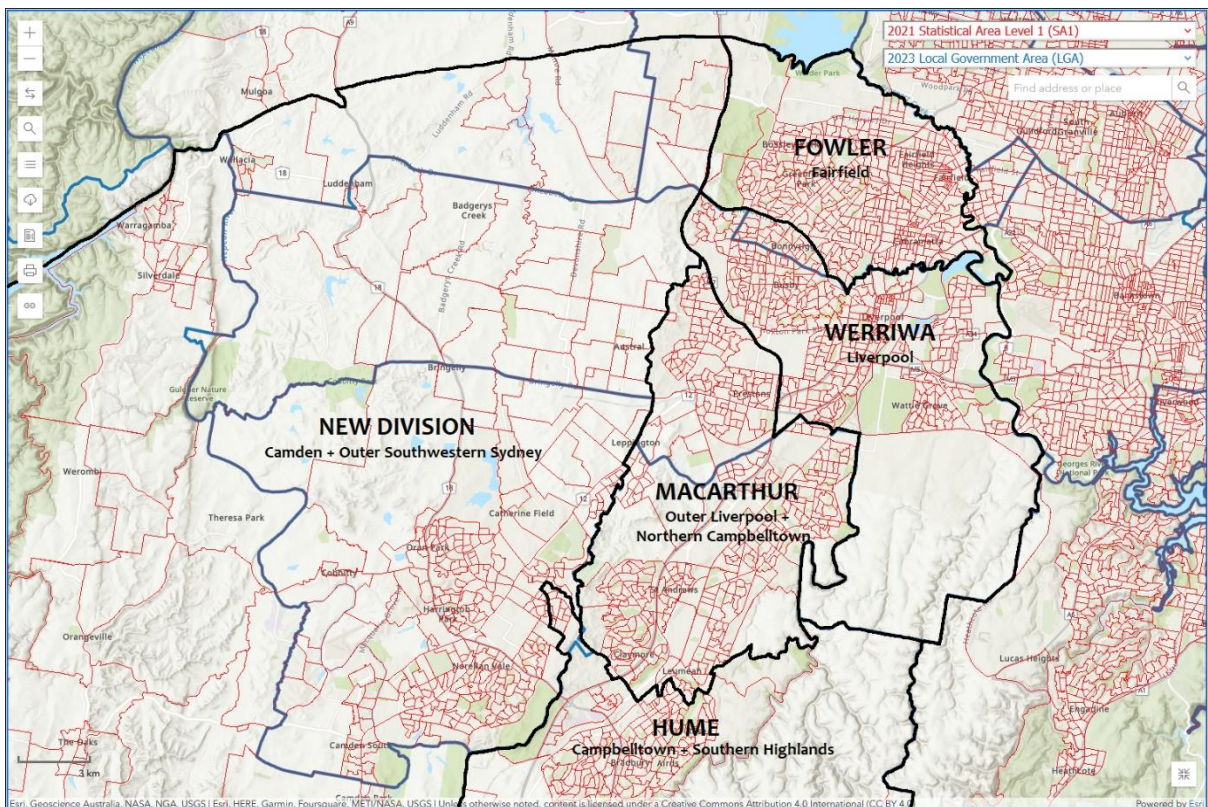
This proposal would have broad support, as many other submissions have suggested the following:

- Cook should move south of Georges River and become a Sutherland Shire-only division
- Whitlam should transfer the Southern Highlands to Hume and become a coastal division
- Hume should regain the Southern Highlands rather than skip over them
- Fowler should move northward to Prospect Creek and become a Fairfield-centred division

**Figure 1: A map showing the 10 proposed divisions of Greater Southern Sydney**



**Figure 2: A map showing the 5 proposed divisions of Southwestern Sydney**



## KEY CHANGES

- Eden-Monaro
  - Gains Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA from Hume
- Hume
  - Gains the remainder of Wingecarribee LGA from Whitlam
- Cunningham
  - Gains everything south of Woronora River and Port Hacking from Hughes
- Cook
  - Gains almost everything east of Woronora River from Hughes
- Banks
  - Gains Alford's Point, Illawong, Bangor, and Menai from Hughes
  - Gains Milperra and Bankstown Aerodrome from Blaxland
- Werriwa
  - Gains the remainder of Liverpool LGA from Hughes
- Barton
  - Gains everything north of Georges River from Cook
  - Gains everything east of the A3 plus Connells Point from Banks
- Reid
  - Gains the remainder of Burwood LGA and Strathfield LGA from Watson
- Blaxland
  - Gains everything east of the Cumberland Railway Line and east of Prospect Creek from Fowler, McMahon, and Parramatta
  - Gains Lidcombe from Reid and Watson
- Watson
  - Gains the parts of Canterbury-Bankstown LGA south of Marion Street, plus east of Edgar Street and south of the A22 from Blaxland
- Grayndler
  - Gains the remainder of Inner West LGA from Reid and Watson
  - Gains the parts of Canterbury-Bankstown LGA north of Cooks River, plus south of Canterbury Road and east of Bexley Road, plus the remainder of Canterbury from Watson
- Sydney
  - Gains the Balmain Peninsula, Annandale, Newtown, and Enmore from Grayndler
  - Gains the remainder of Darlinghurst from Wentworth
- Wentworth
  - Gains all of Randwick and Coogee north of Rainbow Street from Kingsford Smith
- Kingsford Smith
  - Gains Rosebery, Beaconsfield, Zetland, Waterloo, and all of Alexandria east of Mitchell Road from Sydney
  - Gains Wolli Creek from Barton

## 1. NORTHERN AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

Regarding the 15 divisions contained in Northern and Western New South Wales, almost every submission agrees on the following:

- Robertson should retain its strong southern Hawkesbury River boundary
- Calare should retain its strong eastern Blue Mountains boundary
- Western New South Wales will have to be brought up to quota by gaining:
  - Snowy Valleys LGA from Eden-Monaro
  - Yass Valley LGA from Eden-Monaro
  - the remainder of Hilltops LGA from Hume
  - Upper Lachlan LGA from Hume

Within this region of 15 divisions, there are a variety of approaches on how to distribute electors, particularly in between the Upper North Coast, Hunter Valley and Western New South Wales subregions.

### 1.a. SHOULD MACQUARIE MOVE WEST OR STAY EAST?

Because the Blue Mountains LGA constitutes roughly half of a federal division quota and is unsuited to being split between divisions, the choice of whether to pair it with territory to its west or within the Greater Sydney area is highly consequential. If Macquarie moves west to take in Lithgow, Oberon, and Bathurst, this has significant flow-on effects through all of Western NSW, Southern NSW, and most of Greater Western Sydney.

While the current arrangement of Macquarie pairing the Blue Mountains LGA with the Hawkesbury LGA creates a division with 2 somewhat disconnected halves, almost all of the submissions have not suggested a movement towards the west.

As some submissions have noted, this would lead to a situation where the city of Orange would have to be paired with either Dubbo in Parkes or Wagga Wagga in Riverina. These divisions would then have to shed large amounts of territory to Farrer, Eden-Monaro, or Hume, and so on. The only submission that appears to have followed through with this change was from the Liberal Party, which leads to a very poor arrangement of Riverina which includes both Wagga Wagga and Orange, but not Young or Cowra.

Overall, the benefits that this arrangement brings to the drawing of divisions in Northwestern Sydney do not outweigh the disruption caused to the otherwise relatively stable divisions in Western NSW.

With this decision revealed to be unworkable, it informs that the Western NSW divisions are only able to be brought up to quota at the eastern edge of Riverina. Almost all submissions suggest that Riverina should gain Snowy Valleys LGA and Yass Valley LGA from Eden-Monaro and the remainder of Hilltops LGA and Upper Lachlan LGA from Hume. At this point, the 15 divisions of Northern and Western NSW can be drawn independently of any decisions made in the remainder of the state.

**Conclusion:** *Macquarie should not be reconfigured to take in Lithgow, Oberon, and Bathurst.*



### **1.b. SHOULD PORT MACQUARIE BE MOVED BACK INTO LYNE?**

The two larger North Coast centres of Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie have historically been separated into the divisions of Cowper and Lyne. At the last redistribution, enrolment projections meant that Port Macquarie had to be moved into Cowper, which created a division that contained both cities, but excluded much of their surrounding hinterland.

It is possible to revert this change with Cowper trading Port Macquarie for Wauchope and moving northward into Page to regain the remainder of Coffs Harbour LGA. However, this means that Page has to cross the Great Dividing Range to take in at least Tenterfield and Glen Innes-Severn LGAs from New England, and then either part or all of Inverell LGA or Armidale LGA, or more of Ballina LGA from Richmond. This change also causes complications in Hunter Valley region as Lyne needs to shed voters.

Because Cowper is currently projected to be out of tolerance, it does require some adjustment. However, while most submissions have acknowledged that it would be preferable to move Port Macquarie into Lyne, they have concluded that with current enrolment projections this is not workable option. Instead, a simple transfer of Korora from Cowper to Page is enough to bring Cowper within tolerance.

**Conclusion:** *Port Macquarie should not be transferred to Lyne.*

### **1.c. ADJUSTMENTS TO CENTRAL COAST DIVISIONS**

No changes are required to be made to Robertson and Dobell due to numerical requirements, however some submissions have noticed that the current borders of Dobell unnecessarily divide communities, particularly to the north of Gosford.

To better adhere to the community of interest requirements and unite electors around Gosford, Robertson should gain at least Wyoming from Dobell, exchanging it for Wamberal. Robertson should additionally gain Lisarow from Dobell in exchange for the parts of Terrigal north of Terrigal Drive. These changes will better orient Robertson as a division focused on Gosford and Dobell as a division focused on the coastal communities around The Entrance.

At Dobell's northern border, Blue Haven can be reunited with San Remo in Shortland in exchange for the localities southeast of the Hammond Canal.

### **1.d. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE HUNTER VALLEY DIVISIONS**

There is generally a consensus around the relatively straightforward changes needed to bring the divisions in the Hunter Valley back into quota. Paterson's surplus can be handled by transferring its share of Cessnock LGA to Hunter. And Hunter's surplus can be handled by transferring all of Muswellbrook LGA to a Western New South Wales division. Shortland can be topped up by taking in Argenton and Glendale from Hunter.

Additionally, Shortland can take in Wyee and Wyee Point from Hunter.

Some submissions have suggested that the boundary between Newcastle and Shortland should adopt the LGA boundary between Newcastle LGA and Lake Macquarie LGA. While this

is a somewhat arbitrary border which cuts through suburbs, it may be worth adopting this to better simplify the boundary between the two divisions.

While not required in a numerical sense, Lyne should also transfer its share of Maitland LGA into Paterson. This would put Paterson back over quota but could be fixed by the transfer of the closely situated localities of Fern Bay and Fullerton Cove into Newcastle.

#### **1.e. AN ALTERNATIVE REDRAWING OF HUNTER AND PATERSON**

The Committee should also consider a realignment of Hunter and Paterson. Once other changes have been made, it is possible for Paterson to give the entirety of Maitland LGA to Hunter in exchange for Hunter's Lake Macquarie LGA territory. This would create a compact inland Hunter Valley seat containing Cessnock, Maitland and Singleton, and an elongated but generally cohesive coastal community focused seat combining Port Stephens with Lake Macquarie. These communities would have more in commonality compared to the current arrangement

#### **1.f. ADJUSTMENTS TO WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES**

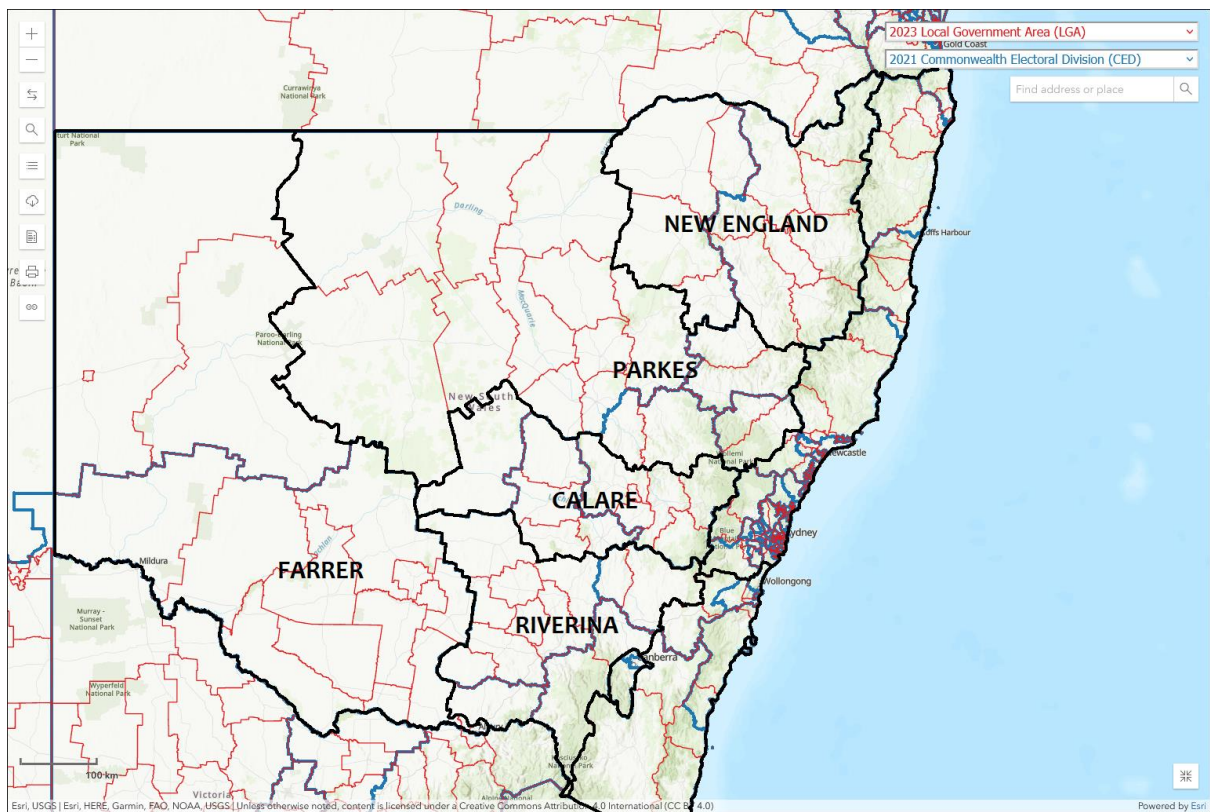
Many submissions have suggested relatively minimalist changes for Western New South Wales, however the Committee should not avoid larger changes.

The following changes would improve community of interest for Western New South Wales:

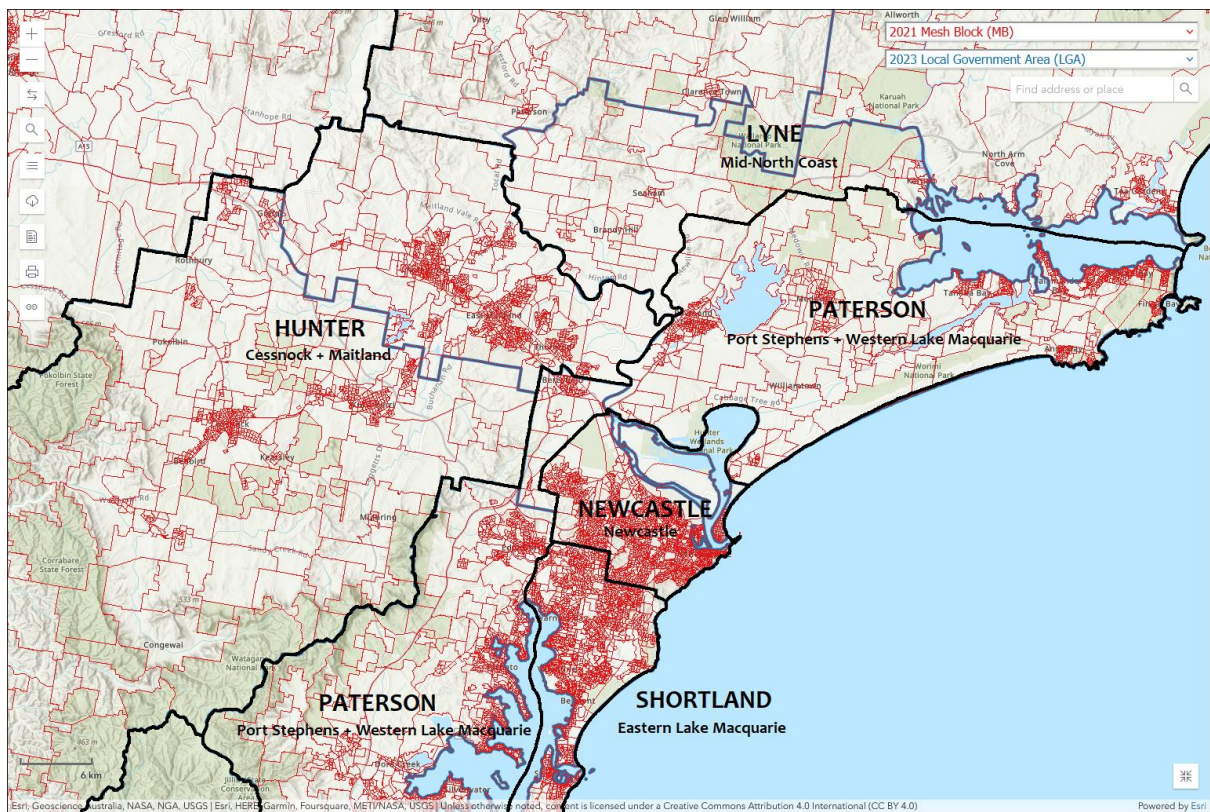
- New England to gain all of Gwydir, Moree Plains, Narrabri, and Gunnedah LGAs from Parkes in exchange for Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter, and Liverpool Plains LGAs to become a more compact seat focused on the Northern Tablelands and Northwest Slopes regions
- Parkes to gain all of Dubbo, and Mid-Western LGAs from Calare, plus Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter, and Liverpool Plains LGAs from New England to shift eastwards and more centred on Dubbo
- Farrer to gain Broken Hill and the Far West from Parkes to become a division focused on border regions
- Calare to gain Parkes, Forbes and Cowra LGAs from Riverina to become realigned to the Central West region
- Riverina to gain Greater Hume LGA from Farrer to facilitate the above changes

At the very least, Cowra should be transferred into Calare, Wellington into Parkes, and Gwydir into New England.

**Figure 3: A map showing the 5 proposed divisions of Western New South Wales**



**Figure 4: A map showing the 5 proposed divisions of the Hunter Valley region**



## **2. EASTERN SYDNEY (SYDNEY + WENTWORTH + KINGSFORD SMITH)**

With the 3 Eastern Sydney divisions of Sydney, Wentworth, and Kingsford Smith 0.34 of a quota short of 3 full divisions, there is an obvious need for electors to be gained from divisions to the West.

Most but not all of the submissions have identified that it is not suitable for Kingsford Smith to gain electors from the western half of Bayside Council. I would like to support this notion.

Despite sharing a now-amalgamated council area, the two halves of Bayside LGA have poor physical and social connectivity to each other. Cooks River and Sydney Airport provide a strong and logical boundary between divisions. In comparison the boundary with City of Sydney to the north is less significant and tends to divide similar communities.

Assuming that Kingsford Smith is not moved further into the remainder of Bayside LGA, Sydney is the only division that can gain electors and Grayndler is the only division that can provide these electors. Most submissions have suggested that Sydney gain the Balmain Peninsula and Annandale, with various opinions on further gains from Leichhardt, Stanmore, and Newtown. I would firstly support the uniting of the Newtown and Enmore area in Sydney by shifting the boundary west to Edgeware Road (or Enmore Road/Edinburgh Road) and Liberty Street, rather than splitting the suburb by the LGA boundary along King Street. All or part of Leichhardt could also be transferred according to numerical requirements, but this is a lesser priority as Leichhardt could quite easily fit with a redrawn Grayndler.

With the western boundaries of the Eastern Sydney divisions fixed, the problem is simply how to rotate the 3 divisions so that community of interest factors are maximised.

Regardless, the main concern in Eastern Sydney is where to place the boundaries of Wentworth. Many of the submissions have suggested that Wentworth shift its boundaries to include all of Darlinghurst and Surry Hills. While this is the most obvious solution to Wentworth's shortfall and has historical precedent, it does not properly respect the quite distinct differences between the dense inner-city suburbs of Darlinghurst and Surry Hills, and the wealthy waterside suburbs of City of Waverley and City of Woollahra. There is a clear difference in mindset, demographics, and urban structure between Surry Hills and coastal suburbs.

The problem is that a division that contains Darlinghurst should also contain Surry Hills, and a division that contains Surry Hills should also contain Redfern. These suburbs adjacent to the CBD additionally have a strong connection and cultural similarities to suburbs like Glebe and Newtown.

The Kings Cross area may have a claim to be included in Wentworth due to its transport connections with Bondi Junction but the apartment suburbs at the lower end of Oxford Street, bordering Hyde Park and the CBD, do not. If the Committee must push the Wentworth boundary further west, they should go no further than Bourke Street. This somewhat adequately ensures that CBD-adjacent residents are properly included in the "Inner City" division of Sydney.

If Wentworth needs to gain electors, it should be to the south. The suburbs of Randwick and Coogee have far stronger affinity and physical connection to the areas currently contained within Wentworth than Darlinghurst and Surry Hills do.

If one doesn't accept that there are significant cultural, political, and economic differences between Surry Hills and Bondi, there is another line of argument available. Many may be motivated to retain the current LGA boundary between Sydney and Kingsford Smith, but even with the inclusion of Surry Hills in Wentworth, Kingsford Smith will still need to gain at least Rosebery from Sydney. It is proposed this change is embraced and all the areas in the southern half of City of Sydney are moved into Kingsford Smith

There is a clear change of character that occurs between Redfern and Zetland, from inner city terraces to new apartment developments. This would be a natural place to put a border between divisions and would unite the highly connected Mascot and Green Square precincts. The inclusion of Wolli Creek only, despite previous arguments against could also be considered if required.

Thus, a "Inner South" focused Kingsford Smith that is based around the 2 adjacent transport corridors of Anzac Parade and the Airport Line, would allow Wentworth to become a proper "Eastern Suburbs" division stretching from Paddington to Coogee, and would allow the division of Sydney to retain its character as an "Inner City" division containing all of the high density suburbs and like-minded electors who live in close proximity to the CBD.

### **3. WESTERN SYDNEY (MCMAHON + FOWLER)**

Many submissions have recognised that the current arrangement of McMahon makes for a division with 3 distinct parts. At the very least, those parts of McMahon in Penrith and Blacktown LGAs should be transferred to Lindsay or Chifley.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that if McMahon transfers its share of Fairfield LGA to Fowler and if some further transfers are made between McMahon, Parramatta, and Blaxland, there are enough electors in the Greater Northern Sydney area to make 12 divisions. McMahon can shift northwards into the area between Blacktown and Parramatta currently in Greenway.

This change allows for Fowler to shift northwards to take in the majority of the Fairfield LGA, transferring its share of Liverpool LGA to Werriwa which can shift fully east of the M7 by taking in the eastern parts of Liverpool LGA from Hughes. Thus, two divisions with strong boundaries are created, centred around Fairfield and centred around Liverpool.

In comparison to this proposed adjustment, many of the submissions have drawn a division somewhere in Western Sydney that takes in a collection of disconnected suburbs on the fringes of Penrith, Blacktown, Fairfield, Liverpool, and Camden, much like the current state district of Badgerys Creek. Given the above proposal, this seems entirely unnecessary.

I would like to assert that this should only be done when no other options exist. There is no community of interest between suburbs of Penrith and Blacktown, and suburbs of Fairfield

and Liverpool. Thankfully, many submissions have demonstrated arrangements of divisions where a “bits-and-pieces” electorate does not need to be drawn.

#### **4. NORTHEASTERN SYDNEY (BEROWRA + BRADFIELD + MACKELLAR + WARRINGAH + NORTH SYDNEY + BENNELONG)**

Most of the submissions have noted the need for one of North Sydney or Warringah to be abolished. This appears to be necessary based on numerical requirements. There are a number of ways to do this, but it is important to consider the following observations.

Even if North Sydney is abolished, Bennelong should not move east of the strong Lane Cove River border. Bennelong’s current boundaries of Ryde LGA plus the Epping section of Parramatta LGA are good. Hunters Hill LGA is a reasonable addition, but Lane Cove LGA is not.

Ideally, the strongly connected Lower North Shore LGAs of Willoughby, Lane Cove, North Sydney, and Mosman would be united in a single division. Due to numerical requirements this area will have to be split between 2 divisions, however this should not extend to 3 divisions. If Bennelong shifts east, it causes issues for the boundaries of Berowra and Mitchell.

Mackellar is often considered to be a “corner seat” which means it should be given preference and drawn first. Many submissions have suggested the transfer of Killarney Heights from Warringah. This is an obvious way for Mackellar to gain electors, however I would argue it causes problems further along. Warringah would need to take almost all of North Sydney LGA, creating a poor community of interest with a division that stretches from Brookvale to St Leonards.

The Committee would ensure a better drawing of the divisions of Northeastern Sydney by recognising the linkage between the “Forest District” and the Ku-ring-gai Council area. The Forest District is contained within the Northern Beaches and is separated by a reasonably strong physical barrier, but it has more demographic affinity to with the suburbs to the west, and transport links towards Chatswood. I encourage the Committee to move everything west of the Wakehurst Parkway into Bradfield in recognition of this. Such a change would have positive effects on the drawing of the other North Shore seats. Mackellar would become a purely coastal focused division, stretching down to a strong border at Manly Creek. Warringah would then combine with North Sydney to become a Lower North Shore division from Manly to Lane Cove. Bradfield can then become a division for the Upper North Shore, utilising Chatswood as its central transport hub. This is a better arrangement of divisions than would otherwise be achieved if the Bradfield-Mackellar border was maintained.

Further to the north, Mitchell can retain its strong borders by transferring everything south of the M2 to Parramatta, plus a small transfer of Box Hill and parts of Rouse Hill to a newly drawn outer-Blacktown seat focused on the growth areas to the north of the M7. Berowra can retreat to the Hornsby Council border with the exception of gaining West Pennant Hills

from Mitchell. Bennelong can gain Hunters Hill from North Sydney and then move northwards into Beecroft and Cheltenham to gain further electors.

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

- Suggestions to move Lord Howe Island from Sydney to Cowper (or Lyne) should be given strong consideration. While the electors of Lord Howe Island will be a minority in whatever division they are allocated to, it is reasonable to say that they would have more in common with communities along the North Coast. A dense inner-urban CBD division is not suitable, and there is no compelling reason why Sydney is to be considered the “default” division for electors that won’t fit in any other division. At the state level, this has already been accomplished by the inclusion of Lord Howe Island in the district of Port Macquarie, noting the stronger transportation, environmental and cultural linkages between the two settlements.
- Suggestions to jointly name the division of Cook in honour of Joseph Cook should be given strong consideration. It is inappropriate to have a division named for every other deceased prime minister, but to exclude Prime Minister Cook, now that there is a precedent for jointly named divisions.