



Objection 36

Cheston Mak

27 pages

Objection to AEC's proposed redistribution boundaries (2024 NSW federal redistribution)

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Content background

AEC has released a proposed redistribution ("**AEC's proposa**l") of the federal boundaries for NSW on 14 June 2024. In the proposal, the division of North Sydney is to be abolished and absorbed by adjacent divisions.

Author background

I am an elector (male, age group 25-35), currently based in the division of Melbourne, but has lived in Sydney for 9 years and has good local knowledge of Northwest Sydney, Northern Suburbs and North Shore areas.

I have been following all federal (NSW and Vic) and NSW state redistributions since 2018. I have recently provided a suggestion for the ongoing Victorian federal redistribution (suggestion S20) in 2023.

Issues with AEC's proposal

To cater for the abolition of North Sydney, it is inevitable that the boundaries of adjacent divisions have to be significantly changed. However, I believe AEC's proposal has too many drastic changes which will force many electors to be transferred to different divisions. There is definitely potential to optimise and reduce these changes, while satisfying the numerical requirements for 2023 and projected 2028 enrolment quota.

Bennelong has traditionally included the Epping town centre for decades (Epping East and North Epping since 1977, Epping West since 1993). The statement in the report that the proposed Division of Bennelong will align with historical extents (Lane Cove, Riverview etc.) is correct. However, minimising changes to the existing boundaries should be a higher priority. It is noted there are no name mismatches (name is not named after a location), which means there is no sufficient justification to amend Bennelong significantly to match its historical extent as closely as possible.

AEC's proposal will also split Blacktown into two divisions (Greenway and McMahon) along the railway line. For a major Western Sydney suburb like Blacktown, it is not ideal to have electors to be in different divisions.

The southernmost extent of Berowra is proposed to be even more south than what it is currently. Currently, the southernmost extent is North Rocks Road, bordering Parramatta. Under AEC's proposal, the southernmost extent is proposed to be Terry's Creek and the Eastwood SA2 boundary. This makes the already massive Outer Metropolitan seat even larger (in size) than it is, stretching from Wisemans Ferry to Eastwood, and this is not an ideal shape for an electorate.

My proposal

Boundary changes

My proposed alternative ("**my proposal**") seeks to reduce or minimise AEC's proposed changes. My proposal is in the table below,with maps in **Appendix A**.. The specific SA1 areas in my proposal are detailed in **Appendix B**.

Division	AEC's proposed boundary changes that I object	My proposed alternative solution	Impact to proposed changes or existing boundaries
Bennelong	Would have lost partial of Epping (West), and entire Epping (East)-North Epping to Berowra	Retain all areas that would have been lost to Berowra Areas of Epping (West) that are to be ceded to Parramatta (i.e. west of Midson Road), to continue as proposed	Minimal to no changes to existing boundaries
	Would have gained entire Chatswood West and entire Greenwich from abolished North Sydney. Proposed boundary would have been Fullers Road.	Chatswood West (north of Mowbray Road) to be given to Bradfield instead. New boundary at Mowbray Road.	N.A.
	Would have gained entire Greenwich from abolished North Sydney. Would have also gained portion of St Leonards east of railway line, from abolished North Sydney. This means division will cross the railway line for only a small area. The St Leonards precinct also split into three divisions.	Part of Greenwich (east of Sarner Road and south of River Road) to be given to Warringah instead. Portion of St Leonards (east of railway line) to be given to Bradfield instead. New eastern boundary at Sarner Road and River Road	N.A.
Berowra	Would have lost West Pennant Hills to Mitchell respectively	Retain West Pennant Hills that would have been lost. Furthermore, gain the	Minimal to no changes to existing boundaries

Division	AEC's proposed boundary changes that I object	My proposed alternative solution	Impact to proposed changes or existing boundaries
		remaining area of West Pennant Hills SA2 area from Mitchell so the entire SA2 is within Berowra.	
		Boundary to be the West Pennant Hills SA2 boundary and the M2	
	Would have gained partial of Epping (west), Epping (east)-North Epping from Bennelong	No gain, localities to remain part of Bennelong, i.e. no changes to southern boundary along the M2	Minimal to no changes to existing boundaries
Bradfield	Proposed boundary at Fullers Road and Pacific Highway	Gain Chatswood West (north of Mowbray Road) that would have been given to Bennelong. New boundary at Mowbray Road.	N.A.
		It also means almost all of Willoughby LGA will lie within Bradfield. A small exception will be near the Mowbray Road/Epping Road intersection where the LGA boundary does not follow Mowbray Road.	
		Gain portion of St Leonards (east of railway line) that would have been given to Bennelong.	N.A.
		A counter-argument that this change does not line up with LGA boundaries is invalid as the original proposed boundary for Bradfield already does not follow that.	
		Instead, it follows the St	

Division	AEC's proposed boundary changes that I object	My proposed alternative solution	Impact to proposed changes or existing boundaries
		Leonards - Naremburn SA2 boundary.	
Warringah	Proposed western boundary along Lane Cove/North Sydney LGA boundary	Gain part of Greenwich (east of Sarner Road and south of River Road)	N.A.
	bodildary	New western boundary at Sarner Road and River Road	
Mitchell	Would have gained West Pennant Hills from Berowra	No gain; rather, the small area of West Pennant Hills SA2 area within Mitchell is to be ceded to Berowra. This will mean the entire SA2 area is within the same division	Minimal to no changes to existing boundaries
		Boundary to be along the West Pennant Hills SA2 boundary	
	Would have lost the entire Rouse Hill Town Centre to Greenway	Retain Rouse Hill Town Centre.	Proposed changes reduced
	Croonway	Boundary to be along full length of Commercial Road between Windsor Road and Withers Road	
of Blacktown and Seven Hills south of railway line to McMahon Blacktown and S Hills south of the line. This also me entire Blacktown		Retain some portions of Blacktown and Seven Hills south of the railway line. This also means the entire Blacktown (East) - Kings Park SA2 area is	Proposed changes reduced
	Proposed boundary along railway line	within Greenway.	
		Boundary to be Seven Hills Road South, Bungarribee Road and Balmoral Street (i.e. Blacktown (East) - Kings Park SA2 boundary)	

Division	AEC's proposed boundary changes that I object	My proposed alternative solution	Impact to proposed changes or existing boundaries
	Would have gained some parts of Rouse Hill, including the entirety of Rouse Hill Town Centre from Mitchell	Cut back some of the gain, and Rouse Hill Town Centre to remain within Mitchell Boundary to be along full length of Commercial Road between Windsor Road and Withers Road	Proposed changes reduced
McMahon	Would have gained all areas of Blacktown and Seven Hills south of railway line from Greenway	Cut back some of the gain. No part of Blacktown (East) - Kings Park SA2 area to be within McMahon Boundary to be Seven Hills Road South and Bungarribee Road (i.e. Blacktown (East) - Kings Park SA2 boundary)	Proposed changes reduced

Enrolment Data

The 2023 and projected 2028 enrolment data of my proposed alternative are shown below, compared to the proposal by AEC. It is noted that the 2023 redistribution quota and the 2028 projected enrolment quota are 121,011 and 129,621 respectively.

The detailed calculations for each division are in **Appendix B**.

Table: 2023 enrolment data

Division	AEC's 2023 enrolment numbers	AEC's % variation from the redistribution quota	My proposal's 2023 enrolment numbers	My proposal's % variation from the redistribution quota
Bennelong	123,253	1.85%	128,569	6.25%
Bradfield	125,471	3.69%	131,642	8.79%
Berowra	128,756	6.40%	123,349	1.93%

Division	AEC's 2023 enrolment numbers	AEC's % variation from the redistribution quota	My proposal's 2023 enrolment numbers	My proposal's % variation from the redistribution quota
Warringah	128,292	6.02%	131,327	8.52%
Greenway	109,188	-9.77%	110,879	-8.37%
Mitchell	119,353	-1.37%	111,697	-7.70%
McMahon	117,643	-2.78%	114,493	-5.39%
Total of the 7 divisions	851,956	-	851,956	-

Table: 2028 projected enrolment data

Division	AEC's projected 2028 enrolment numbers	AEC's % variation from the projected enrolment quota	My proposal's 2028 projected enrolment numbers	My proposal's % variation from the projected enrolment quota
Bennelong	127,105	-1.94%	132,688	2.37%
Bradfield	125,668	-3.05%	132,013	1.85%
Berowra	131,996	1.83%	125,922	-2.85%
Warringah	127,110	-1.94%	130,256	0.49%
Greenway	130,982	1.05%	131,857	1.73%
Mitchell	133,386	2.90%	126,882	-2.11%
McMahon	132,460	2.19%	129,089	-0.41%
Total of the 7 divisions	908,707	-	908,707	-

While noting that the percentage variation of the 2023 enrolment numbers is higher in my proposal, the projected percentage variation of the 2028 enrolment numbers are lower, meaning the enrolment numbers are projected to be more or less balanced in 2028. All percentage values are within the 10% (2023) and 3.5% (projected 2028) acceptable variances.

Electors transferred to a different division

Under my proposal, these areas will no longer have electors transferred to a different division (compared to AEC's proposal):

Area	Current division of area to be retained in	Number of electors no longer transferred to a different division (2023 enrolment)
Epping (West) SA2 east of Midson Road	Bennelong	6,062
All of Epping (East) - North Epping SA2	Bennelong	8,460
West Pennant Hills SA2 within existing Berowra	Berowra	7,297
Blacktown (East) - Kings Park SA2 south of the railway line	Greenway	1,848
Some areas of Seven Hills - Prospect SA2 south of the railway line (SA1 areas of 1162601, 1162603, 1162604, 1162621)	Greenway	1,302
Rouse Hill Town Centre (SA1 areas of 1162520, 1162521, 1162522, 1162533, 1162542)	Mitchell	1,459
Total	-	26,428

Only one additional area will have electors transferred to a different division (compared to AEC's proposal):

Area	Current division of area	Division the area would be in under my proposal	Number of additional electors to be transferred to a different division (2023 enrolment)
West Pennant Hills SA2 within existing Mitchell	Mitchell	Berowra	1,818
Total	-	-	1,818

This means compared to AEC's proposal, there is a net reduction of 24,610 electors that have to be transferred to a different division, or 2.89% of the seven divisions combined. This shows that my proposal is an improvement to AEC's proposal in minimising the impact to existing electors.

Applying the above values to Table K of the AEC report gives the following updated values:

Updated Table K: Summary of movement of electors between proposed electoral divisions - My proposal

	Number (entire state)	Percentage of state
Electors transferred to another electoral division	688,241	12.36% (as opposed to AEC's 12.81%)
Electors remaining in their existing electoral division	4,878,248	87.64% (as opposed to AEC's 87.19%)
Total	5,566,489	100.00%

Other issues AEC should consider

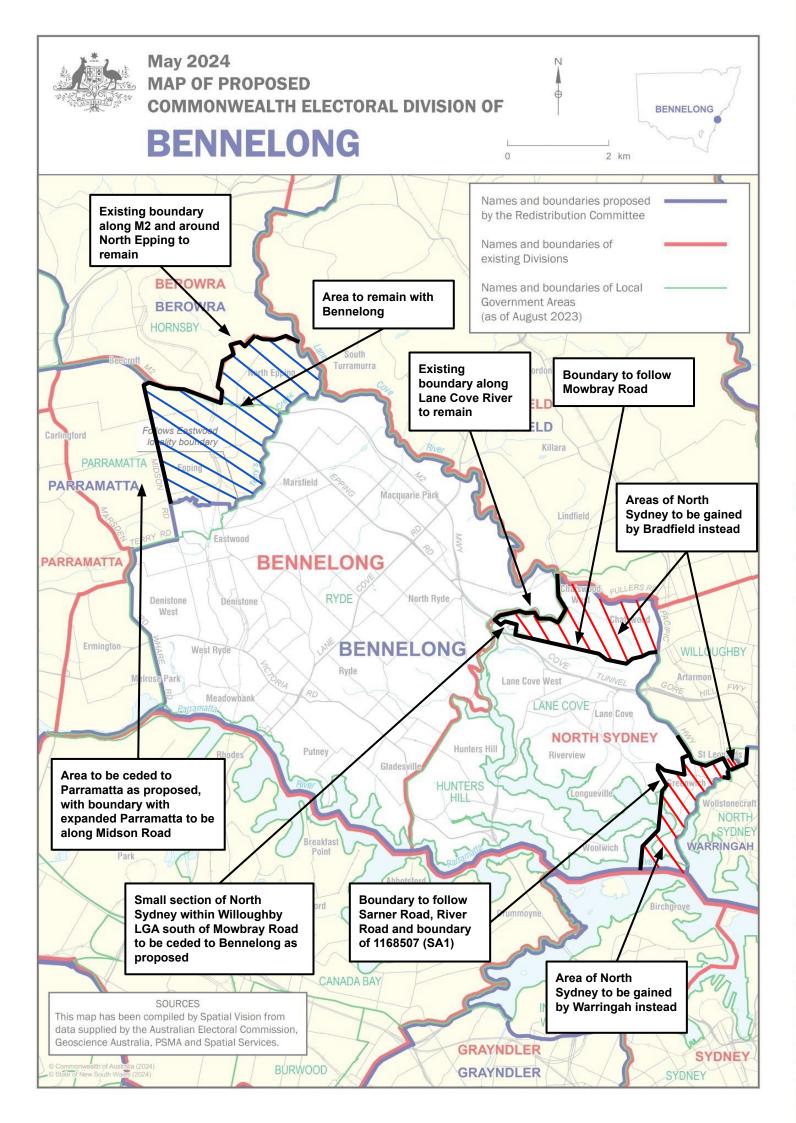
AEC should strongly consider these issues in case my alternative proposal is not accepted:

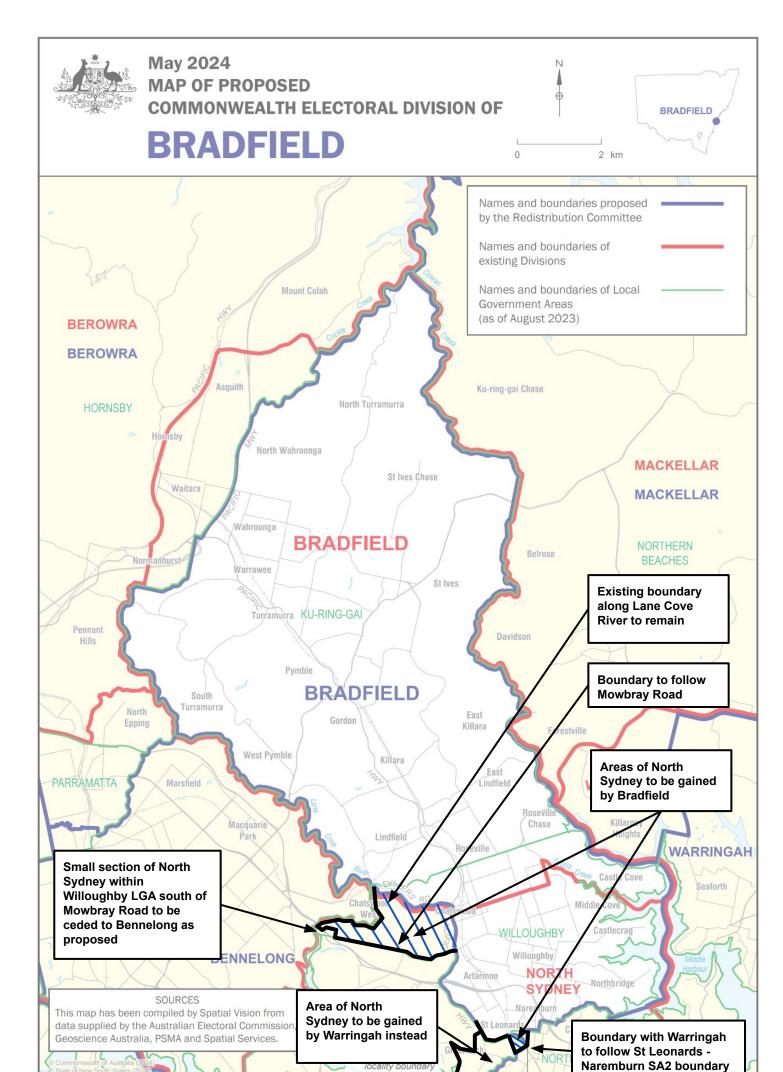
- If it is decided that Bennelong will not include North Epping and Epping, then it is preferred that these two suburbs be ceded to Parramatta instead of Berowra since Epping is in the Parramatta LGA, like majority of the federal division of Parramatta.
 - This also means Berowra will still not cross the M2 motorway.
- North Epping should be in the same division as Epping town centre, as the only physical access into North Epping is via Epping. It is illogical for both suburbs to be in different divisions.

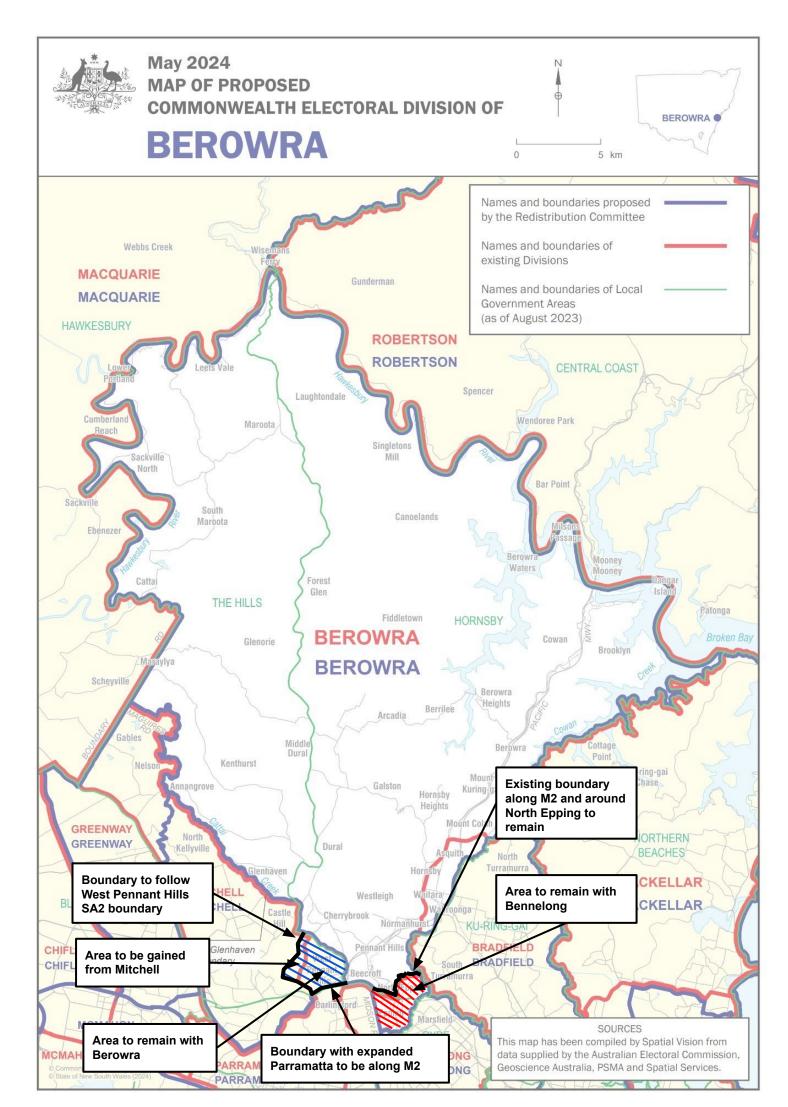
Conclusion

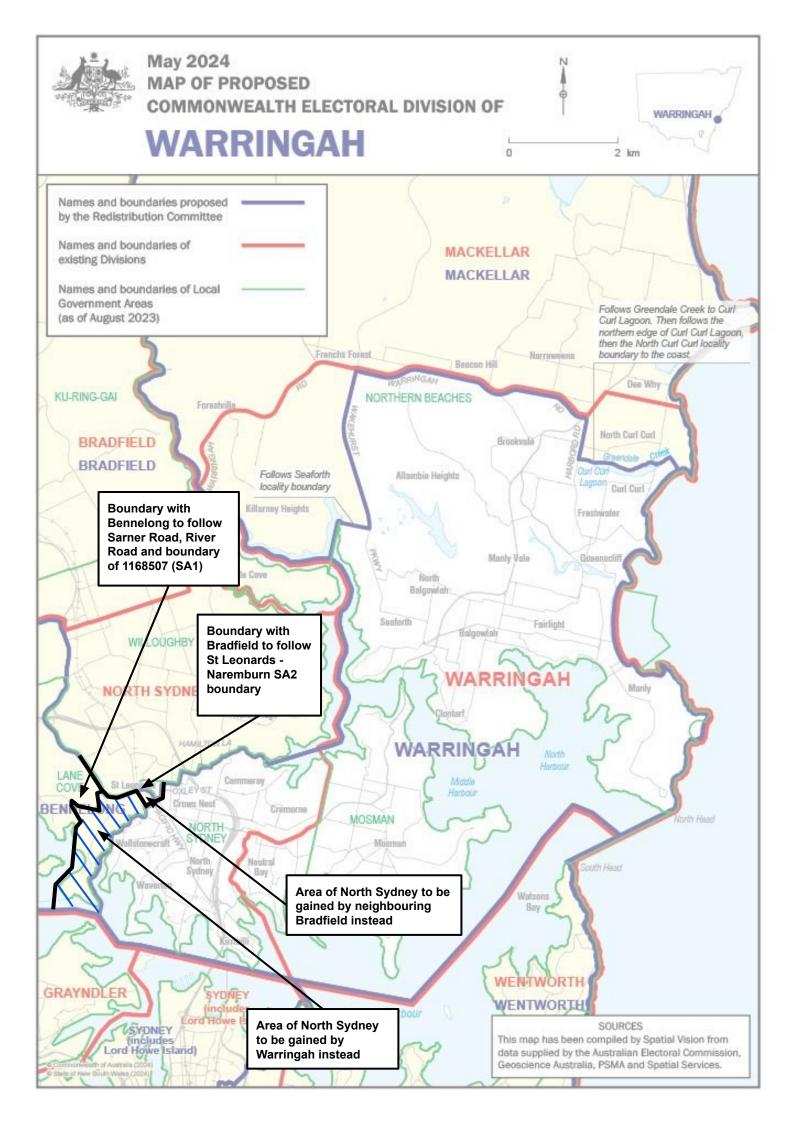
- My alternative proposal will alter AEC's proposed changes for 7 divisions in northern Sydney.
- Bennelong's proposed loss of Epping and North Epping will be significantly reduced, retaining much of these suburbs while absorbing a smaller extent of the abolished North Sydney. This also means Warringah and Bradfield will absorb more of North Sydney.
- West Pennant Hills will continue to be unified under one division, but under Berowra as opposed to AEC's proposed Mitchell.
- Minor boundary changes to Mitchell, Greenway and McMahon to balance enrolment numbers.

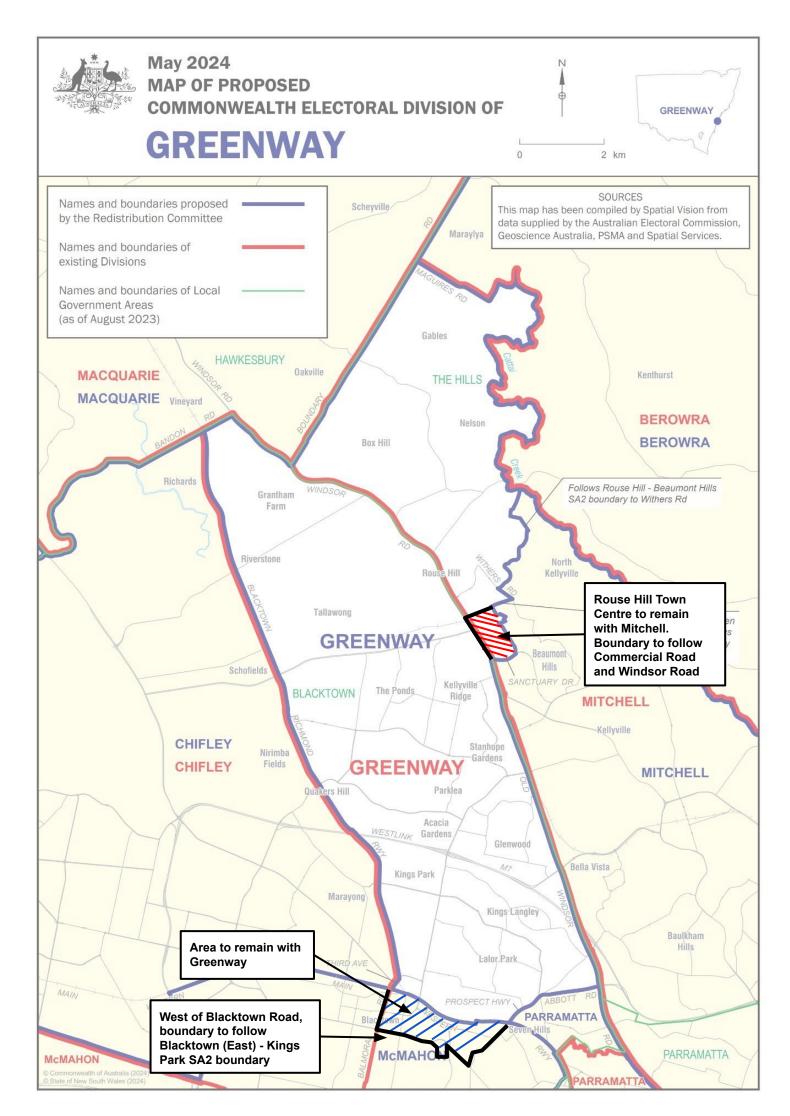
Appendix A:
Maps of my proposal (by division)

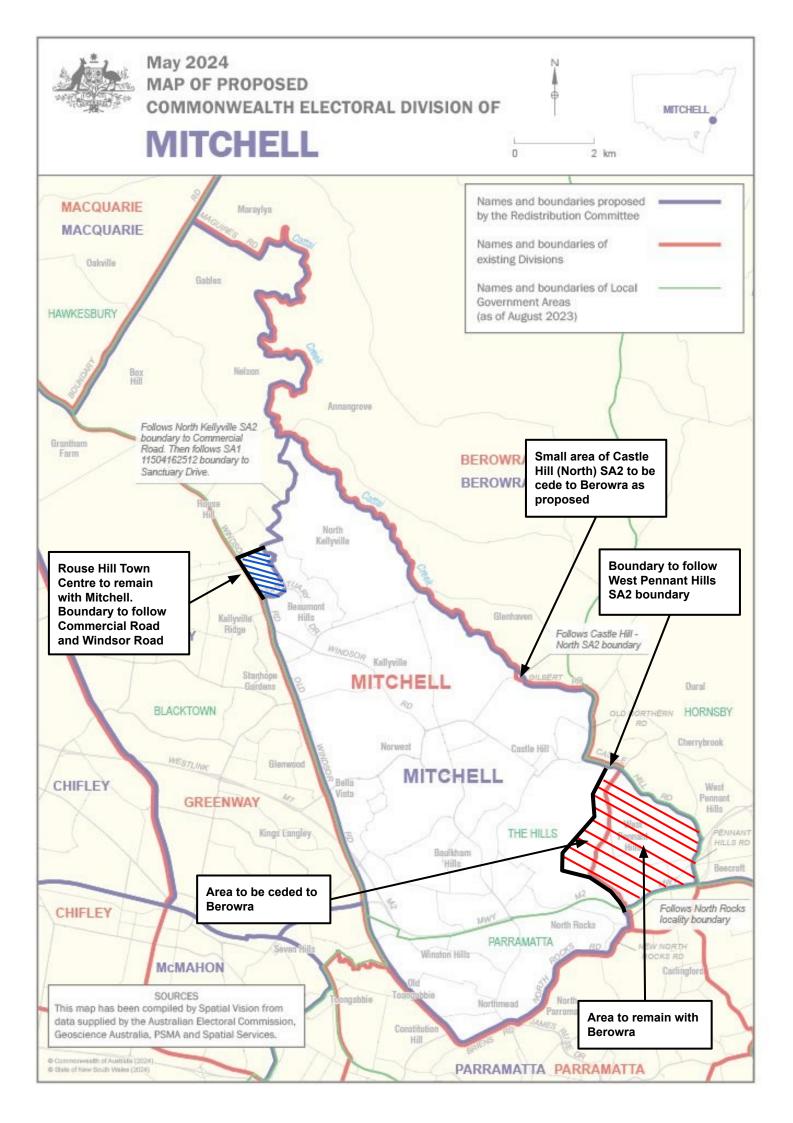




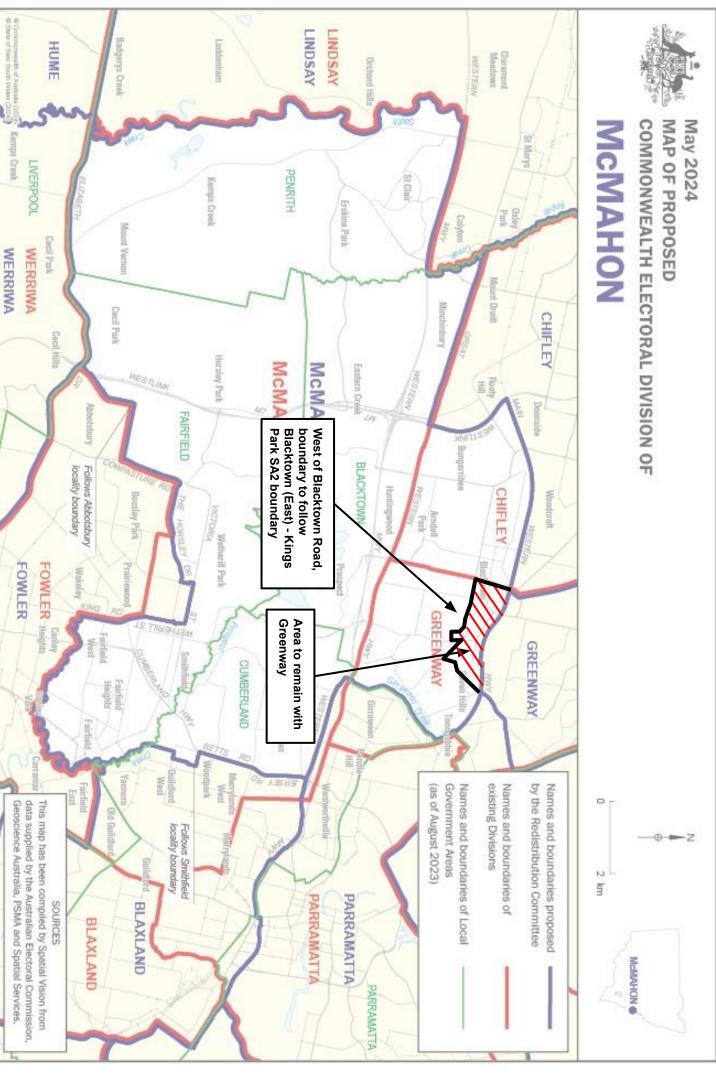












Appendix B:
Detailed SA1 enrolment calculations of my proposal

Bennelong

SA1 or SA2 areas	2023 enrolment	2028 projected enrolment	
AEC's proposed numbers	123,253	127,105	
Subtract: Chatswood West area - originally North Sydney, cede to Bradfield instead			
1139914	224	201	
1139917	337	342	
1139919	422	433	
1139920	329	328	
1139921	315	312	
1139922	321	328	
1139923	359	356	
1139924	213	218	
1139925	266	266	
1139926	197	201	
1139927	262	251	
1139928	200	204	
1139929	332	340	
1139930	273	265	
1139931	296	277	
1139939	201	180	
1139940	218	202	
1139945	218	213	
1139949	202	185	
Subtract: St Leonards area -	originally North Sydney, cede	to Bradfield instead	
1140128	371	300	
1140131	615	943	
Subtract: Greenwich area - originally North Sydney, cede to Warringah instead			
1168501	262	256	
1168502	391	388	
1168503	120	111	

1168506	429	434
1168512	314	336
1168514	380	320
1168516	329	345
1168520	343	370
1168526	271	384
1168529	196	202
Add: Epping & North Epping area - retain instead of ceding to Berowra		
Epping (East) - North Epping	8,460	8,892
Epping (NSW) - West [^]	6,062	6,182
My proposal's numbers	128,569	132,688

[^] Only includes SA1 areas that are originally proposed to be transferred from Bennelong to Berowra

Bradfield

SA1 or SA2 areas	2023 enrolment	2028 projected enrolment
AEC's proposed numbers	125,471	125,668
Add: Chatswood West area - originally Nth Syd, gain instead of going to Bennelong		
1139914	224	201
1139917	337	342
1139919	422	433
1139920	329	328
1139921	315	312
1139922	321	328
1139923	359	356
1139924	213	218
1139925	266	266
1139926	197	201
1139927	262	251
1139928	200	204
1139929	332	340
1139930	273	265
1139931	296	277
1139939	201	180
1139940	218	202
1139945	218	213
1139949	202	185
Add: St Leonards area - originally North Sydney, gain instead of going to Bennelong		
1140128	371	300
1140131	615	943
My proposal's numbers	131,642	132,013

Berowra

SA1 or SA2 areas	2023 enrolment	2028 projected enrolment
AEC's proposed numbers	128,756	131,996
Subtract: Epping & North Epping area - return to Bennelong		
Epping (East) - North Epping	8,460	8,892
Epping (NSW) - West^	6,062	6,182
Add: West Pennant Hills - retain instead of ceding to Mitchell		
West Pennant Hills^#	7,297	7,201
Add: West Pennant Hills - further gain from Mitchell		
1129614A	114	116
1129618	221	243
1129619	323	272
1129629	342	350
1129630	232	230
1129631A	255	249
1129632	331	339
My proposal's numbers	123,349	125,922

[^] Only includes SA1 areas that are originally proposed to be transferred from Bennelong to Berowra

[#] Only includes SA1 areas that are originally proposed to be transferred from Berowra to Mitchell

Warringah

SA1 or SA2 areas	2023 enrolment	2028 projected enrolment	
AEC's proposed numbers	128,292	127,110	
Add: Greenwich area - origin	Add: Greenwich area - originally North Sydney, gain instead of going to Bennelong		
1168501	262	256	
1168502	391	388	
1168503	120	111	
1168506	429	434	
1168512	314	336	
1168514	380	320	
1168516	329	345	
1168520	343	370	
1168526	271	384	
1168529	196	202	
My proposal's numbers	131,327	130,256	

Greenway

SA1 or SA2 areas	2023 enrolment	2028 projected enrolment	
AEC's proposed numbers	109,188	130,982	
Subtract: Rouse Hill Town Ce	Subtract: Rouse Hill Town Centre - return to Mitchell		
1162520	169	278	
1162521	357	686	
1162522	259	432	
1162533	209	272	
1162542	465	828	
Add Blacktown and Seven Hi	Add Blacktown and Seven Hills - retain instead of ceding to McMahon		
Blacktown (East) – Kings Park	1,848	1,986	
1162601	220	259	
1162603	348	360	
1162604	413	440	
1162621	321	326	
My proposal's numbers	110,879	131,857	

[^] Only includes SA1 areas that are originally proposed to be transferred from Greenway to McMahon

Mitchell

SA1 or SA2 areas	2023 enrolment	2028 projected enrolment	
AEC's proposed numbers	119,353	133,386	
Subtract: West Pennant Hills - return to Berowra			
West Pennant Hills	7,297	7,201	
Subtract: West Pennant Hills	- further cede to Berowra		
1129614A	114	116	
1129618	221	243	
1129619	323	272	
1129629	342	350	
1129630	232	230	
1129631A	255	249	
1129632	331	339	
Add: Rouse Hill Town Centre	Add: Rouse Hill Town Centre - retain instead of ceding to Greenway		
1162520	169	278	
1162521	357	686	
1162522	259	432	
1162533	209	272	
1162542	465	828	
My proposal's numbers	111,697	126,882	

McMahon

SA1 or SA2 areas	2023 enrolment	2028 projected enrolment
AEC's proposed numbers	117,643	132,460
Subtract Blacktown and Seven Hills - return to Greenway		
Blacktown (East) – Kings Park	1,848	1,986
1162601	220	259
1162603	348	360
1162604	413	440
1162621	321	326
My proposal's numbers	114,493	129,089

[^] Only includes SA1 areas that are originally proposed to be transferred from Greenway to McMahon