



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 275

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Objection to Proposed Federal Electoral Division Redistribution for NSW July 2024

Objection to the Boundary Change Proposed for the Electorate of Bennelong

The proposed Federal Electoral Division Redistribution for the electorate of Bennelong in NSW would move most of the suburb of Epping to the electorate of Berowra and move some of the suburb of Epping to the electorate of Parramatta.

We are writing to object to this proposed change for a number of reasons.

- The proposed redistribution would move most of Epping, an important hub in the Parramatta Council area, into the electorate of Berowra, which is mostly aligned to the Hornsby Council area. Epping is an important and busy hub (public transport, roads) in the middle ring of Sydney suburbs and is the site of much housing redevelopment to increase housing density for Sydney. The issues of concern and priorities of the people resident here align with those of other middle ring suburbs contributing to a busy city, rather than those of the residents in the Berowra electorate which includes semi-rural areas at the northern boundary of Sydney (e.g. Wiseman's Ferry). We therefore object to moving Epping into an electorate of residents with very different priorities and concerns.
- It is clear from the map of the redistribution proposed for the electorate of Berowra that Epping would be an "add on" to the natural boundary for the Berowra electorate at the M2 Motorway. The existing boundary of the Berowra electorate at the M2 Motorway should remain.
- Epping has many close cultural and community links to the neighbouring suburbs of Eastwood, Marsfield and Carlingford. In particular, many recent migrants to Australia from China, India and Korea have settled in these 3 suburbs and have developed strong communities and institutions in this area. Due to the barrier created by the M2 Motorway, there is only one road linking Epping to Cheltenham and the suburbs further north in the Berowra electorate. Consequently, Epping residents do not have close community and cultural ties to the more northern suburbs in the Berowra electorate. The most appropriate grouping for a community of common interests for the residents of Epping is with Marsfield, Eastwood and Carlingford. Considering the geographic barrier of the M2 Motorway and the close community ties which exist with other residents in the current Bennelong electorate, it is not appropriate to move the residents of Epping to the electorate of Berowra.
- The proposed redistribution would split federal representation for the suburb of Epping across 2 different electorates. Currently Epping has a single Federal representative. In order for local views in Epping to be appropriately considered at the Federal level, it is important for all the suburb to be included in a single electorate. We therefore object to splitting Epping across 2 electorates, as currently proposed.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this objection to the proposed redistribution of the boundaries of the Bennelong electorate.

Annette Gross & Anthony Kee