



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 460

Epping Civic Trust

2 pages



PO BOX 271, EPPING 1710

9 July 2024

Australian Electoral Commission,

To whom it may concern,

As President of the Epping Civic Trust, I wish to make a submission objecting to the proposed redistribution of electoral boundaries for Bennelong, Parramatta and Berowra in NSW. The Epping Civic Trust is a representative group of residents that works to improve life in Epping: its development, infrastructure, and environment.

Epping is a major population centre, and an important transport hub for metro, heavy rail and road in north-western Sydney. In 2014, it was named by the NSW State government as an urban activation precinct, leading to a very significant increase in the population of Epping in the past decade. With many high-rise residential developments still under way, the population is likely to increase much more in the coming years. It is unclear whether this continuing rate of change was considered in the electoral redistribution.

The suburbs of Epping and North Epping have been co-located in the Federal electorate of Bennelong for over 30 years. At State level, Epping and North Epping lie in the electorate of Epping. However, Epping and North Epping are shared between two local councils, City of Parramatta and Hornsby Shire Council.

Epping Town centre is divided by the main northern railway line as well as the Epping Road- Beecroft Road-Carlingford Road connection. This double bisection of the suburb produces poor planning and decision-making for residents, as different parts of Epping are shared between different local councils. The proposed electoral boundaries create yet different divisions, and will cause Epping to lose coherent representation in Federal government, as sections of Epping will lie on the periphery of three different electorates, and will be central to none. We anticipate that the lack of a single representative for the suburb will lead to poor planning and policy outcomes for this major suburb in north west Sydney.

The proposed redistribution does not make sense to Epping and North Epping locals. Epping is very poorly connected to Parramatta: the Light Rail connects Parramatta to Carlingford, but does not reach Epping, with no plan to extend it. Hence bringing part of Epping into the electorate of Parramatta makes no sense. Locals treat the M2 as a significant boundary that hinders any connection to the electorate of Berowra, which lies north of the M2. Locals consider the area to the west of Midson Road to be in Epping, as is the area to the east of Midson Road, so using Midson Road as a boundary line feels arbitrary and will lead to a sense of fragmentation of the residents in the suburb. (Note that state government planners referred to the new Ngarala Public School on Chelmsford Ave as "Epping South" throughout the planning process, and this school lies west of Midson Road.) Locals do not consider Terry's Creek (named after Eastwood's first mayor) as a boundary for our suburb – rather it meanders from Eastwood through Epping towards the Lane Cove River, so this choice for an eastern boundary is also not appropriate.

In conclusion, please do not divide us as Epping and North Epping residents, but keep us united within one electorate. Our preference is the current electorate of Bennelong.

Regards

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Judith Dawes, President Epping Civic Trust



**May 2024
MAP OF PROPOSED
COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL DIVISION OF
BENNELONG**



0 2 km

Names and boundaries proposed by the Redistribution Committee

Names and boundaries of existing Divisions

Names and boundaries of Local Government Areas (as of August 2023)



SOURCES
This map has been compiled by Spatial Vision from data supplied by the Australian Electoral Commission, Geoscience Australia, PSMA and Spatial Services.

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