



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 587

Brad Powe

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Objection to Proposed Redistribution of Bennelong Electorate

To the Australian Electoral Commission,

I am writing to formally object to the draft proposal to remove Epping, North Epping, and Carlingford from the Bennelong electorate and redistribute them between the Berowra and Parramatta electorates.

At the same time, I object to the incorporation of parts of Willoughby, all of Lane Cove, and parts of North Sydney into Bennelong. Indeed, I oppose the removal of the North Sydney Electorate in its entirety

While the draft proposal has the superficial attraction of appearing to be compact on a map, 'the map is not the terrain'. Geographic contiguity should be considered as a prime element in the drawing up of electoral boundaries.

In particular, excising North Epping from Bennelong is a peculiar decision insomuch as the only access to the suburb is by a single road running out of the eastern side of Epping. There is no direct communication between the two sides of the railway line.

In effect, the boundaries of Bennelong should reflect those recognised by the Wallumedegal (ie Wallumatta) which was defined by the area within the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers, extending westwards to the ridge line now roughly marked by Marsden and Pennant Hills Roads.

Similarly, North Sydney should have been expanded to occupy all of Middle Head (the historic lands of the Cammeraygal), rather than being added to the geographically absurd electorate of Warringah, which is split in half by Middle Harbour.

For these reasons, I urge the AEC to reconsider the proposed boundary changes and at the very least retain Epping, North Epping, and Carlingford within the Bennelong electorate.

Brad Powe

