



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 669

NSW Labor

19 pages

Australian Labor Party

Objections to the Proposed Redistribution of New South Wales

Submitted to

The Redistribution Committee for New South Wales

Foreword

The following objections by the Australian Labor Party are provided in response to the proposed redistribution published by the Redistribution Committee for New South Wales on 14 June 2024.

Accompanying the objections are maps illustrating the proposed changes for each electoral division (where applicable).

We thank the Redistribution Committee for considering the objections contained herein.

Objections to the proposed redistribution

Given the complexity of the task faced by the Redistribution Committee for New South Wales (the Redistribution Committee), namely, balancing non-uniform growth across the State and the legislative requirements set forth by The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act), the Australian Labor Party commends the work of the Redistribution Committee in formulating 46 proposed electoral divisions for New South Wales.

The Australian Labor Party has previously made written representations to the Redistribution Committee to encourage the use of several principles in formulating the proposed 46 electoral divisions.

The Australian Labor Party acknowledges and accepts the following key principles used by the Redistribution Committee, as outlined in the report of the Redistribution Committee for New South Wales (the Report) published online on Friday 14 June 2024:

- 1.1. To reduce the size of electoral divisions towards the permissible minimum number of electors (*at the redistribution date*) in areas with high elector numbers and high projected growth.
- 1.2. To alter the number of electors to be above the redistribution quota in 'more established' inner metropolitan electoral divisions, and rural electoral divisions, to accommodate low or negative projected growth.
- 1.3. Where possible, to retain existing boundaries for electoral divisions that met the two numerical requirements of the Electoral Act.
- 1.4. Where possible, to ensure communities of interest are united (or improved) in a given electoral division.

The Australian Labor Party agrees with this approach. As outlined in submission S48 by the Australian Labor Party, it is reasonable to target the lower end of the permissible tolerance from quota for divisions with high projected growth rates, in particular those in the Western Sydney area, to ensure they do not reach the 3.5% threshold at the projection time of 10 April 2028. By contrast, electoral divisions with low projected growth rates, particularly those in inner metropolitan Sydney and rural NSW, ought to be adjusted to the higher side of the redistribution quota to compensate for slower growth.

The Australian Labor Party notes that the Redistribution Committee has also recognised the decades-long population expansion across the inner metropolitan area along an 'east-to-west' axis converging in the Western Sydney region. Consistent with several suggestions submitted to the Redistribution Committee, including S48 by the Australian Labor Party, we welcome the changes made by the Redistribution Committee to consolidate communities of shared interest as anchors for an electoral division (for example, Bankstown in the Electoral Division of Watson).

In so doing, the flow-on effect has allowed for adjustments to be made to the existing boundaries of the Western Sydney electoral divisions in a manner that achieves (a) the population requirements (accounting for areas of future growth) and (b) other criteria in Section 66 - for example, maintaining communities of shared economic interests by

consolidating the town of Campbelltown as an anchor for Macarthur, Camden as an anchor for Hume and Liverpool as an anchor for Fowler.

Submission S48 also acknowledged the potential for a greater number of boundary movements than was the case in the last redistribution of New South Wales. In 2015, the proposed Redistribution Report noted that: “The Committee sought, to the extent possible, to minimise the movement of electors between electoral divisions”, resulting in a proposed transfer of 19.42% of electors.

The Australian Labor Party further commends the Redistribution Committee for minimising the movement of electors to **less than 1 in 7 electors**, or 12.81% (outlined in Table K of the Report).

Overall, the Redistribution Committee has achieved the following:

- 2.1. Abolished 1 electoral division while minimising the shift of electors (87.19% of electors will remain in their existing electoral division).
- 2.2. Maintained the boundaries of 7 out of 12 electoral divisions that met the two numerical requirements of the Electoral Act.
- 2.3. Used part, or all, of an existing electoral boundary for all of the 46 proposed electoral divisions.
- 2.4. Used part, or all, of a local government boundary (LGA) for all of the 46 proposed electoral divisions.

As is the legislative requirement under Section 66 (2), the Redistribution Committee ought to give due consideration to economic, social and regional interests of the communities that form a given electoral division. We note that this was reiterated by the Redistribution Committee as a key principle (outlined in 1.4 above). It is a longstanding convention to draw on past electoral boundaries, LGAs and suburbs as surrogates that represent communities of interest.

The remaining comments submitted herein by the Australian Labor Party endeavour to provide suggestions that further improve communities of interest **and** further reduce elector shift.

Summary of changes

Understanding the 'domino-effect' of making adjustments to electoral boundaries, we have limited our suggestions to two areas - based on established and widely accepted physical boundaries that **have not been crossed previously**, represent distinct communities on either side with little in the way of shared interests.

We acknowledge that the Redistribution Committee preserved Sydney Harbour / Parramatta River and the Hawkesbury River. We likewise welcome the use of the Great Dividing Range as a boundary for Eden-Monaro.

We also welcome the Redistribution Committee's approach to electoral boundaries north of the Hawkesbury River to the Queensland Border (Robertson to Richmond). While many of the initial submissions proposed significant changes to these Divisions, the Redistribution Commission has very sensibly opted to make minimal changes or, in the case of Robertson, Dobell and Richmond, no changes. The approach to Hunter and Paterson is very sensible - transferring Muswellbrook LGA to New England and using the Hunter Expressway as a logical boundary between Hunter and Paterson.

However, we note that Old Windsor Road have been crossed. Old Windsor Road is a longstanding barrier between the distinct communities of Blacktown LGA and the Hills LGA, has served as an electoral boundary at the federal and state level for many years, and is used for a number of community planning purposes including school catchment zones.

The Australian Labor Party requests for the Redistribution Committee to revisit adjustments that now propose crossing these two long-standing barriers.

If they are to be crossed, this should be done only where there is compelling justification on the grounds of communities of interest and/or the population distribution is such that there is no other means to adhere to section 66 (2) of the Electoral Act.

We submit an alternative for each of these areas that improves the communities of interest while maintaining and/or reducing the elector disturbance. We achieve this by drawing on existing boundaries. We also provide possible 'flow-on' adjustments to adjacent boundaries and attempt to limit changes to as few electoral divisions as possible.

North and North-West Sydney

Divisions of Mitchell and Greenway

Old Windsor Road has served as an electoral boundary at either federal or state level for over 50 years. More importantly, it is used for a number of community planning purposes including school catchment zones. However, the Australian Labor Party understands that when balancing the legislative requirements for number of electors in the same area that has to its north the geographical boundary of the Hawkesbury River, the Redistribution Committee must make compromises to longstanding boundaries.

We would encourage the Redistribution Committee to review the proposed boundary between Mitchell and Greenway to reflect differences in the communities on either side. In particular, Rouse Hill is a well-established suburb with a stable population and considerable links to adjacent suburbs in the electoral division of Mitchell (namely, Beaumont Hills and North Kellyville). It is more appropriate to keep these suburbs as united as possible, in keeping with the 'communities of interest' requirement of the Electoral Act.

In contrast, Box Hill is a 'more recent' suburb with significant growth projected and without a clear link (as yet) to adjacent areas. If Old Windsor Road must be crossed, we would encourage the Redistribution Committee to consider separating Box Hill and Rouse Hill, with the latter being retained in Mitchell using Annangrove Road as the boundary.

In so doing, Greenway would need to gain electors to replace those lost from Rouse Hill. The current boundary for Greenway extends south to include parts of Blacktown, Prospect and Seven Hills. It is inconsistent with the 'communities of interest' requirement to propose a split of the suburbs of Seven Hills, Lalor Park and Kings Kings Langley. These are similar, interconnected suburbs that share the same postcode (2747). When they were last shifted, all three were moved into the Division of Parramatta between 2006 to 2009.

It would not be in the interest of Seven Hills residents to be in the seat of McMahon which also has Fairfield CBD in its boundaries. Communities such as Seven Hills do not consider themselves part of the Fairfield community nor do they have a connection with Fairfield CBD. Fairfield feels very separate from their connection to the Blacktown LGA and this separation is intentional, not coincidental. The Blacktown Local Government Area, with its significant size and presence, has cultivated a sense of community that only a large council can achieve.

The residents of Lalor Park use Seven Hills or Blacktown train Stations for major public transport needs. Given the socio-economic challenges locally, the role of a local MP's office is critical. To get assistance from their Federal MP residents in Seven hills would need to travel on public transport to Fairfield and change multiple buses to get to the McMahon Electorate Office.

Lalor Park and Seven Hills have similar socio-economic backgrounds and the suburbs are: served the same public hospital (Blacktown Hospital); served the same PCYC in Blacktown; share community resources like council libraries (such as Max Webber Library in Blacktown, Lalor Park Library) and community halls (such as Bowman Hall, Lalor Park Community Centre, Lalor Park Community Hub, Seven Hills Community Centre); share parks and

sporting fields for local sporting clubs such as Seven Hills Scorpions Hockey Club (play in Lalor Park) Blacktown City Netball Association (uses International Peace Park in Seven Hills) Blacktown City and District Cricket Association (Clubs in Blacktown and Glenwood) Blacktown District Soccer Football Association (clubs in Blacktown, Kings Langley and Glenwood)' and connected through community groups (SydWest Multicultural Services, Carevan Blacktown (meets at Lalor Park), Harman Foundation, Junaya Family Services (First Nations Australians).

The Neighbouring Catholic Church Parishes of St Patrick's (Blacktown), St Bernadette's (Lalor Park) and Our Lady of Lourdes (Seven Hills) all fall under the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta which does not extend to Fairfield. Sikh communities in Lalor Park and Seven Hills travel to the Gurudwara in Blacktown and Glenwood for religious services. Muslim communities in Lalor Park and Seven Hills use Blacktown and Quakers Hill Mosques for religious services. Lalor Park Community Centre is also used on an ad-hoc basis.

Seven Hills West Public School, Lynwood Park Public School, Seven Hills Public School, Vardys Rd Public School, Seven Hills North Public Schools Blacktown North Public School and Lalor Park Public School to varying degrees cover parts of Seven Hills or Lalor Park. Seven Hills High School catchment area covers both seven Hills and Lalor Park as does Blacktown Boys/Girls High Schools.

These communities should remain together in the electorate of Greenway as that is the best way to draw upon the strong bonds and identity that exists in support of the community. Accordingly, we would submit that at least the majority of Seven Hills (north of Lucretia Road) be retained in Greenway which will result in achieving the legislative requirements for elector numbers, while also limiting flow-on changes required beyond McMahon (see map - appendix 1). This change should also include the industrial area of Seven Hills from the proposed Parramatta such that the existing electoral and LGA boundary is retained.

Importantly, taken together, these changes retain more electors in their existing boundaries while consolidating communities with shared interests into a single electoral division.

4.1. Greenway

- a. Lose Rouse Hill (from Greenway)
- b. Gain Seven Hills (from McMahon and Parramatta)

Flow-on adjustments to Mitchell, Berowra and Parramatta

To accommodate the addition of Rouse Hills into Mitchell (see notes above), the Australian Labor Party suggests the following adjustments to the proposed boundaries - with consideration given to the use of existing boundaries, LGAs and consolidation of suburbs, where possible (see maps - appendix 1).

4.2. Mitchell

- a. Gain Rouse Hill (from Greenway)
- b. Lose West Pennant Hills (to Berowra)

4.3. Berowra

- a. Gain West Pennant Hills (to Berowra)

- b. Lose Epping (to Bennelong) - *to accommodate the gain from Mitchell (see notes below)*

4.4. Parramatta

- a. Lose the industrial area of Seven Hills (to Greenway)

Flow-on adjustments to Bennelong

For Berowra to gain West Pennant Hills (from Mitchell) it will need to lose electors. This is best achieved by adjusting its border with Bennelong to return portions of Epping back to Bennelong.

Epping has long-standing links to Eastwood, Macquarie Park and Ryde. There are a considerable number of electors who live in Epping but who work in Macquarie Park and North Ryde. This is reflected by shared bus routes like the M54 and the 545, as well as Epping and Lane Cove Rd, and the M2. As such, the commute between these areas naturally means that these suburbs share community and cultural events, halls, shopping centres and places of worship. Epping Boys High, Epping West Primary School, Epping Heights Public School and Ngarla Public School have catchments that span this region, as do local sporting leagues and clubs such as the Eastwood Epping Tigers, Eastwood St Andrews AFC and the Epping Eastwood Lions Club.

Moreover, there are significant Chinese and Korean communities in both Epping and Eastwood. This is illustrated in the 2021 Census data with 26.1% of respondents in the Ryde LGA reported Chinese ancestry. In Berowra, 0.038% of respondents reported Chinese ancestry. Taken together, the community and cultural interests of Chinese electors living in Epping align with the current Bennelong boundaries and the suburbs of Marsfield and Eastwood over the proposed move to Berowra.

Utilising the M2 as a boundary, to retain areas of Epping previously in Bennelong, is consistent with the approach taken by the Redistribution Committee in other areas.

Having adjusted Bennelong to include Epping, it must now lose a small number of electors to achieve the legislative requirement of elector numbers at the projected time. This is most appropriately achieved at its eastern boundary which was adjusted to accommodate the abolition of the electoral division of North Sydney.

Of note, there is little connection between the suburbs of Northwood and Greenwich, and the broader Ryde LGA. Electors in Northwood and Greenwich are more likely to use amenities found in North Sydney. For example, they are likely to work in North Sydney, belong to sporting clubs and associations in North Sydney, and use Royal North Shore Hospital. When commuting, they are likely to use St Leonards or Wollstonecraft, both of which fall outside of the Lane Cove LGA. St Leonards and North Sydney's commercial hubs are most likely considered their local shopping centres. As a whole, therefore, electors in Northwood and Greenwich are more likely to travel to North Sydney in their day to day life, than further into it - let alone travel further afield to Ryde.

Greenwich and Northwood are separated from Lane Cove by the natural boundary of Gore Creek, Northwood Road and Woodford Bay. Similarly, Lane Cove LGA itself exists as its own type of peninsular. It is separated from Hunters Hill by water, and Ryde by Lane Cove

National Park. Each of these factors culminate to form a natural boundary between Northwood, Greenwich and the rest of Bennelong's proposed suburbs.

Accordingly, the Australian Labor Party submits that Greenwich and Northwood be removed from the proposed boundary of Bennelong and placed into Bradfield.

4.5. Bennelong

- a. Gain Epping (from Berowra)
- b. Lose Greenwich and Northwood (to Bradfield)

Flow-on adjustments to Bradfield

4.6. Bradfield

- a. Gain Greenwich and Northwood (from Bennelong)

Flow-on adjustments to McMahon and Fowler

As stated above, the Australian Labor Party submits that Seven Hills be retained in Greenway. The proposed boundaries had shifted the majority of Seven Hills into McMahon. To accommodate a shift back to Greenway, McMahon must gain electors from an adjacent electoral division.

Drawing on the existing boundaries that have the majority of Wetherill Park positioned within the electoral division of McMahon, this would be a sufficient gain of electors for McMahon while also not requiring any changes to Fowler.

4.7. McMahon

- a. Gain previously held parts of Wetherill Park (from Fowler)

4.8. Fowler

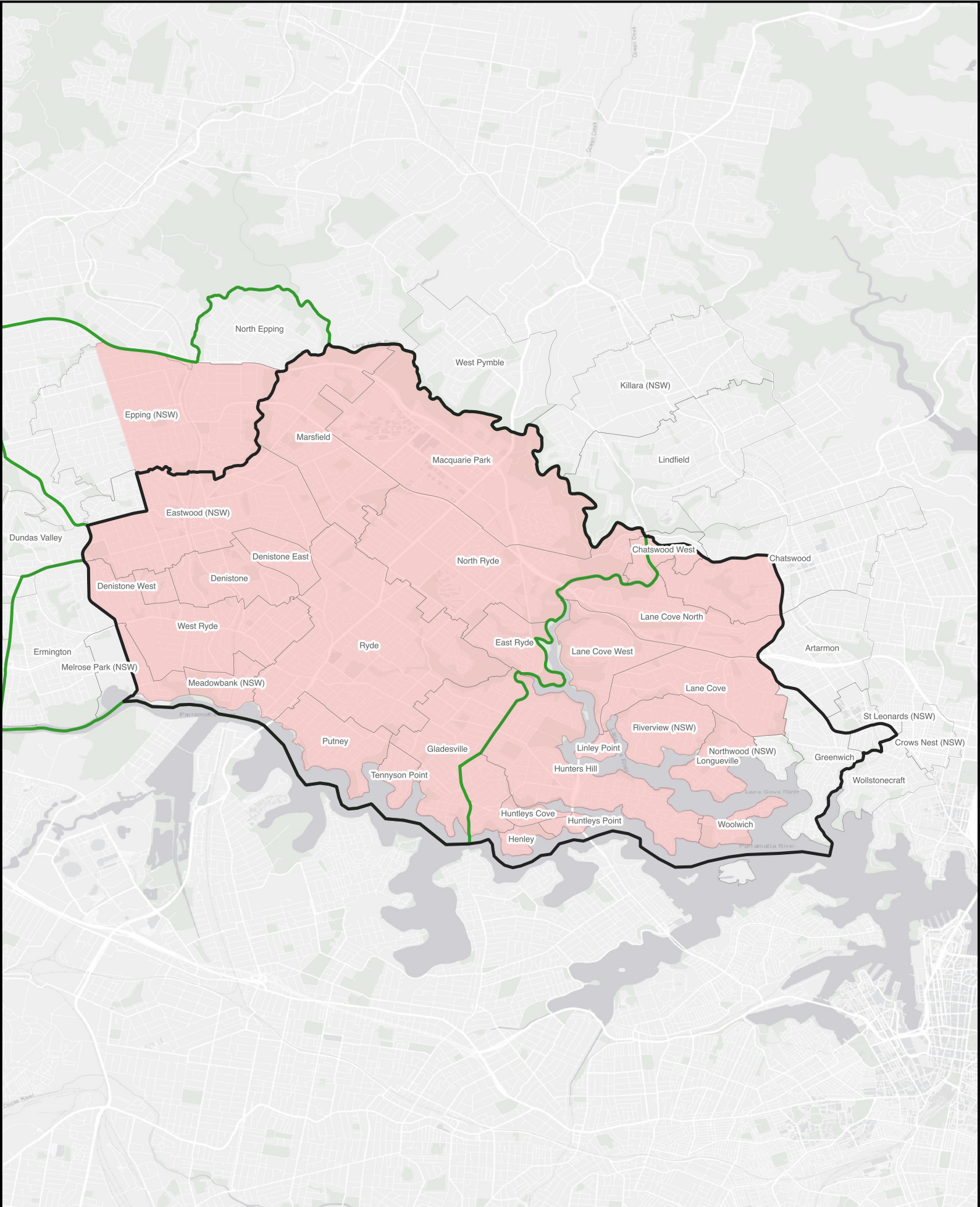
- a. Lose newly added parts of Wetherill Park (to McMahon)

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Australian Labor Party

Appendix 1

Maps



NSW Redistribution

**Electoral Division of
BENNELONG**

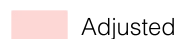


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Latitude and Longitude based on Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020

Coastal districts include offshore island areas
All road boundaries use road centrelines unless otherwise described
Suburb boundaries are based on G-NAF 2016

Boundaries



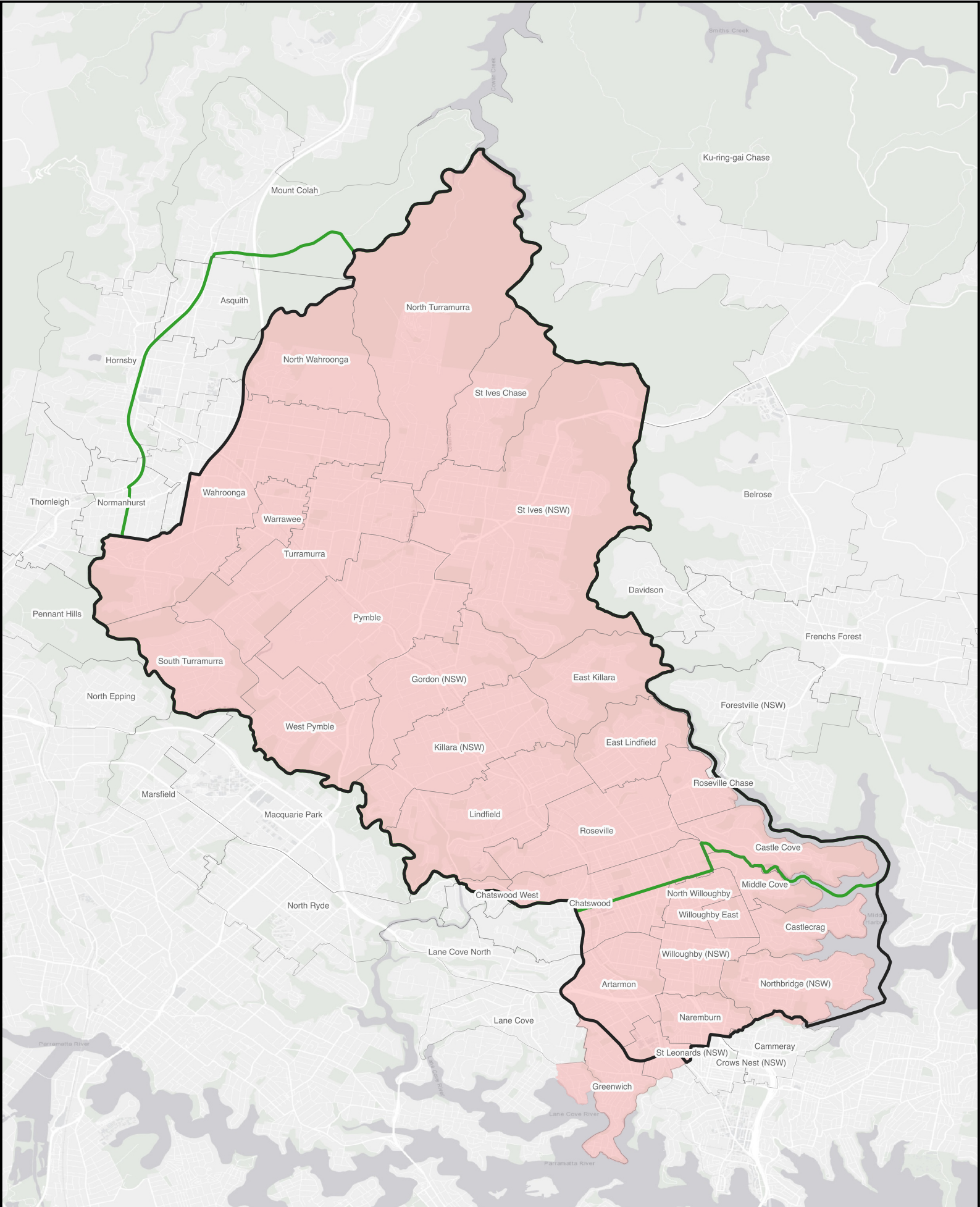
Changes

Gain
Epping

Lose
Greenwich
Northwood



Australian Labor Party
(NSW Branch)



NSW Redistribution

**Electoral Division of
BRADFIELD**



Scale: 1:243,743

Latitude and Longitude based on Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020

Coastal districts include offshore island areas
All road boundaries use road centrelines unless otherwise described
Suburb boundaries are based on G-NAF 2016

Boundaries

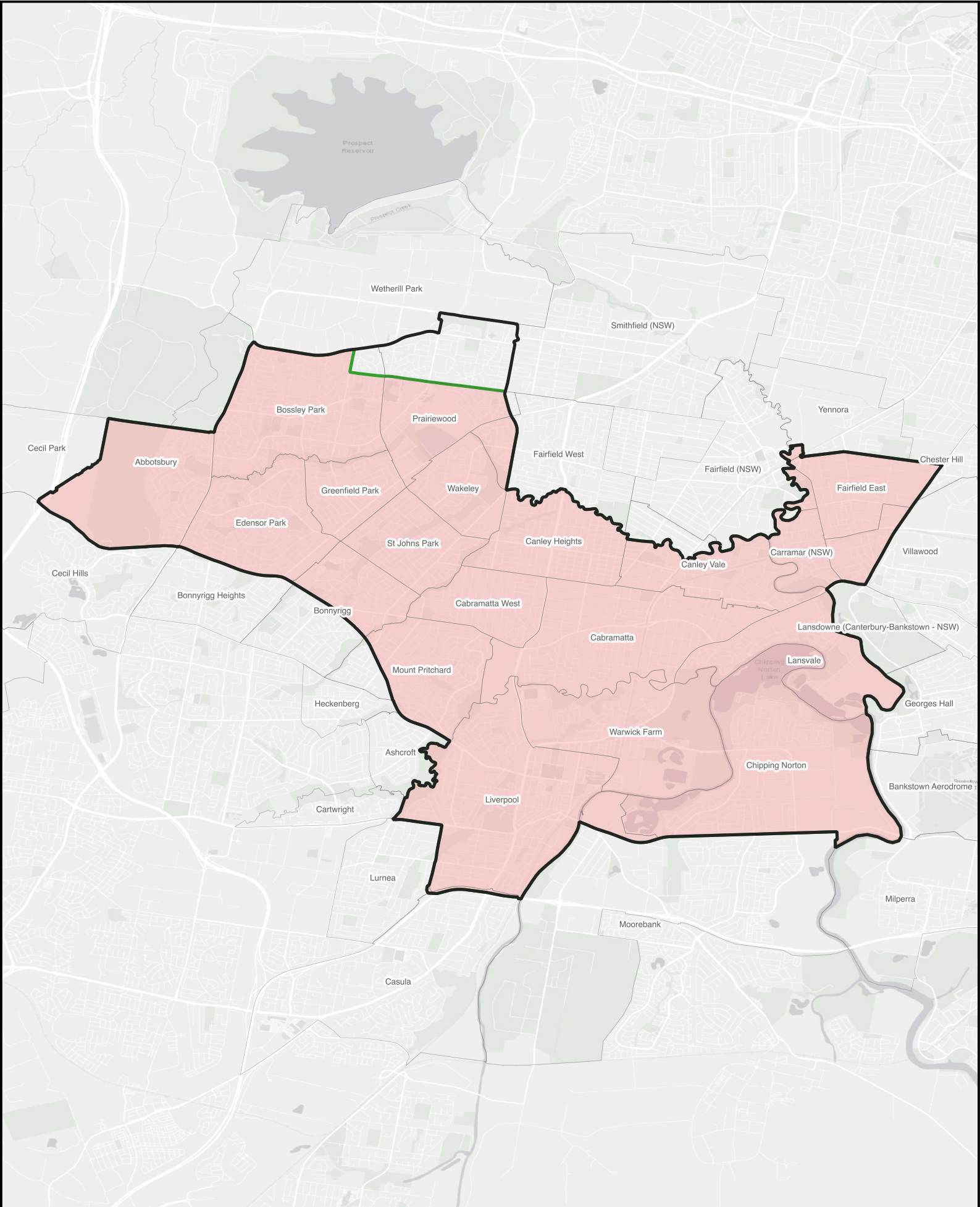


Changes

Gain
Greenwich
Northwood



Australian Labor Party
(NSW Branch)



NSW Redistribution

**Electoral Division of
FOWLER**



Scale: 1:243,743

Latitude and Longitude based on Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020

Coastal districts include offshore island areas
All road boundaries use road centrelines unless otherwise described
Suburb boundaries are based on G-NAF 2016

Boundaries

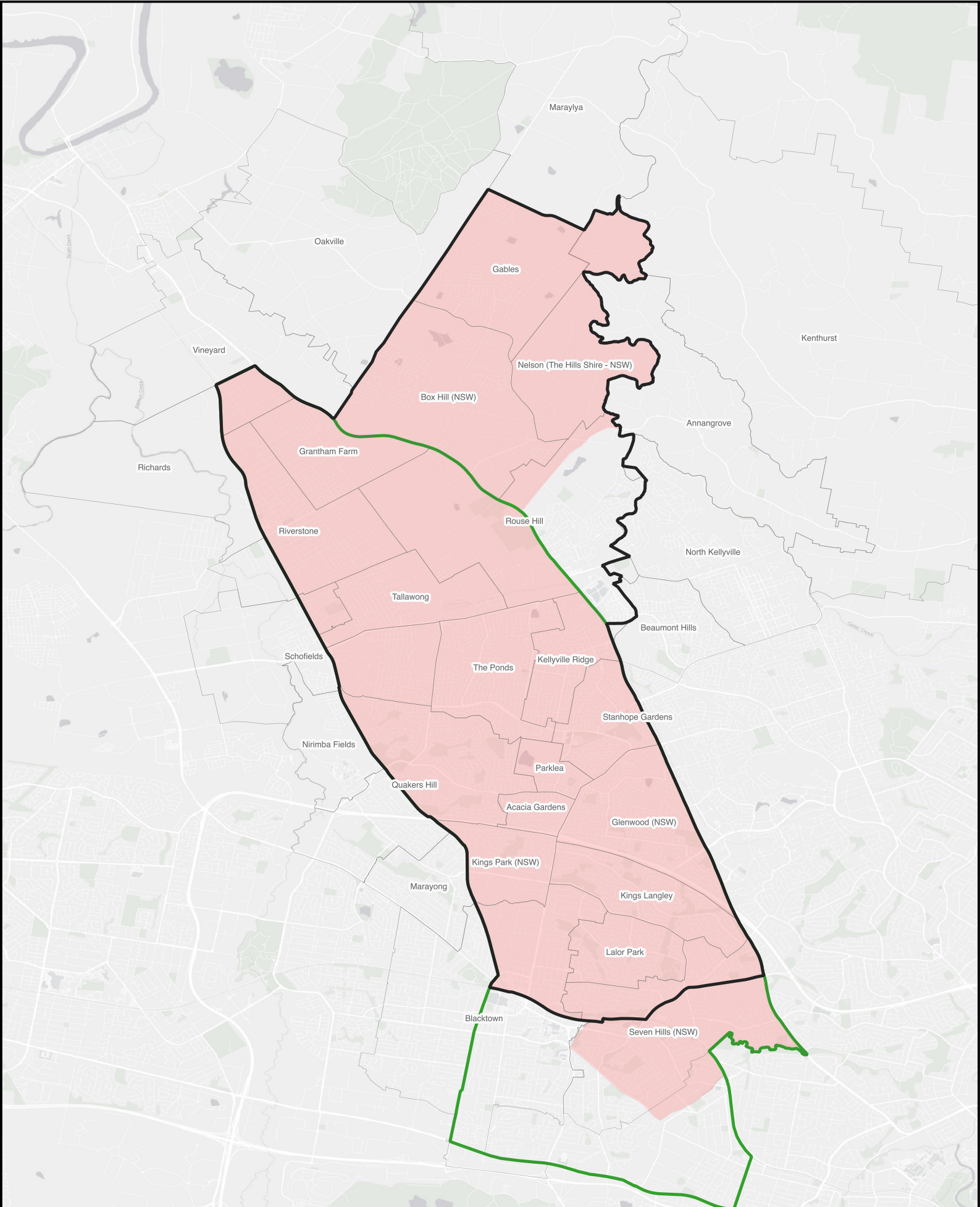


Changes

Lose
Wetherill Park



Australian Labor Party
(NSW Branch)



NSW Redistribution

**Electoral Division of
GREENWAY**

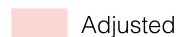


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Boundaries

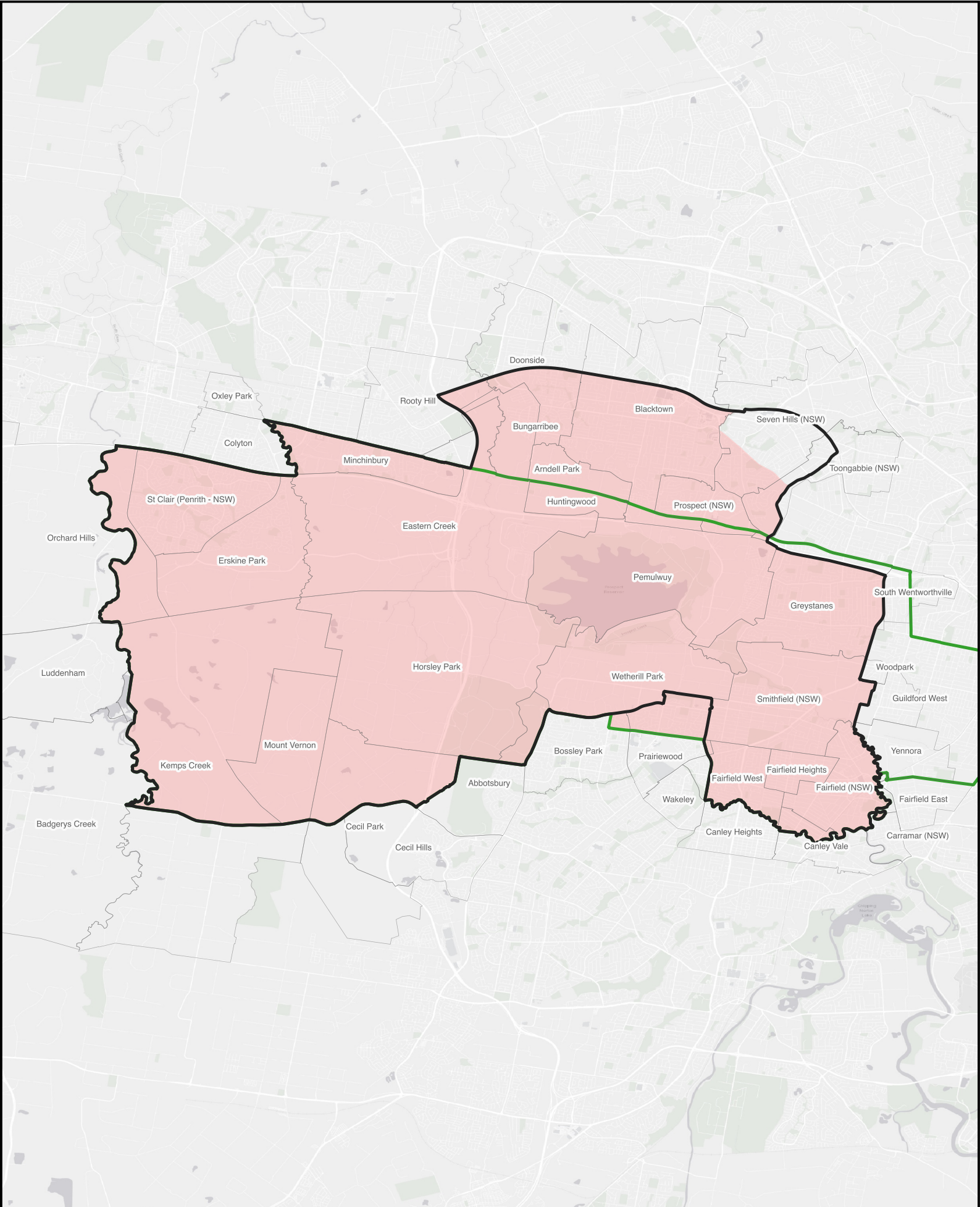


Changes

- Gain
Seven Hills
- Lose
Rouse Hill



Australian Labor Party
(NSW Branch)



NSW Redistribution

**Electoral Division of
MCMAHON**

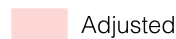


Scale: 1:243,743

Latitude and Longitude based on Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020

Coastal districts include offshore island areas
All road boundaries use road centrelines unless otherwise described
Suburb boundaries are based on G-NAF 2016

Boundaries

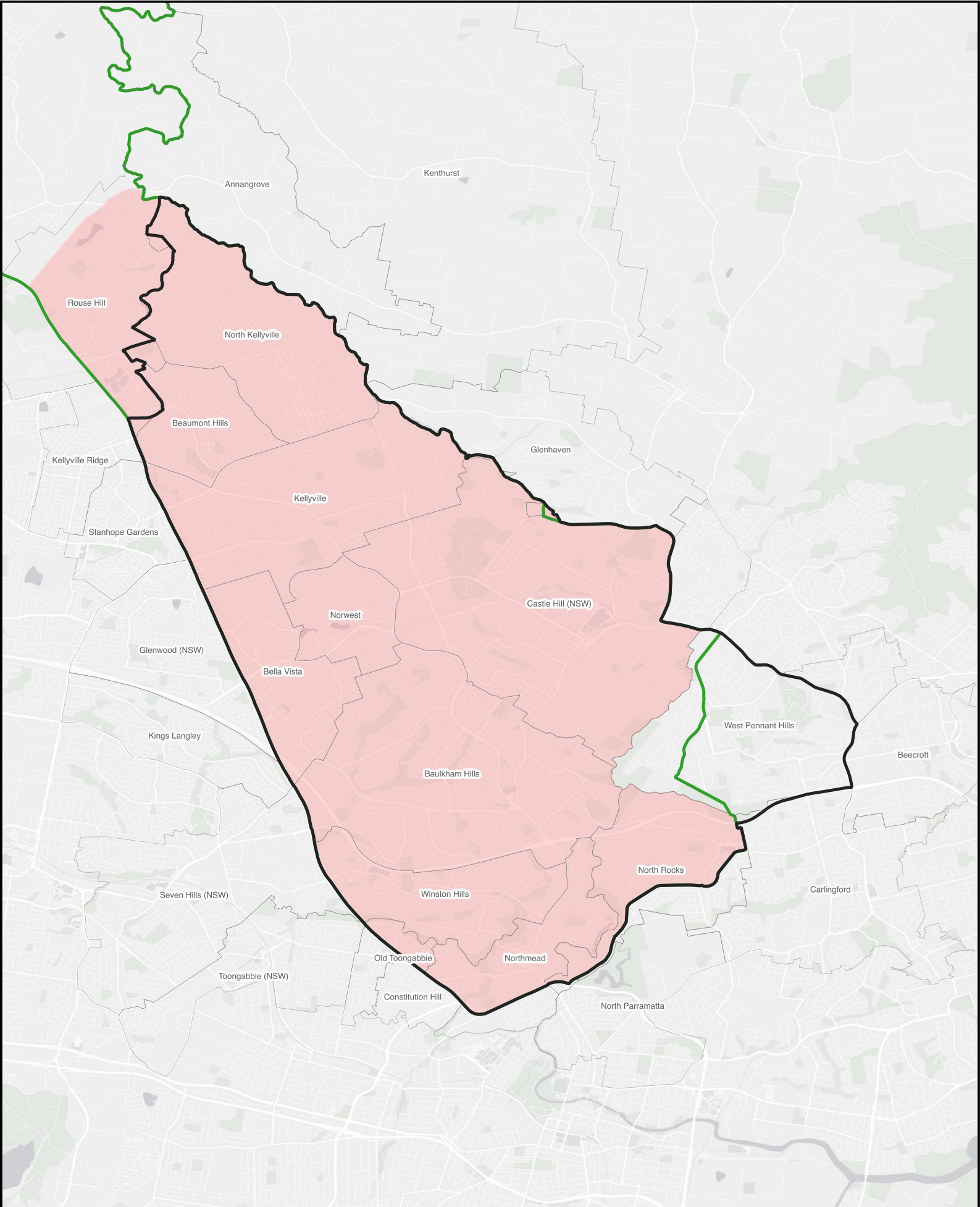


Changes

- Gain
Wetherill Park
- Lose
Seven Hills



Australian Labor Party
(NSW Branch)



NSW Redistribution

Electoral Division of MITCHELL



Latitude and Longitude based on Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020

Coastal districts include offshore island areas
 All road boundaries use road centrelines unless otherwise described
 Suburb boundaries are based on G-NAF 2016

Boundaries



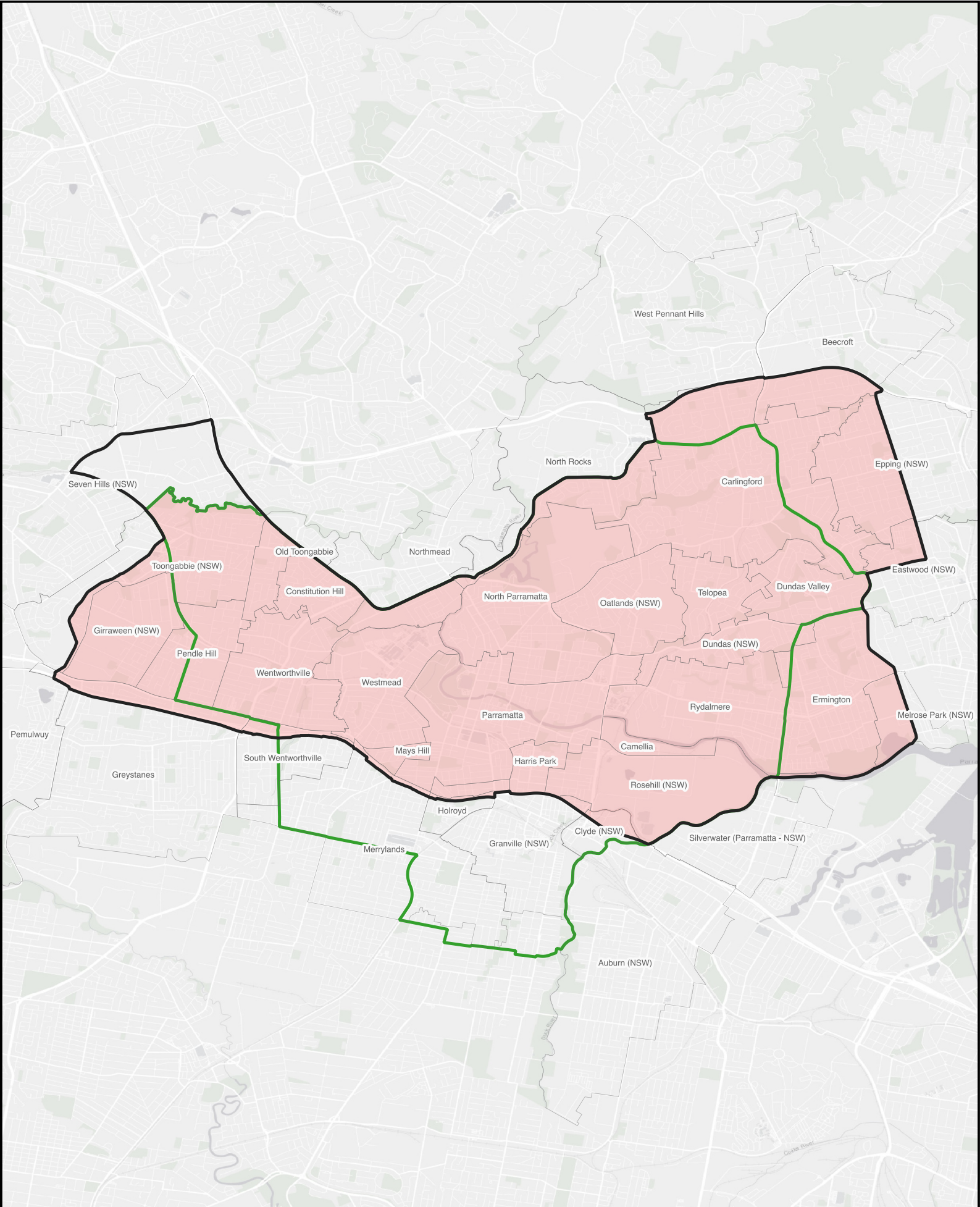
Changes

Gain
 Rouse Hill

Lose
 West Pennant Hills



Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)



NSW Redistribution

**Electoral Division of
PARRAMATTA**



Scale: 1:243,743

Latitude and Longitude based on Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020

Coastal districts include offshore island areas
All road boundaries use road centrelines unless otherwise described
Suburb boundaries are based on G-NAF 2016

Boundaries



Changes

Lose
Industrial area of
Seven Hill



Australian Labor Party
(NSW Branch)