



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 682

Deb Cansdell

2 pages

Cook and Hughes Electoral Boundary Changes

Submission to include Bonnet Bay and Woronora in Cook Electorate.

I live in Bonnet Bay which in the proposed electoral redistribution, will remain in Hughes. I request that there is consideration for Bonnet Bay and Woronora to be included in Cook.

The rationale is that the community links and main infrastructure for the residents of Bonnet Bay and Woronora are in the East, not across the river in the West of the Shire.

The main public transport links are Jannali and Sutherland railway stations.

The shopping areas range from local, Jannali and Sutherland, to full size supermarkets at Kirrawee Brick pit or Kareela and the major shopping centre is Miranda Westfield.

Health services are located at and around Sutherland Hospital.

This is where the community shops, good to school, drives and tries to park.

All the electoral boundaries, Local, State and this proposed Federal change, put us at the outer edge of each Ward and Electorate and disconnect us from political representation of our actual community links.

Bonnet Bay and Woronora are in Sutherland Shire Council E Ward. Our local town centre Jannali is in C Ward. Each group of Councillors ONLY deal with their ward constituents.

At a State level, Bonnet Bay is in Miranda electorate and Woronora is in Heathcote.

The communities of Bonnet Bay and Woronora, adjacent to each other, are both located along the Woronora River. These communities have both experienced increased risk of flooding due to the increased frequency of extreme rain events. This has included rain bombs over the catchment in July 2022 resulting in evacuations and significant damage. There has also been an increase in the frequency of the Woronora Dam spilling, due to the change in rainfall volume.

This has resulted in an increase in the number of flood alerts for these communities, with the most recent one in the first week of 2024.

It is important that the community can work with their local, State and Federal representatives to negotiate the appropriate funding/resources to manage this risk.

At the present time, Bonnet Bay is in the Miranda State electorate and Woronora is in the Heathcote State electorate. This means that we must try to engage with two different MPs from different political parties to coordinate the community preparedness actions. One MP is very effective, but the other is not.

The logistics of trying to negotiate with both is a nightmare. It means that we have to write to each of them, but because they don't represent all of us, they can't advocate for all of us.

Please don't advise me of how the community should deal with this because, we have tried. And you would understand local representation is essentially politics.

However, it has been good to have one Federal MP covering both of our communities and working for us all.

However, this proposed Federal boundary redistribution will further fragment our electoral representation. This means that we are like orphans, disconnected from our community links and

infrastructure in the east and the federal representation of that area. Just as we are disconnected from the Local Govt representation of our town centre. And having to deal with 2 State MPs to deal with our flood risk safety issues.

We would be grateful if you could shift that Cook boundary just a little towards the Woronora River and include the Wonnie people (both sides of the River. It is not a lot of people) and Bonnet Bay.

[SES orders evacuation of low-lying areas of Woronora overnight | St George & Sutherland Shire Leader | St George, NSW \(theleader.com.au\)](#)