



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 703

Janet McGarry

2 pages

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12 July 2024

Re: Proposed redistribution – Bennelong Constituency

I am writing to object to the proposal to change the boundaries of the current Bennelong constituency in Sydney.

I live in North Epping – at the far north end of this current constituency. The proposal is that all of North Epping, and some (main) parts of Epping are changed. In particular, North Epping would go to the Berowra constituency.

I understand that this is to accommodate for the removal of the North Sydney seat and therefore the need to tweak neighbouring constituencies.

I object though for the following reasons:

- Epping and North Epping already suffers from being a 'corner' area in the local council boundaries. This has resulted in the hiving off of Epping to City of Parramatta in 2016, but a totally arbitrary line was drawn down the M2 (an underground tunnel!) to leave North Epping in Hornsby. This has led to a serious neglect of our area – we are now purely a cash cow for Hornsby as we could not be any further away from the council headquarters. We are also separated from our natural environs of Epping – we have to drive through that to exit our suburb, and all our services are there – but we have a different council.
- This proposed change does the same thing again at Federal level – it hives off our area and parcels it into a constituency that we have no historic links with and where we will be the tiny portion at the end of it.
- There is no logical sense to change Bennelong. It is a historic constituency that has been well understood and served by past members (of all political flavour). Because of the diversity of Bennelong, it has changed hands between parties twice in the last 20 years. This is a benefit to democracy. With this change, why would the member for Berowra (a very safe seat) be bothered with us now?
- Natural geographic boundaries: I wonder if anyone from the commission has actually been in our area? If they visited they would see that we have a natural barrier at the top/north end of North Epping called the Lane Cove Valley. It loops around and encloses our suburb and links us intrinsically to Epping/Epping Road and points east along Epping Road. This barrier means we are a community that relates very rarely with

suburbs in the Berowra constituency like Cheltenham and Beecroft – they are physically hard to get to!

I urge the commission to reconsider this change. As a long term resident of North Epping, we are really fed up with being sliced and diced in governance terms – an outcome of which is neglect.

Yours

Janet McGarry