



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Suggestion 51

Dr Sophie Scamps MP

3 pages



DR SOPHIE SCAMPS MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR

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Australian Electoral Commission
Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

By AEC Online Forms

Dear Committee,

Redistribution of Federal Electoral Divisions in NSW (Mackellar electoral division)

I am writing to you as the Federal MP for Mackellar in relation to the electoral redistribution being undertaken to reduce the number of seats in NSW from 47 to 46.

I understand that Mackellar has been identified as an electoral division where the number of electors does not fall within the acceptable range of the projected enrolment quota to April 2028, and will have to slightly increase.

In my view, the guiding principle for the review should be that any new boundary for Mackellar should enhance rather than diminish the existing identity and cohesion of the community.

In the lead up to the 2022 Federal election, the Voices of Mackellar community group undertook hundreds of conversations to better understand the electorate. One of the questions asked was 'What do you value most about living in Mackellar?' There were two stand out responses: the strong sense of community spirit that connects us, and an appreciation of the unique and beautiful environment of the area.¹

Our love of Mackellar's unique natural environment, our beaches, waterways and bushland, is a unifying thread that connects the Mackellar community. It is the reason many people move to Mackellar despite the inconvenience of being a long distance from the centre of Sydney. This love of the environment is reflected in the *Mackellar Matters Report*,² in which protecting our local natural environment was the second most important issue raised by the people of Mackellar.

¹ Voices of Mackellar, *Mackellar Matters Report*, 2021, available [here](#).

² *Ibid*.



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Mackellar's local environment is unique in Sydney and has a powerful impact on our culture, pastimes and how we meet and connect. From Palm Beach to Dee Why, Mackellar is home to sixteen ocean beaches, many bayside beaches, beautiful waterways such as Coal and Candle Creek and Narrabeen Lagoon, and pristine bushland. The recreation and leisure activities which centre around Mackellar's beaches, bushland and rivers play an important role in strengthening community ties between people, both within suburbs and from different parts of the electorate.

The strong sense of community in Mackellar can be partially attributed to the outstanding community work of the 15 local surf clubs.³ The members and volunteers, when taken together, represent the largest community organisation in the electorate. These Northern Beaches Surf Lifesaving Clubs, through their lifesaving, surf sports and nippers activities, regularly collaborate, compete and celebrate together – building cohesion and connections up and down the electorate.

With our beautiful expanses of bushland, the Northern Beaches Rural Fire Service's 17 brigades and 18,000 volunteers are also an incredibly important source of our strong community spirit and local culture. Every Northern Beaches Rural Fire Service Brigade, as well as the Service's headquarters in Terrey Hills, are located wholly in Mackellar. This is another important community of interest for our constituents.

The Northern Beaches also has a vibrant music and creative arts culture that is unique and a strong part of the Mackellar identity. This identity and love of the arts has a long history in Mackellar. It includes the electorate's namesake, Dorothea Mackellar, and continues right up until today with highly successful contemporary bands such as Lime Cordiale, The Rions and Ocean Alley.

The economic base of Mackellar and the Northern Beaches is quite different to the Upper North Shore, as it is heavily based on small and medium businesses and people working in trades.

Importantly, the electoral division of Mackellar is situated entirely within the boundaries of the Northern Beaches Council. This fact adds to the strong sense of community cohesion in Mackellar and assists with collaboration between the different levels of government on important issues affecting our community.

³ There are 15 Surf Lifesaving Clubs in Mackellar: North Palm Beach, Palm Beach, Whale Beach, Avalon Beach, Bilgola Beach, Newport Beach, Bungan Beach, Mona Vale Beach, Warriewood Beach, North Narrabeen Beach, Narrabeen Beach, South Narrabeen Beach, Collaroy Beach, Long Reef Beach, Dee Why Beach. (Turimetta Beach is another beautiful ocean beach in Mackellar but does not have a Surf Lifesaving Club.)



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There is no doubt that the people of Mackellar overwhelmingly identify themselves as being from the Northern Beaches of Sydney. The beaches and arts lifestyle and culture, the Rural Fire Service community, and the significant benefits of being serviced by only one Council area and one Federal representative, together constitute the key communities of interest for the people of Mackellar.

I respectfully request that the Committee conducting the NSW electoral division review respects the importance of maintaining these existing unifying threads of the Northern Beaches community.

Yours faithfully,

Yours sincerely,



Dr Sophie Scamps MP