



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Suggestion 55

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5 pages

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Submission regarding all divisions:

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to make a submission. Given the numerical requirements and significant variance in growth rates this redistribution will in places provide some significant challenges. As I do not have the time or the expertise to graph and manipulate the data by SA district, I will not be providing maps, just a macro-overview of an approach that I believe will improve on some existing boundaries and help manage the necessary changes.

The enrolments and projected enrolments indicate that: -

- The 10 divisions comprising the Central Coast, Hunter and North Coast are slightly over quota and with adjustments within these 10 divisions could be without transferring voters in or out. however, I do note that the divisions of New England and Parkes are well short of projected quotas.
- The seats on north shore of Sydney (Mackellar, Warringah, North Sydney, Bradfield, Bennelong, Berowra and Parramatta are almost a seat under quota on projected numbers.
- The seats in Southern, Eastern and Inner Sydney (Wentworth, Kingsford Smith, Sydney, Grayndler, Reid, Watson, Blaxland, Barton, Banks, Cook and Hughes) are also nearly a seat under the quota on projected numbers.
- The balance of the Seats in the Sydney region – are nearly a quota over the projected quota especially the northwest and southwest orientated seats.

As a broad solution I would suggest that the committee look at: -

- abolishing a seat on the north shore and
- abolishing a seat south of the harbour and
- creating a new seat in western Sydney
- Effectively merging Blue Mountains into Calare to transfer voters to Western NSW seats which are well under the projected quota rather than effectively abolishing a rural seat.

This broad overview I believe is likely to result in a best solution to the challenges of the redistribution. I acknowledge that there will need to be compromises made, however.

In my submission I will be providing: -

- * a summary of “major” current issues with electoral boundaries (as I see them).
- * a high overview of the general direction that I think the committee should progress.

Current issues/imperfections: -

1. Eden Monaro crossing the Great Dividing Range
2. Cook crossing the St Georges River
3. The splitting of Whitlam between the Southern highlands and Illawarra
4. Macquarie being essentially a combination of Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury
5. Hughes seems to be a division of leftovers although I acknowledge that this is often necessary when redistributing boundaries.

I believe that the biggest issues are 4 and 1 and my submission is somewhat driven to improve these issues.

Starting point: -

The geography of NSW both state borders and internal geographical features provide limitations in approach. I would propose that the North Coastal and Central Coast/Hunter areas should be dealt with first.

Northern coastal NSW including Hunter and Central Coast

Existing divisions of Richmond, Page, Cowper, Lyne, Paterson, Newcastle, Shortland, Hunter, Dobell and Robertson.

I would propose that the existing divisions of Page, Richmond and Newcastle remain unchanged as they are projected to meet the existing numerical requirements.

Cascading transfers for the balance of the divisions using SA's as the commission sees fit: -

- Robertson gains from Dobell
- Dobell gains from Hunter
- Shortland gains from Hunter
- Paterson sheds voters at the western end to Hunter

Any excess from Hunter should see all or part of the Muswellbrook LGA and then the Singleton LGA transferred to New England which would be a better community of interest than Calare.

Western and Southern NSW

Divisions of New England, Parkes, Farrer, Riverina, Calare, Hume, Eden Monaro and Gilmore

This zone has several divisions that require substantial additions.

Farrer

Starting with Farrer – there has been some commentary that Broken Hill should or could be transferred back to Farrer. I believe that this is a bad idea.

Whilst Broken Hill has little in common with Dubbo it has more in common than with either Wagga Wagga or Albury. To achieve one of my main

goals of returning Eden Monaro to areas on and east of the Great Dividing Range I suggest transferring the LGA of Tumbarumba to Farrer. If additional voters need

To be transferred then a number can be transferred to Riverina.

New England

In addition to any surplus voters from Hunter the only viable option for New England to gain voters is from Parkes. Crossing the Great Dividing Range into coastal division(s) would not make any sense.

Parkes

Having shed voters to New England Parkes is now very under quota, I would suggest that the commission in order to bring up Parkes to quota transfer all or part of: -

- the LGA of Parks from Riverina
- The LGA's of Wellington, Mid-Western Regional, Carbone and Orange from Calare

Calare

Calare then has numerical room to move to take the Blue Mountains from McQuarie with McQuarie either ceasing to exist or becoming a NW Sydney based division.

This will remove one of the major existing "community of interest" or lack of barriers as I see it.

Riverina

Having lost the LGA Parkes to the division of Parkes additional voters will be needed and the following suggestions are made: -

- Transfer from the division of Eden Monaro the LGA's of Tumut and Yass Valley.
- Transfer the GLA of Boorowa from Hume
- If additional voters are required, then ostensibly the best place to transfer from the LGA of Upper Lachlan with a preference for the areas adjoining the LGA of Yass Valley

Eden Monaro / Gilmore

Eden Monaro then moves northwards taking sufficient territory/voters from Gilmore to meet requirements. Gilmore then moves north taking territory from Whitlam.

Hume

Hume having shed voters to Riverina gains from Whitlam the part of the LGA of Wingecarribee that is in Whitlam.

Whitlam and Cunningham

Whitlam will then take enough voters from the southern portion of Cunningham to satisfy numerical requirements. Cunningham then moves norths taking voters from Hughes effectively creating a hybrid seat between the Northern Illawarra and Southern suburbs of Sydney. Whilst this is far from ideal, I believe that this is the least worst option and may enable the removal of current boundaries that are "worse".

Sydney area

Owing to challenges I had with the mapping software I will be limiting my comments to Southern, Eastern, Northern and parts of central Sydney. The very significant issues With a number of current seats that are well over the quota mean I will leave that area for others to comment on.

Mackellar

The only viable option is for Mackellar to take voters from Bradfield. I can see no benefit especially in and around community of interest in taking voters from Bradfield.

Warringah will then need to take a significant number of voters from North Sydney.

North Sydney

Given the very significant shortage of voters in Northern Sydney east of Mitchell I feel that the best option is to eliminate North Sydney, or effectively merge it with Bradfield.

If current demographic trends continue then the area of North Sydney will likely end up in Warringah at the next redistribution. Voters are shed to Bennelong, Bradfield and Warringah.

I would suggest that the name Bradfield be kept rather than the geographic North Sydney.

Bradfield

Bradfield will then in turn gain voters from the northern end of North Sydney.

Bennelong

Bennelong will take in Hunters Hill and part of Lance Cove from North Sydney.

Parramatta

Parramatta shifts east and northward taking in required voters from Bennelong and if needed Mitchell.

Cook/Hughes

I am not a fan of Cook crossing the Georges River and would like to see Cook revert to a Shire based seat.

Hughes would then need to move and given the excess voters in Southwestern Sydney could move westwards.

Wentworth/Kingsford Smith

Is well under quota and will need to move westwards to absorb voters from Sydney. Kingsford Smith then takes voters from the southern portion of Sydney.

There seems to be little community of interest between Kingsford Smith and Barton so to me the best option is to take voters from Sydney.

Sydney/Grayndler/Reid/Watson/Blaxland/Banks and Barton.

With Sydney having shed voters to Wentworth and Kingsford Smith it is very under quota. The above group of seats needs to shed a seat and I would suggest that

Merging Barton and Banks is the best option as follows; -

- Reid stays largely as is being only a little short and within tolerance albeit just.
- Sydney takes voters from Grayndler.
- Grayndler takes voters from Barton in the majority plus some from Watson.
- Blaxland takes in voters from the west of Banks.
- Banks/Barton is comprised of the balance of these seats plus the area transferred from Cook. If excess voters from these seats are left they could be transferred to Fowler or McMahon

Balance of Sydney.

I will not be providing any commentary except that to say that a new seat will need to be created to absorb the excess voters.

I apologise to the commission and readers for computer issues resulting in no maps.

Best wishes,

Michael Ritchie