



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Comment on suggestion 12

Darren McSweeney

18 pages

# Comment on Suggestions Redistribution of Commonwealth Electoral Divisions

Darren McSweeney



**New South Wales 2023**

*Bondi Beach, Bondi*

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This Public Comment on Suggestions was lodged 6 November 2023 by  
**Darren McSweeney**  
an Australian Citizen, resident of Victoria, and member of the Australian Public Service.



I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters throughout Australia, recognise their custodianship for many thousands of years and their continuing living culture. I pay my respects to their ancestors and Elders, past and present.

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I hold no interest in, and do not stand to receive any benefit or advantage resulting from the outcome of this redistribution. I have written this submission as a private citizen taking a personal interest in psephology and the electoral redistribution process. I am not now, nor at any time in the past been a member of any political party or similar associated organisation.

This submission is lodged claiming political neutrality. No political bias or partiality is implied within this submission and none should be inferred. This submission is lodged in accordance with [guidelines for making public submissions to a redistribution](#). The political implications – if any – of the recommendations have not formed part of the recommendation and should not be inferred.

Division names – including any suggested new names– comply with [guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions](#). Suggested names are based on the individual's merit and contribution to Australian society, and do not imply any political bias towards the eponymous persons. Proposals to abolish or rename a division – if any – do not reflect the performance or character of the current member of Parliament representing that division or the eponymous person, unless specified.

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## Introduction

I am providing comment on most of the suggestions submitted for the redistribution of New South Wales electoral divisions.

I intended to provide comments on every suggestion, however, given the large number of statewide suggestions, and the short timeframes to provide comments, I do not have time to undertake a thorough analysis of all suggestions in detail.

Therefore, I will focus on the proposed divisions to be abolished, some general themes found in the drawing of boundaries, and new suggestions for names of divisions.

## Divisions suggested to be abolished

Overall, eleven existing divisions were named as proposed to be abolished. There was consensus that a division on the North Shore needed to go, as well as one in the Inner West or south of the city. Often two, or sometimes even three, divisions are suggested, with new divisions being suggested elsewhere, usually in either the north-west or south-west of Sydney. At times it was difficult to ascertain exactly which division was abolished, as some suggestions proposed transferring the name to other divisions, or another proposed division was significantly altered enough that it was, in effect, abolished and renamed.

Division to be abolished	Suggestion number
<b>BANKS</b>	<i>Suggestion 29; Suggestion 31; Suggestion 54; Suggestion 55</i>
<b>BARTON</b>	<i>Suggestion 25; Suggestion 55</i>
<b>BEROWRA</b>	<i>Suggestion 7; Suggestion 19; Suggestion 40; Suggestion 58</i>
<b>BLAXLAND</b>	<i>Suggestion 13; Suggestion 16; Suggestion 47; Suggestion 56</i>
<b>BRADFIELD</b>	<i>Suggestion 12; Suggestion 26; Suggestion 35; Suggestion 41; Suggestion 46</i>
<b>CUNNINGHAM</b>	<i>Suggestion 43</i>
<b>FOWLER</b>	<i>Suggestion 25</i>
<b>GRAYNDLER</b>	<i>Suggestion 18; Suggestion 35; Suggestion 43; Suggestion 50; Suggestion 53</i>
<b>HUGHES</b>	<i>Suggestion 48; Suggestion 56</i>
<b>NORTH SYDNEY</b>	<i>Suggestion 14; Suggestion 16; Suggestion 18; Suggestion 25; Suggestion 31; Suggestion 39; Suggestion 43; Suggestion 45; Suggestion 49; Suggestion 50; Suggestion 54; Suggestion 55; Suggestion 56</i>
<b>WARRINGAH</b>	<i>Suggestion 40; Suggestion 47; Suggestion 53</i>

The overwhelming majority of suggestions included the removal of **NORTH SYDNEY** or **BRADFIELD**. In some cases, these names were retained at the expense of other divisions (like **WARRINGAH** or **BEROWRA**), but the general make-up of the new divisions indicated that either of **NORTH SYDNEY** or **BRADFIELD** were to be removed.

Essentially, the plans in this area are to expand **MACKELLAR** either south into **WARRINGAH** or west into **BRADFIELD**. Taking the first option, **WARRINGAH** then expands west into **NORTH SYDNEY**. This leaves little of **NORTH SYDNEY** actually in the suburb or local government area so it makes little sense to retain the name. As I mentioned in my suggestion, this is further compounded by the name containing the name of another division with a qualifier. In two previous redistributions in South Australia and Victoria, a duplicated division name was removed in **PORT ADELAIDE** and **MELBOURNE PORTS**. Abolishing the name **NORTH SYDNEY** would achieve this same result. I will note that **MELBOURNE PORTS** was also a federation name, that by the time it was replaced, had become obsolete. This also applies to **NORTH SYDNEY**. In fact, I believe **NORTH SYDNEY** being a federation division is the only reason preventing all suggestions choosing this name to be abolished.

South of Harbour, there was less consensus on names, but most suggestions proposed a reduction in the number of divisions in this area from seven to six (not counting divisions along the coast). The most common proposal in this area was to abolish **GRAYNDLER**, then **BANKS**, **BLAXLAND** and **BARTON**. There were no suggestions that proposed abolishing any of **REID**, **SYDNEY** or **WATSON**.

Regardless of the way this is addressed, most submissions had the same general idea. **SYDNEY** having to move west, takes most of the areas in the northern part of **GRAYNDLER**. This then means either **GRAYNDLER** itself moves west into **REID** – a situation that few suggestions made – or it moves either south, or south-west. The other alternative is that this division is abolished.

If **GRAYNDLER** moves, then either **BARTON** or **BANKS** is usually the division that is abolished. In some cases, **BARTON** is abolished, but then **GRAYNDLER** is renamed to preserve a division named for the first prime minister. In a few cases, including my suggestion, the changes are pushed even further out and that makes **BLAXLAND** the division removed. In one bizarre case, **BANKS** is pushed across the Georges River resulting in the abolition of **HUGHES**.

I'd probably say I'd prefer to see either **BLAXLAND** or **BANKS** as the division name that is retired. This is because both these divisions were named for colonial era persons, and would likely have little connection to Australia. In the case of Joseph Banks, his time spent in Australia can be measured in weeks. However, I have no desire to maintain **GRAYNDLER** as a division name either. I would say that had a proposal for a new division occur today, **GRAYNDLER** would never have been suggested. To suggest that Edward Grayndler would compare to other individuals for whom a division would be named is not realistic.

## General themes presented in suggestions.

### Hunter, Central Coast and Lake Macquarie, Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers

A few suggestions made recommendations within the Hunter or Lake Macquarie region. Mostly they related to the individual suburbs in the region, and do not have a lot of merit when taken statewide.

Of the suggestions that looked at the whole region or the entire state, most agreed that removing Muswellbrook Shire would bring the entire region to within tolerance. Some suggestions put forward transfers between **NEW ENGLAND** and other parts of this region, in most cases crossing the Great Dividing Range. While there may be one or two roads, or even highways linking these areas, the majority of communication and travel on both sides of the Great Dividing Range is along north-south lines. There is little east-west communication or travel and I would not support any suggestion that placed areas along the North Coast with either the Northern Tablelands or New England.

Most suggestions within this region concern the less-than-ideal situation where **COWPER** spans both Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie, but contains neither of them in their entirety. This situation is unable to be fully rectified without excising a large number of electors to **NEW ENGLAND** across the Great Dividing Range or making extensive, and awkward changes within the Hunter Valley.

I support the principle of separating Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie, however I do not feel it should be achieved at the expense of other less connected communities elsewhere.

**Suggestion 6 - Fulin Yan** advocates for Lord Howe Island to be transferred from **SYDNEY** to **COWPER**. I have proposed this transfer in the past previously and I continue to support this. Having said that, Lord Howe Island has been part of the division of **SYDNEY** since its inception, although I have found no reasoning ever given for this to continue.

### South Coast, Sutherland, Illawarra and Southern Highlands

A number of suggestions propose that the division of **WHITLAM** lose the Southern Highlands section of the division, while **Suggestion 17 - Rose** states that the towns and localities facing the Royal National Park should be within the same division. These suggestions are analogous to my own suggestion so I do support these positions.

A large number of suggestions propose that Marrickville, and other surrounding areas be transferred from **BARTON** back into **GRAYNDLER**. Using the Cooks River as a boundary is inherently logical in this area.

Similarly, many suggestions also proposes that the St George area no longer be included in the division of **COOK**. This was considered unacceptable last time, and I think can easily be rectified, as demonstrated by the large number of suggestions advocating for this arrangement.

There were many different suggestions for how to handle **HUGHES**. A number of suggestions combined **HUGHES** with **CUNNINGHAM** (with various guises and name configurations). Some chose to cross the Georges River upstream of the Woronora River. Most of these suggestions chose to abolish **BANKS** as a result, or pushed **BANKS** into nearby **BARTON** or **BLAXLAND** and abolished one of those.

Some suggestions abolished **HUGHES** altogether, or effectively abolished it by shifting the name down to replace **CUNNINGHAM**.

Personally, I'd be keen to see **HUGHES** gain an actual identity. At the moment it is comprised of the pieces of Sutherland Shire leftover after **COOK** and **CUNNINGHAM** are drawn. These are then combined with unrelated parts of Liverpool City, using the Holsworthy Military Reserve as a contiguous, but impassable connection. In my opinion, failing the abolition of the division, it would be well served to push north and west into Liverpool, leaving all of the Sutherland components to be taken up by **COOK** and **CUNNINGHAM**.

Finally, the other area that is discussed in detail here is the placement of the Snowy Valleys and Yass Valley Councils in **EDEN-MONARO**. Most suggestions agree that these two local government areas share more connections with the divisions to the west or north – being **FARRER**, **RIVERINA** or **HUME** than they do with any part of **EDEN-MONARO**. Therefore they should both be transferred into one, or more, of these divisions and most suggestions manage to achieve this without causing major issues elsewhere. Combined with the transfer of the Southern Highlands out of **WHITLAM**, the transfers in this area make sense logically and I support any move to rectify this deficiency.

### **Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and the Central West**

This is a theme that occurs regularly within suggestions. **MACQUARIE** currently contains both Blue Mountains City Council and Hawkesbury Shire. While these two areas share many similarities, they have virtually no communication or travel between them. The Blue Mountains area has more affinity with both Penrith to the east, currently in **LINDSAY**, or the towns to the west, currently in the division of **CALARE**. Several suggestions look to break this area into two, but there are several approaches as to how to handle the situation.

Some placed parts of Penrith City Council into the same division as the Blue Mountains. Some merged the Blue Mountains with Lithgow, Bathurst or even as far as Orange. Some placed the Blue Mountains with areas around Penrith but not the main city centre.



As far as names of the division, most suggestions named **MACQUARIE** as the Blue Mountains based division, although one suggestion named this **CALARE**, and some suggested a new name be used.

At the other end other end in Hawkesbury, some added parts of neighbouring **BEROWRA** or the northern sections of Penrith or Blacktown City Councils. This was generally, an expanded **BEROWRA**, or a new division centred on the region. One suggestion reverted **GREENWAY** to the short-lived 2006-2009 version extending it to the Hawkesbury region.

I had explored splitting these communities as part of my suggestion, but I found it led to sub-optimal results elsewhere. As the redistribution process is a balancing act of numbers versus communities of interests, I opted to leave the boundaries of **MACQUARIE** as they were. However, if the boundaries could be accommodated to split these communities without compromising communities of interests in other divisions, I would support a change such as this.

### **North Shore, Northern Beaches and The Hills**

The general theme within this area is that there is no coherent theme. It is obvious that a division in this area needs to be abolished, lest it pushes the division far into the western suburbs of Sydney. A great many configurations are suggested in here, many of them political in nature.

I also think there seems to be extra scrutiny on the micro communities within the North Shore, and a lot of justification for making suggestions seems to hinge on keeping individual suburbs either together or separate. This hyper-local focus is not given to other areas of the state, and suggestions that focus on it here fail to consistently apply the same type of focus in other parts of the state.

As I stated in my original methodology the very nature of a redistribution means that a line must be drawn on a map at some place. There will ultimately be people living on one side of the line who think they should be on the other side. That is impossible to avoid and when considering the boundaries of the North Shore we should keep in mind that the individual communities, while distinct, will need to be combined with larger areas. This is especially true when the larger area itself is less distinct than in many other parts of the state.

## Names of divisions

### Suggested division names to replace an existing division

Suggested name	Named for	Replacing	Reasoning to replace existing name	Suggestion
No new name specified	Not applicable	Blaxland	"...description of [Blaxland] does not imply that the character was really the leader, or the big face, of any expeditions in the early history."	Suggestion 39 - Warren Grzic
No new name specified	Not applicable	Mitchell	"...not continue to recognise a man who took part in the [Mount Dispersion massacre on 27 May 1836]"	S12 - Duncan Anderson
No new name specified	Not applicable	New England	"it is no longer exclusively in the region..."	S10 - PJ
No new name specified	Not applicable	Paterson	"...William Paterson authorised a massacre of the Bediagal...resulted in the deaths of seven or eight Bediagal people." "...not appropriate for a division to be named for Colonel Paterson." "...retain the name of Paterson... only in honour of Andrew 'Banjo' Paterson."	Suggestion 32 - James Punch
Awaba	The Awabakal name for Lake Macquarie	Shortland	"... naming divisions for people or prime ministers so disconnected from the relevant communities of interest undermines the system of representation..."	Suggestion 56 - Joshua Lucock
Brock	Peter Geoffrey Brock AM	Calare	"...as the Lachlan River is no longer in the division"	Suggestion 25 - Benjamin Close
Bruxner	Lt Col The Hon Micheal Frederick Bruxner KBE, DSO, JP	New England	"...the name differentiates between New England and Northern Tablelands, both names are used for the same geographical area."	Suggestion 20 - G Verri
Burrumbidgee	The name of the local area in Darug language	Parramatta	"pays homage to the rich indigenous history and culture of the region."	S6 - Fulin Yan

Suggested name	Named for	Replacing	Reasoning to replace existing name	Suggestion
Dooragan	The name of a local national park, named for a character in a story from The Dreaming.	Lyne	"abandoning... Lyne... who contributed to [Constitutional] conventions...excluded First Nations Peoples...[and as such is] not deserving of continuation any further in our history."	Suggestion 38 - Patrick Corr
Evatt	Rt Hon Herbert Vere Evatt QC, PC, KStJ	Shortland or Berowra	"...recognise the contributions he made both to Australia and the world." "...a British naval officer who died in 1810..." "... A locality name, be... considered for renaming."	Suggestion 23 - Stephen Lesslie
Fischer	The Hon Timothy Andrew Fischer AC FTSE	Eden-Monaro	"...existing Eden-Monaro is rearranged..."	Suggestion 31 - Mark Mulcair
Hunter River	The name for the river in the area	Newcastle and/or Shortland	Merged division "bring the two areas together as one community"	S1 – Andrew Kalokerinos
Illawarra	a Dharawal name synonymous with the region of the Wollongong and Shellharbour	Whitlam	"... naming divisions for people or prime ministers so disconnected from the relevant communities of interest undermines the system of representation..."	Suggestion 56 - Joshua Lucock
Lake Macquarie	The name of the natural geographic feature and Local Government Area	Shortland	"...ensure that electorates more readily represent local areas that are more closely aligned."	Suggestion 27 - John Pritchard
Macquarie	Maj Gen Lachlan Macquarie CB	Calare	"... Most ATSI[sic] <sup>1</sup> are also place names..." "... boundaries which do not include those places..."	Suggestion 47 - Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division
Malubimba	The name of the local area in Awabakal language.	Newcastle and/or Shortland	Merged division "bring the two areas together as one community"	S1 – Andrew Kalokerinos

<sup>1</sup> The use of the acronym "ATSI" can be offensive and should have been avoided in this suggestion: [https://www.stylemanual.gov.au/accessible-and-inclusive-content/inclusive-language/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples#respectful language use starts with the basics](https://www.stylemanual.gov.au/accessible-and-inclusive-content/inclusive-language/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples#respectful-language-use-starts-with-the-basics)

Suggested name	Named for	Replacing	Reasoning to replace existing name	Suggestion
Marramarra	a Dharug name for the National Park	Berowra	"... geographic names are losing relevance."	Suggestion 29 - Peter Mitchell
Marrong	local Dharug language name for Prospect Hill	McMahon	"... naming divisions for people or prime ministers so disconnected from the relevant communities of interest undermines the system of representation..."	Suggestion 56 - Joshua Lucock
Mulubinba	an Awabakal name meaning "Place of Sea Fern"	Newcastle	"... naming divisions for people or prime ministers so disconnected from the relevant communities of interest undermines the system of representation..."	Suggestion 56 - Joshua Lucock
Murrumbidgee	a prominent geographic feature for communities in Wagga Wagga, Gundagai, and the Yass Valley	Riverina	"... naming divisions for people or prime ministers so disconnected from the relevant communities of interest undermines the system of representation..."	Suggestion 56 - Joshua Lucock
North Sydney	The geographic location	Berowra	"...keep federation division names..."	Suggestion 15 - Nimalan Sivakumar
Ritchie	Donald Taylor Ritchie OAM	Wentworth	"...his work in preventing suicides at The Gap..." "... and prevent honouring a person who have committed atrocities to the Indigenous prior to Federation."	Suggestion 18 - Leon Shinkai
Sydney Harbour	The geographic feature	Warringah	"Warringah becomes Sydney Harbour"	Suggestion 25 - Benjamin Close
Warrane	the local Gadigal name for Sydney Cove	Sydney	"... naming divisions for people or prime ministers so disconnected from the relevant communities of interest undermines the system of representation..."	Suggestion 56 - Joshua Lucock
Woronora	Dharawal name for the Woronora River	Cunningham	"... naming divisions for people or prime ministers so disconnected from the relevant communities of interest undermines the system of representation..."	Suggestion 56 - Joshua Lucock

## Suggested names for a new division

Suggested name	Named for	Reasoning	Suggestion
Bird Walton	Nancy-Bird Walton AO OBE	"She qualifies as one who has 'rendered outstanding service to her country'."ats	Suggestion 47 - Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division
Bellar	Robert William Bellar and Solomon David Bellar AM	"... worked tirelessly to improve welfare of... indigenous Australians and... more than worthy recipients..."	Suggestion 16 - Darren McSweeney
Bradman	Sir Donald Bradman AC	"...no explanation needed of who he is."	Suggestion 25 - Benjamin Close
Cabramatta	meaning "freshwater grub place" in the Dharug local language	"... seek to use names better tied to local communities and names of prominent geographic features of divisions." • Where possible... use local Indigenous names for prominent geographic features of divisions."	Suggestion 56 - Joshua Lucock
Druitt	Maj George Druitt	"... firstly because George Druitt was the first to be granted land in the area and was behind the creation of many roads and bridges in Sydney, and secondly because Mount Druitt, whom was named after him, would be the major centre of the electorate."	Suggestion 40 - Damien Ferri
Dyarubbin	the local Dharug-language name for the Hawkesbury River	"... seek to use names better tied to local communities and names of prominent geographic features of divisions." • Where possible... use local Indigenous names for prominent geographic features of divisions."	Suggestion 56 - Joshua Lucock
Patyegarang	Gamaraigal woman Patyegarang	"...a young Gamaraigal woman who taught the Gadigal language to coloniser William Dawes in the early 1800s."	Suggestion 37 - Miranda Ball
Pemulwuy	Bidjigal man Pemulwuy	"...aboriginal political and resistance leader..."	Suggestion 25 - Benjamin Close
Pemulwuy	Bidjigal man Pemulwuy	"...a remarkable man, with a remarkable story from the early settler times in Sydney."	Suggestion 36 - Mia Ginnivan
Perkins	Charles Nelson Perkins AO	[none stated]	Suggestion 15 - Nimalan Sivakumar

Suggested name	Named for	Reasoning	Suggestion
Reibey	Mary Reibey	"She qualifies as one who has 'rendered outstanding service to her country'."	Suggestion 47 - Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division
Walton	Nancy-Bird Walton AO OBE	who was a pioneering Australian aviator, known as "The Angel of the Outback" and the founder and patron of the Australian Women Pilots' Association."	Suggestion 25 - Benjamin Close
Walton	Nancy-Bird Walton AO OBE	"... her name will grace the new Western Sydney Airport, which will be included in the...new seat."	Suggestion 31 - Mark Mulcair
Walton	Nancy-Bird Walton AO OBE	"This seat should include the new Western Sydney Airport, which has also been named in her honour."	Suggestion 54 - Conor Magee

The issue of appropriate behaviour and conduct of colonial-era men is raised again. Suggestions have been made that **MITCHELL** and **WENTWORTH** be renamed due to the conduct of Thomas Mitchell and William Wentworth. Additionally, a suggestion put forward that the division of **PATERSON** be rededicated to honour only Andrew 'Banjo' Paterson in light of the conduct of William Paterson. Finally, it was suggested that the division of **LYNE** be renamed as William Lyne, as a member of the constitutional convention, was responsible for mistreatment of aboriginal and indigenous Australians.

I would be hesitant to include **LYNE** in the same regard as the other examples here. William Lyne was a politician, and he – along with several other prominent individuals – designed the constitution of Australia. If we were to engage in renaming divisions simply because the original constitution disadvantaged Indigenous Australians, there would be a great many divisions to be renamed.

I am of the opinion that the Committee should seek to rename divisions when the conduct of the eponymous person is called into question. We have already established precedent in this regard, with numerous divisions in other states being renamed. I would support the suggestions to dedicate **PATERSON** only to honour Andrew "Banjo" Paterson. I would also support the suggestions to rename **MITCHELL** and **WENTWORTH**, if appropriate alternative names could be sought. With that, the list of new suggestions provided could easily accommodate the names to be retired.

I am not in support of renaming any existing division or creating a new division with a geographic based name, even of Aboriginal or Indigenous origin. The guidelines for naming divisions states that divisions "...should be named after deceased Australians who have rendered outstanding service to their country." This means that geographic names are not appropriate for new division names. I support this policy for four primary reasons.

Firstly, trying to find an appropriate geographic name to represent all the communities of interests in the division can be difficult. A geographic feature will likely not be recognised as representing all the distinct areas of the division. This is exacerbated the larger the division gets, such as most regional or rural divisions.

Secondly, many geographic names replicate local government areas or state electoral districts. This can cause confusion when the same name is applied to both a commonwealth and state electoral division or a local government. This is compounded, when the boundaries of the division are not aligned with the state district or council. There may be several instances where electors are within the same council or state district are in different commonwealth divisions and vice versa.

Thirdly, A geographically named division then needs to contain its namesake. This could cause problems with future redistributions, which are the twisted and contorted to maintain the connection. The other option is to continuously rename divisions to apply a geographic name within its boundaries. We see this frequently when the names of state districts are updated to account for this, lest we have a situation like **WERRIWA** where the name is no longer relevant to the division.

Finally, the notion that divisions are named for prominent Australians is a rare approach in electoral division naming conventions throughout the world. Most jurisdictions apply geographic names, or simply number their electoral districts. Australia has a rich history of honouring prominent individuals with division names, and it would unfortunate if this practice were to cease.

For these reasons I do not support any suggestion to rename an existing division or create a new division with a geographic-based name, even if the name is of Indigenous origin.

I would support a division named **FISCHER** for the former National Party leader and Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer, as suggested by **Suggestion 31 - Mark Mulcair**. I believe that he is a worthy and well-respected candidate. The only reservation that I have is that the name **FISCHER** would be too similar to the existing division **FISHER** in Queensland. As the Queensland division is named for a former prime minister, it is unlikely that a division named for Fischer could be considered. I had considered **FISCHER** as a division name for **RIVERINA** in my own suggestion but decided not to adopt for this very reason.

As for the other suggested names, I would not have any issue with the names, **BRUXNER EVATT**, **PERKINS**, **RITCHE**, or my own suggestion **BELLEAR**.

The names **PATYEGARANG**, **PEMULWUY** or **REIBEY** would be acceptable if the Committee wanted to honour indigenous Australians or a prominent woman, however, again, I feel that we, as a

nation, are probably able to move away from naming divisions after people in the penal or colonial history periods.

Australia as a country has existed for nearly a century and a quarter. There are countless individuals that have made achievements in this almost 123-year period. Rather than relying on naming divisions after individuals from the eighteenth century, we should be looking first at contemporary individuals.

I do not support a division named **BROCK** or **DRUITT**. In the first case, I disagree with naming divisions after sport stars. Peter Brock did little outside of his field of sport to warrant a division named for him. In the second case, **DRUITT** would be easily confused with the geographic name Mount Druitt. And, being that he was a British soldier who sailed to Australia during the penal colony era, he is not representative of modern Australia.

### **A division named after Nancy-Bird Walton**

**Suggestion 25 - Benjamin Close**, **Suggestion 31 - Mark Mulcair**, and **Suggestion 54 - Conor Magee** all proposed a new division named **WALTON** after Nancy-Bird Walton AO OBE. Likewise, **Suggestion 47 - Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division** suggested the same division, but with the name **BIRD WALTON**.

All of these suggestions put forward the name for a division covering the outer south-western area of Sydney, in particular a division containing Badgerys Creek. This is where Sydney's second airport is currently being constructed and will be named in honour of Nancy-Bird Walton. I support a division named after Walton. Her achievements are commendable, significant and deserving. This would be a fitting name for a division in this area.

The matter then turns to whether **WALTON** or **BIRD WALTON** is the more correct name. Born Nancy Bird, she married Charles Walton and took his surname<sup>2</sup>, becoming Nancy Walton. She then adopted the moniker Nancy-Bird. From the time she was married, it seems she used Walton solely as her last name, and Nancy-Bird was a preferred first name<sup>3</sup>. There does not ever appear to be any references that Bird was part of her surname once she was married. Indeed, Qantas named an aeroplane in her honour, and carried Nancy-Bird as a first name<sup>4</sup>. In this regard, I think a division here should simply be referred to as **WALTON**.

In support of this, I would suggest that my original suggestion could be amended to incorporate this name. My original proposal named this area as **WERRIWA**, but the majority of electors in the existing **WERRIWA** were to be transferred into my proposed **HUGHES**. This would be resolved by naming the division I suggested as **WERRIWA** to be **WALTON**, and the division I

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<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy\\_Bird\\_Walton#Personal\\_life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy_Bird_Walton#Personal_life)

<sup>3</sup> <https://australian.museum/about/history/exhibitions/trailblazers/nancy-bird-walton/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy\\_Bird\\_Walton#cite\\_ref-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy_Bird_Walton#cite_ref-8)



suggested to be **HUGHES** as **WERRIWA**. This would then mean the division of **HUGHES** is essentially abolished in my suggestion. To retain the name of a division named for a prime minister, I would suggest that the name **HUGHES** is then applied to the division I proposed as **CUNNINGHAM**, effectively retiring the name **CUNNINGHAM**.

This similar proposal is made by a number of other suggestions, so it is supported.

### **A division named after Donald Bradman**

**Suggestion S25 by Benjamin Close** proposes a new division named **BRADMAN** after the much-exalted cricket player Sir Donald Bradman AC. This is not the first time **BRADMAN** has been suggested as division name in a New South Wales redistribution, with the Liberal Party submission suggesting the name in 2009, and the Labor Party suggestion proposing the name in 2016. While his abilities on the cricket pitch are undeniable, I vehemently oppose any efforts to name an electoral division after him.

Donald Bradman has been honoured many, many times over<sup>5</sup> in all other areas of society. He has been immortalised in television series, movies, songs, video games, postage stamps, coins, commemorative medals and statues. He has had grandstands at both the Sydney Cricket Ground and the Adelaide Oval named after him, as well as an entrance at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. His full name is given to Sir Donald Bradman Drive in Adelaide. It is claimed that he has been the subject of more biographies than any other Australian after Ned Kelly. Including additional pictorial essays, artworks and anthologies, he is likely the most written about and depicted Australian in history. His collection of scrapbooks, journals and memorabilia is on permanent display at the State Library of South Australia. Museums have been established in both his birthplace Cootamundra and his hometown of Bowral.

The University of Wollongong offers a scholarship in his name. He has a rose named after him. He had a British naval vessel named after him. His name was invoked in a code phrase used by allied forces during the Second World War. He has an asteroid named after him. He was an inaugural inductee into all of the Sport Australia Hall of Fame, the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame, and the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. He was the inaugural winner of the Sport Australia Hall of Fame Awards. His nickname is given to "The Don" Award from the Sport Australia Hall of Fame. His name is given to sporting medals by Cricket Australia and the South Australian Cricket Association. His name is now protected from commercial use by law, in the same regard as the Royal Family, the Returned and Services League and the word Anzac.

His memory has been overly romanticised to cult-status, But I do not believe that his contributions away from the field of play warrant the honour of an electoral division. His [profile on the Australian Dictionary of Biography](#) is over 5,000 words. It focusses almost

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<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don\\_Bradman\\_in\\_popular\\_culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Bradman_in_popular_culture)

exclusively on his cricket. His [Wikipedia page](#) runs to 12,000 words and describes his achievements in great detail. With only the exception of three of the 4 paragraphs about his childhood and four paragraphs describing his marriage, children and family, every other part of the article involves his cricket career as either a player, administrator, cricket writer or journalist, or his reclusive life after retirement. There is one mention of the museum in Bowral being reformed as a charitable trust. No other information about any philanthropic, benevolent, or charitable works are stated. The [Don Bradman disambiguation](#) page reveals no further achievements other than his cricket.

His personal contributions to society are minimal at best. I have been unable to ascertain whether he actually established the Bradman Foundation, or if it was created independently with his support and in his name. Regardless, from their website<sup>6</sup>, as far as their charitable efforts are concerned, they seek to promote and support “the link between mental health and high performance”. They do this through “sharing inspiring stories” at the museum and running some local cricketing programs<sup>7</sup> in Bowral. This is hardly a significant, nationwide achievement or contribution.

Furthermore, it has been consistently mentioned that he wasn't really a generous, charitable or benevolent individual.

His teammates respected him as a player, but not necessarily as a person<sup>8</sup>. His persona was described by his contemporaries as aloof, and miserly<sup>9</sup>. Many of the controversies<sup>10</sup> around his character demonstrate that his view was that cricket was merely a means to be paid and gain wealth. There are several documented cases of his decision to threaten to abandon tours for paid promotions. At other times he made demands for lavish or extreme payment to tour or perform for promotions<sup>11</sup>. Although there was no evidence that he was involved, his time as a stockbroker with H.W. Hodgetts & Co coincided with the collapse of the firm and fraud allegations of the proprietor<sup>12</sup>. He then established his own stockbroking firm at the same address, managing many of the same clients.

Sports persons are not represented in electoral division names and I believe this is for a good reason. Australian society already places a large (some would say inflated) emphasis on sport. Athletes are held in high regard, but their achievements are mostly personal, individual or team-based. Other than the feeling of goodwill, high spirits or a morale-boost, sporting

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bradman.com.au/bradman-foundation>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.bradman.com.au/oval-walk>

<sup>8</sup> <https://crictoday.com/cricket/news/don-bradman-was-not-a-good-person-ian-chappell/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.thenewdaily.com.au/sport/cricket/2014/01/28/shattering-bradman-myth>

<sup>10</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Controversies\\_involving\\_Don\\_Bradman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Controversies_involving_Don_Bradman)

<sup>11</sup> <https://365notout.com/hotness/how-donald-duck-was-named-after-the-babe-ruth-of-cricket>

<sup>12</sup> <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/50002050>

achievements from individuals or teams do not provide any actual benefit or advantage to the greater population. For this reason, I believe sport stars should be appropriately commemorated in the sporting arena, the media, or with statues, monuments or buildings.

But not in electoral divisions. I feel that electoral division names should reflect those members of society that often go unrecognised. Contemporary candidates in social, political, scientific, artistic, academic, economic or other fields, should be honoured. Sports stars are well-recognised already in their own arena. Should a sports star become involved in one of these other fields either during or after their time in sport, that their contribution in these fields alone warrants recognition, then I have no problem honouring them with a division name.

However, sport stars should not be honoured simply for their sporting prowess alone. No one is dismissing Bradman's abilities, prowess or legendary status in the cricketing world, or the sporting world in general. However, Donald Bradman does not, in any way, qualify to receive the distinction of having a electoral division named for him.

## Conclusion

Overall, while there appear to be several disparate suggestions, most suggestions are actually working toward achieving the same outcome, using the same few approaches. On the whole, the suggestions are working to improve the major deficiencies in the existing divisions. I do not envy work ahead of the Committee and trust they will consider all suggestions and comments in their deliberations.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide suggestions and comments, wish them good luck in their deliberations. I look forward to the proposed redistribution report being released.