



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on suggestion 76

Dr Sophie Scamps MP

7 pages



DR SOPHIE SCAMPS MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR

10 November 2023

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 refer to my suggestions submitted on 27 October 2023 in relation to the electoral boundary redistribution you are undertaking in NSW. I write to provide you with additional suggestions, in response to the other suggestions submitted on 27 October 2023.

Summary

I believe that the most natural and simple solution for Mackellar would be to extend our boundaries slightly to the south of the electorate – to incorporate the remainder of Dee Why and North Curl Curl. This would maintain the electorate’s Northern Beaches culture and character, solve the problem of Dee Why being split between electorates and would create a well-defined boundary along Curl Curl Lagoon.

If a further increase to elector numbers was required for Mackellar, the suburbs of Curl Curl and those parts of Brookvale and Freshwater to the east of Pittwater Rd¹ could also be incorporated into Mackellar. This too would create a well-defined minor boundary along Pittwater Rd.

The suburbs of Narrabeena and Beacon Hill are also currently split between federal electorates, so a third option, should a further increase in elector numbers be required in addition to the changes outlined above, would be to extend the boundary in this area south so all of Narrabeena and Beacon Hill fall within Mackellar. However, currently, Warringah Rd creates a well-defined minor boundary between Mackellar and Warringah in this region.

¹ Only those parts of Brookvale and Freshwater east of Pittwater Rd that are shown in Map 1 at Annex A.



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I note the majority of suggestions made by the public to the AEC and published on 30 October 2023 agree with the basic proposition that the electorate of Mackellar should extend slightly to the south.

Suggestions

Knowing the electorate well, I consider there are three commonsense solutions to increasing the number of electors in Mackellar. In formulating these options, I have focussed on ensuring as little disruption as possible to the current boundaries of the Mackellar electorate, and on maintaining its clear communities of interest (as described in more detail in my letter dated 27 October 2023).

My suggestions (in order of what I believe to be the most practical) are to:

1. extend Mackellar's boundaries south to include all of Dee Why and North Curl Curl, with a clear boundary along Curl Curl Lagoon (Map 1 in Annex A);
2. if a further increase in electors is required in addition to Option 1 – extend Mackellar's boundaries even further south to also include Curl Curl, and the parts Freshwater and Brookvale that lie to the east of Pittwater Rd (as shown on Map 2 in Annex A);
3. in addition to option 2 – if required, further elector numbers could be gained by extending the boundary to incorporate the sections of Beacon Hill and Narraweena to the south of Warringah Rd. Currently these suburbs are split between Mackellar and Warringah by Warringah Rd, so this change would bring the entirety of these suburbs into Mackellar.

The above suggestions allow Mackellar to remain within a single local government area (the Northern Beaches Council)², as well as wholly within the culturally unique Northern Beaches region. The suggestions also take into account major and minor boundaries, such as National Parks, creeks, lagoons, and major roads – and reflect the fact that the western boundary between Mackellar and Bradfield is a major topographical boundary (please see below for more detail).

² Mr Peter Mitchell notes in his suggestions to the AEC ([submission 29](#)) that Mackellar's existing boundaries make it very clearly defined as the northern part of the Northern Beaches LGA, and that only minor redistributive changes are required to increase it to the necessary number of electors.



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Option 1 (Map 1, Annex A)

I submit that my first suggestion is the most obvious and sensible scenario to bring the number of electors in Mackellar to within the acceptable projected range. The majority of suggestions relating to Mackellar published by the AEC on 29 October 2023 agree.

The reasons that option 1 is the most logical solution include:

- a) a new, clear, minor boundary would be created along Curl Curl Lagoon. This waterway passes through a 250-400m-wide ribbon of parkland and clearly defines suburbs to the north and south;
- b) it will enhance the Northern Beaches identity which is already such an intrinsic part of the community of Mackellar; and
- c) it would solve the problem of the major centre of Dee Why being split between the electorates of Mackellar and Warringah – which causes confusion in the minds of voters.

Option 2 (Map 2, Annex A)

The second suggestion is offered in the event that it is necessary for the AEC to increase elector numbers further than the changes provided in option 1.

In this event, and for all the reasons set out above, the most sensible solution would be to incorporate the further contiguous southern areas of Curl Curl, as well as the portions of Freshwater and Brookvale that fall to the east of Pittwater Rd.³ Pittwater Rd would become a natural and clear minor boundary under this scenario.

Option 3 (Annex A, Map 3)

A third option, in addition to Option 1 and 2 (if required) is to extend Mackellar's boundary so that the entirety of the suburbs of Narrabeena and Beacon Hill fall within Mackellar. To create a cleaner boundary without gaps, a further two SA1s of Freshwater-Brookvale could also be included.⁴

Currently, Narrabeena and Beacon Hill are bisected into separate electorates by Warringah Rd. Warringah Rd, however, currently creates a well-defined minor boundary between Mackellar and Warringah in this region – so this may be a less favourable option.

³ As shown in Map 2 (noting that we are only referring to the parts of the SA1s of Brookvale-Freshwater that are east of Pittwater Rd and are shown in Map 2).

⁴ The two relevant SA1s are clearly shown in Map 3 in Annex A.



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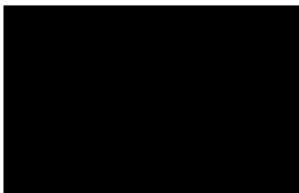
Responses to alternative suggestions about extending Mackellar westward

It has been suggested by a minority of submitters, that an option would be to move the Mackellar boundary westward to incorporate the suburb of St Ives, and possibly others such as Pymble. I do not consider this a commonsense solution, for the following reasons:

- a) the current boundary between Mackellar and Bradfield, created by Cowan and Middle Harbour Creeks, is a major natural boundary and presents a serious topographical barrier to expansion westwards;
- b) the current boundary is also a Local Government Area boundary;
- c) the Ku-Ring-Gai and Garigal National Parks are major land use barriers;
- d) the urban links and transport connections between the Northern Beaches and Upper North Shore districts are relatively weak;
- e) Terrey Hills and St Ives are both peripheral suburbs within their electorates and the focus and connections of these communities lie in opposite directions. Terrey Hills' primary links are with Mona Vale and the Forest areas to their east, while St Ives' primary links are with Pymble and Gordon to their west; and
- f) there is a clear 5km gap by road between Terrey Hills (at the intersection of Mona Vale Road and Forest Way) and St Ives (at the intersection of Mona Vale Road and Richmond Avenue).⁵

I trust these suggestions are useful and look forward to participating in the redistribution suggestion process as further opportunities arise.

Yours faithfully,



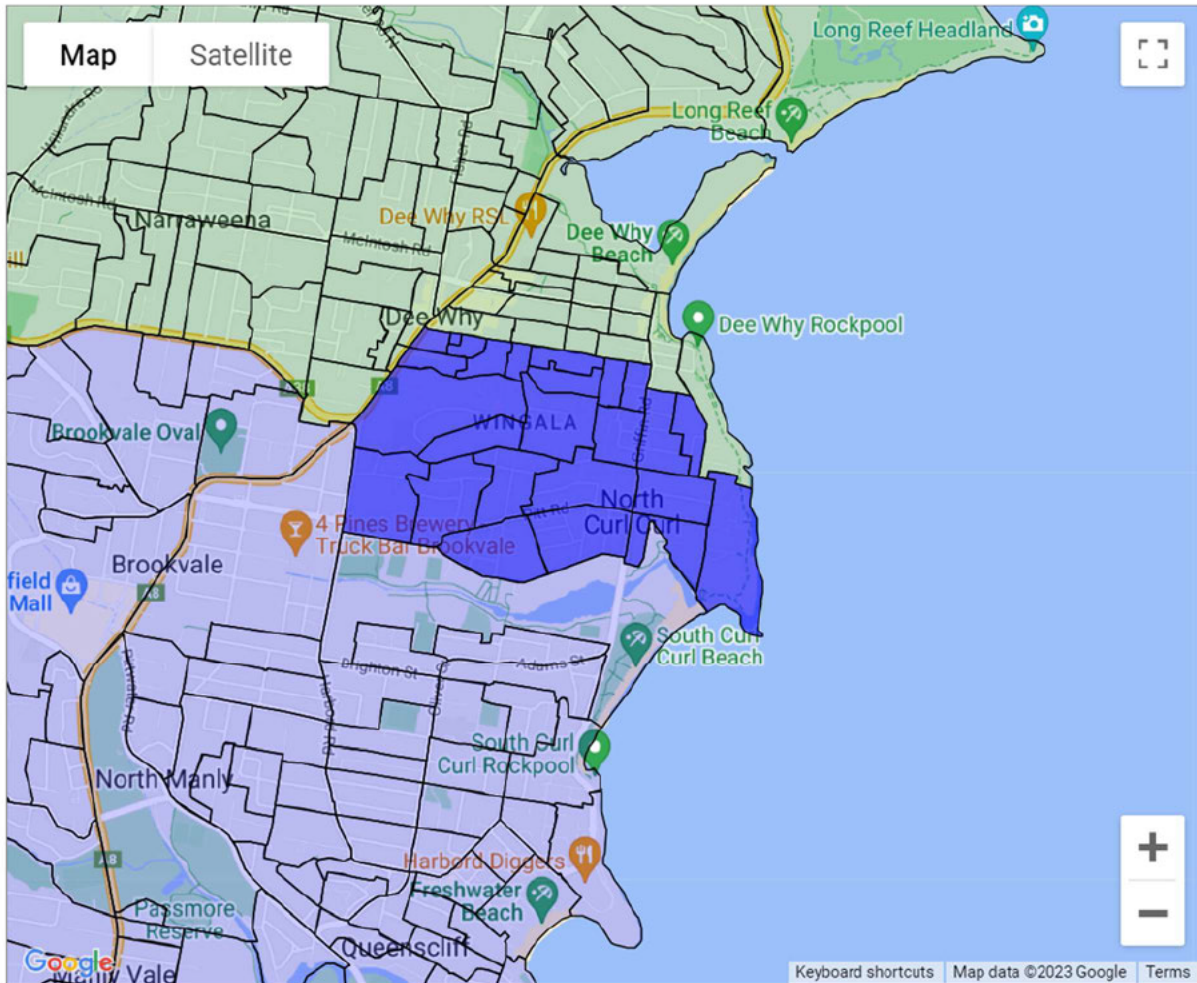
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⁵ Please note that these points are included in the suggestions made by Mr Peter Mitchell ([Submission 29](#), page 6).



ANNEX A

Map 1 – Mackellar to incorporate the remainder of Dee Why and North Curl Curl

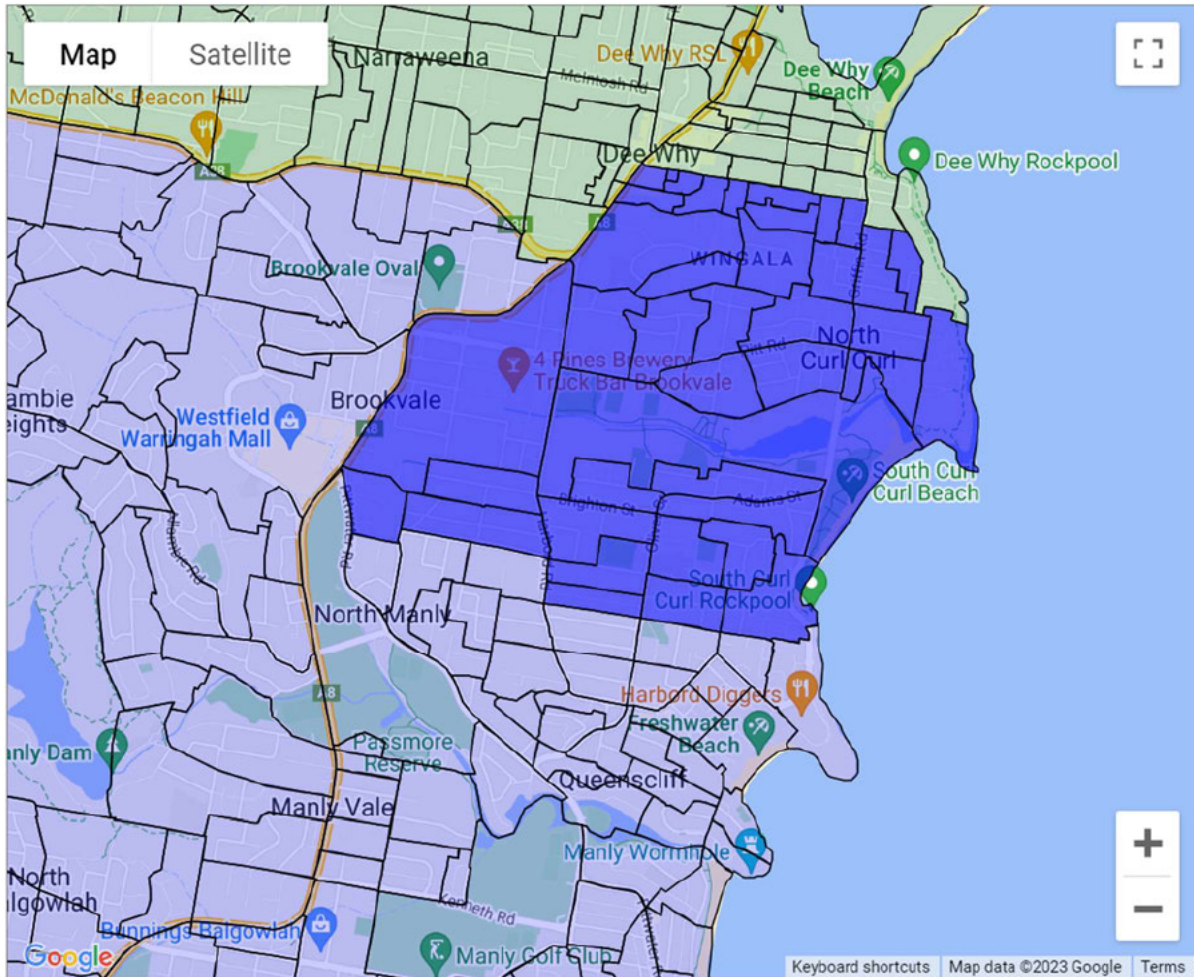




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Map 2 – Mackellar *also* to incorporate Curl Curl, and parts of Freshwater and Brookvale (east of Pittwater Rd)





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Map 2 – Mackellar *also* to incorporate the remainder of Narrabeena and Beacon Hill

