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Comment on objections 14

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Comments on the proposed AEC draft boundaries for electorates in NSW regarding changes to the Mackellar electoral boundaries

I support the addition of the of the suburbs of Dee Why, Forestville and Frenchs Forest, to bring these suburbs wholly within Mackellar, instead of these suburbs being split across two electorates. I also support the inclusion of North Curl Curl and Killarney Heights into Mackellar. This will allow the inclusion of suburbs and their communities under one electoral division. They are logical steps as these areas share an existing Northern Beaches culture and allow communities of interest to unite under the same electorate.

I notice that there are two objections (671 and 686), that propose that the Electorate of Mackellar be extended westwards to include St Ives and St Ives Chase. These suggestions have been made by parties that do not live in the Mackellar electorate. I disagree with these proposals for a number of reasons:

- 1) I lived in West Pymble (Bradfield) from 1999-2012, I moved to Mona Vale (Mackellar) and have lived here from 2013 – to date. When I lived in West Pymble our children joined the rugby and cricket clubs, attended the thriving youth group at St Ives Christ Church. When it was time to choose a State High School, the two local options were Turramurra High School or St Ives High School – both high schools were considered ‘locals’ and the community was spread across both schools. St Ives shopping centre was considered our ‘local’ mid-sized shopping centre, as it was easy to get to, easy to park and offered a wide array of shops to meet most needs. St Ives and St Ives always felt a part of our community when we lived near there.
- 2) On moving to Mona Vale I have not experienced or observed similar links with St Ives or St Ives Chase.

My views are:

- Public transport is very infrequent and only occurs down the Mona Vale Road, so access from St Ives and St Ives Chase to the broader Mackellar Electorate is very limited
- Community groups do not cross pollinate, as the boundary of Ku-ring-gai National Park is such a strong physical barrier
- St Ives and St Ives Chase always considered themselves to be part of the ‘Upper North Shore’, not part of the ‘Northern Beaches’
- There is little opportunity to meet through community groups, schools, etc as each area more naturally aligns with the existing electorate in which it resides (Bradfield vs Mackellar)
- Current boundaries for the local Councils add a further division, in that St Ives and St Ives Chase identify with the Ku-ring-gai local council, whereas Mackellar sits with the Northern Beaches Council. It makes a lot of sense to continue to align Federal electoral boundaries with local council boundaries. This view is also supported by the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council

Kind regards

Harriet Strudwick