



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on suggestion 46

Lori Callahan

2 pages

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M: [REDACTED]

8 October 2023

Redistribution Committee for New South Wales
Canberra ACT 2601
Via Online Forms

Dear Redistribution Committee for New South Wales,

RE: Submission for the redistribution of the Division of Warringah

I have reviewed the various submissions with regard to the redistribution of the Division of Warringah. In reviewing these I have reflected on the considerations to be made by the Redistribution Committee:

- community of interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests;
- means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral division;
- the physical features and area of the proposed electoral division; and
- the boundaries of existing divisions in the State or Territory.

First, there is an important and unique aspect of the current Warringah electorate with regard to physical features and regional interests that creates a critical case for retaining Warringah as an electorate that includes both Mosman and Manly. Both of these communities hold large and important properties held by the federal government and operated under a trust agreement by the Sydney Harbour Trust. These are Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh and North Head Sanctuary.

Those familiar with Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh and North Head Sanctuary would appreciate that both have planning and operating aspects that are similar to each other but are different from other Trust properties. As a result, together Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh and North Head Sanctuary require combined federal representation that can advocate for these large First Nations and natural environmental areas. These two Trust properties also include heritage-listed structures from Australia's colonial, maritime and military history but it is their expansive First Nations and natural environment that makes them unique from other Trust properties. I note the Sydney Harbour Trust is currently finalising long term Master Plans for these two sites. These Master Plans will require a coordinated approach for the two properties in order to ensure that Federal funding and stewardship are maintained now that the Trust has commenced Master Planning. To separate these into different electorates risks an uncoordinated approach from the position of federal representation, since it is the Federal government who is the owner of these two properties. When considering this particular aspect of the community interest shared by Manly and Mosman, the length of time to come to this point of Master Planning for these two Trust properties is important context.

The Harbour Trust Act took effect in September 2001.

In 2007, the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Amendment Bill 2007 was passed. This extended the life of the Trust from 2011 to 2033.

Following that, a review was undertaken.

In June 2020, the Review of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust was released. It made 21 recommendations.

In 2023, draft Master Plans for Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh and North Head Sanctuary are now underway.

To interrupt this lengthy process by splitting these two Trust lands which share highly similar aspects into two electorates as these lands approach finalisation and then implementation of the Master Plans in the coming decade, including the required Federal funding to support the Master Plans, would be a terrible loss to Mosman, Manly and to these two Trust properties.

In reviewing the various submissions with regard to the redistribution of the Division of Warringah, I have also considered my own personal experience in actively promoting informed voting among my friends.

I frequently find that people in Manly and Dee Why regularly query why Manly and Dee Why, which share similar community interests (closeness to the city, but life along the ocean coast) are divided when it comes to the federal electoral boundaries. As a result, the “Northern boundary proposal (For inclusion in both Option A & Option B)” outlined in the submission by Zali Steggall MP makes sense and would enhance the federal representation of the communities of Dee Why and Manly, which occurs naturally between the two but is divided by the current federal electoral boundaries.

With the same regard for communities that operate collectively (for economic, social and regional interests), I also observe that the current north / south divide along Military Road putting the south side of Military Road in Warringah but not the north side divides those who in day-to-day commerce and social aspects operate together, not separately. This should be rectified in the current redistribution bringing the north side of Military Road into the electorate of Warringah. This would make the Warringah Freeway, which is a natural barrier to the economic, social and regional interests of those east and west of the freeway, the dividing line of the electorate rather than Military Road, which is not a natural economic, social and regional interests divide. Making the Warringah Freeway the boundary, rather than Military Road, also brings together the communities Kirribilli, Neutral Bay, North Cremorne and Cammeray into the natural economic and social grouping which operates as “the Lower North Shore”.

Eliminating unnatural boundaries from those with strong common community interests and solid protection and advocacy for Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh and North Head Sanctuary by not splitting these, should be a key goal of the redistribution committee.

Kind regards,

Lori Callahan