



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 114

Paul Hardman

1 page

Paul Hardman

JUNE 26, 2024

Objection to Proposed Redistribution of Bennelong Electorate

To the Australian Electoral Commission,

I am writing to formally object to the draft proposal to remove Epping, North Epping, and Carlingford from the Bennelong electorate and redistribute them between the Berowra and Parramatta electorates.

As a life-long resident in Bennelong and as a person who grew up in Carlingford and before moving to Ryde, I understand the cultural connections that bind the Epping, North Epping and Carlingford with the rest of the Bennelong electorate.

Some of the strongest connections are in the community including:

- Significant Chinese and Korean communities in both Epping and Eastwood.
- Epping and Ryde residents participate in joint cultural festivals and events often travelling between areas to come together as cultural communities
- Community organisations like the Rotary Club of Ryde and Eastwood serve both areas
- Recreational spaces like Boronia Park and Field of Mars Reserve are frequented by Epping and Ryde residents.

There are connections around shared Emergency Services

- All of these suburbs are part of the North West Metropolitan Region under the NSW Police. Police Area Command and their Police Stations from Ryde and Eastwood both provide service into the Epping and North Epping Areas
- Ambulance services in Eastwood and Ryde service the Epping and North Epping Areas
- Ryde Hospital serves residents from Epping, North Epping, and the surrounding suburbs.

There are also important electoral considerations around Communication and Travel:

- Shared bus routes, including the M54 and 545, connect Epping with Eastwood and Ryde.
- Epping Road and Lane Cove Road provide direct road connections between these suburbs.
- The M2 is a natural boundary that makes travel from Epping and North Epping into areas on the other side of the M2 difficult resulting in minimal shared economic hubs such as shopping areas on the other side of the M2
- Community forums and social media groups actively include residents from all these suburbs.

For these reasons, I urge the AEC to reconsider the proposed boundary changes and retain Epping, North Epping, and Carlingford within the Bennelong electorate.

Warm regards,

Paul Hardman