



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 160

Richard Clarke

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Objection to Proposed Redistribution of Bennelong Electorate

To the Australian Electoral Commission,

I am writing to formally object to the change of **boundaries** within the draft proposal for **Bennelong**, which proposes to remove Epping, North Epping, and Carlingford from the Bennelong electorate and redistribute them between the Berowra and Parramatta electorates.

There is a number of reasons why I believe that the redistribution is inappropriate, beginning with the strong natural boundary formed by the M2 that makes travel from Epping and North Epping into areas on the other side of the M2 difficult and the fact the Parramatta River catchment area involves water management collaboration between Epping and Ryde. So there are clear **geographical** reasons at stake.

Equally important is the **social** aspect. There is a great amount that Epping and Ryde residents have in common, with large Chinese and Korean communities in both Epping and Eastwood. Also there is the local newspaper, the Northern District Times, and participation in joint cultural festivals including the Granny Smith Festival, with people often travelling between areas to come together for these events. Community organisations like the Rotary Club of Ryde and Eastwood act in both areas and there is a great amount of shared sporting infrastructure and shared emergency services, not least Ryde Hospital which serves many Epping, North Epping and Carlingford residents as well as those in its immediate Ryde vicinity. Recreational spaces like Boronia Park and Field of Mars Reserve are frequented by both Epping and Ryde residents and there are numerous shared bus routes and transport links.

Finally there are strong **historical** ties between Epping and Eastwood, with a number of shared heritage sites and active local history groups uniting the two suburbs. Earlier today I was speaking to someone whose father played for the Epping-Eastwood Tigers many years ago. This is only one example of a connection that goes back over seventy years, and in other cases well over a century.

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

Yours sincerely,

Richard Clarke

