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Objection 599

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2 pages

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - NSW](#)
Subject: Redistribution of Boundaries - Federal Electorate of Bennelong
Date: Thursday, 11 July 2024 11:39:05 PM

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Sir

We object to the proposal to move North Epping and Epping (town centre), NSW from the federal electorate of Bennelong to the electorate of Berowra and the split of other areas of Epping to the electorate of Parramatta on the following grounds:-

- We have lived in the federal electorate of Bennelong the last 40 plus years, first in North Ryde and now in Epping. During this time the area has been served admirably by various members of both sides of politics, and indeed they have had their electoral offices located in Epping town centre. The risk of moving part of the electorate to Berowra and the other part to Parramatta would be that Epping as a whole would lose its direct federal representation to the detriment to the area.
- Epping town centre has been part of the Bennelong Electorate for over 20 years and North Epping has been part of Bennelong since 1977.
- Epping, Eastwood, Ryde, Marsfield and Carlingford have strong economic, social and community interests. By splitting these suburbs to different electorates would jeopardise these ties. Certainly there is a weaker community link (probably near zero) to suburbs north of the M2 motorway.
- There has been years of work to achieve and maintain single seat representation in Epping across all 3 levels of government. Relatively recent, at local government level, Epping Town Centre and surrounds were redistributed wholly into the Parramatta City Council area from Hornsby Council area (previously split between the two) to enable conflicting council development standards to be consolidated under the one council. This proposal would again split Epping into different federal electorates possibly causing conflicts in the area's requirements (e.g. the widening of Epping bridge)
- With redistribution under this proposal, Epping would be again be split and become the southern extremity of the Berowra and eastern extremity of the Parramatta electorates and probably would be at a disadvantage in any decisions made for the area, simply because of its distance from the core centres

We see no reason or advantage for the area to be split and redistributed and urge the electoral commission to seriously reconsider this unnecessary proposal.

Thank you

Keith and Rosemary Birdsall

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