

Submission to the NSW Electoral Redistribution

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Party: Pauline Hanson's One Nation (NSW)

Regional Submission: Outer Western Sydney

Introduction

This submission makes recommendations for new boundaries in Outer Western Sydney, a region I know well having lived in the Liverpool, Campbelltown and Wollondilly LGAs for the past 55 years.

My understanding of 'community of interest' and 'representative effectiveness' in the region have been sharpened by my experience as a Liverpool Councillor (1987-94), Liverpool Mayor (1991-94), Federal Member for Werriwa (1994-2005) and Member of the NSW Legislative Council (2019 to date) advocating on public issues in Outer Western Sydney.

The submission addresses new boundaries for the existing seats of Penrith, Mulgoa and Camden, while also proposing a new electorate of Bringelly.

Penrith

With the neighbouring electorate of Blue Mountains under-quota, there is a strong community of interest in bringing more of the 'lower mountains' portion of the Penrith electorate into the State seat of Blue Mountains – that is, Glenbrook and, if need be, Lapstone. This should shift Penrith to the east, taking in Cambridge Park from the Londonderry electorate. Cambridge Park has a much stronger affinity with the centre of Penrith than the lower Blue Mountains villages that are currently part of the seat.

Mulgoa

It is vitally important that the northern boundary of Mulgoa running along the Western Motorway (M4) is maintained. The major commuter roads of Western Sydney have become natural boundaries and demarcation points defining suburban communities of interest. North and south of the M4 is one of the most important dividing lines. The northern boundary of Mulgoa adjoining the seats of Penrith, Londonderry and Mount Drutt should be a foundation stone upon which the redistribution in this region is structured.

As Mulgoa is slightly over-quota, a small adjustment is needed elsewhere. Preferably, this should involve shedding Middleton Grange west of the M7, an emerging suburb that has a far stronger affinity with Liverpool. This minor change to Mulgoa would preserve its strong existing communities of interest in the Penrith LGA and west Fairfield.

Bringelly

Due to extraordinary population growth along the Camden Valley Way (north-south) and Bringelly Road (east-west) corridors, the seat of Camden has become one-and-a-half electorates. This necessitates a new seat located south of the existing Mulgoa boundary. Given this district has long been known in NSW Government urban planning strategies as the 'Bringelly Growth Area', the new electorate should be named Bringelly, the township for which is central to the proposed seat.

An important community of interest distinction is in the Camden/Campbelltown LGA boundary, running north-south through South-West Sydney. Camden and Campbelltown are two very different communities, in their history, demographics and identity. Each, as much as possible, see themselves as self-contained, with little overlap with the other LGA. Attempts to design the new seat as running east-west across the Camden and Campbelltown LGAs, as a hybrid of the two, should be rejected.

Thus Bringelly should be a north-south aligned seat, with its western border the LGA boundary. It has a clear community of interest of formerly semi-rural districts being rapidly transformed into new

suburbs, with the Badgerys Creek Airport development as a catalyst for urban transport, industrial and employment growth. This community of interest takes in the emerging suburbs of Luddenham, Badgerys Creek, Kelvin Park, Rossmore, Bringelly, Austral, Leppington, Oran Park, Catherine Fields, Gledswood Hills, Gregory Hills and Oran Park. The new State MP will need to be skilled in managing urban development issues and servicing pressures. Due to the rapid pace of population growth, the electorate will need to start well under quota.

Quite possibly, contiguous parts of the Wollondilly electorate, such as Warragamba, Silverdale and Werombi will also need to be included. At its southern end, a natural east-west boundary for the new seat could be formed along the Burratorang Road, May Farm Road, Cobbitty Road, Northern Road and Narellan Road axis.

In the creation of a new electorate, it is sound redistribution practice to provide as much stability as possible in surrounding seats. This avoids scenarios whereby, in effect, three to four new seats are created through a radical redrawing of boundaries. The radical approach causes confusion among voters and in the political system. Please note that my recommendations avoid this problem, as they anchor a stable, little-changed Mulgoa seat to the north of the new Bringelly.

Camden

Accordingly, the existing seat of Camden would be substantially reduced in enrolment and size. It would sit south of the new seat of Bringelly, centred on the historic township of Camden, home of the Macarthurs, the birthplace of Australia's wealth. It would take the Camden/Campbelltown LGA boundary at its eastern side and extend as far south as needed to reach quota. This would likely include Picton and surrounding districts, with which Camden has a strong historical and social affinity.

As a result, the existing seat of Wollondilly would push southwards, becoming more of a Southern Highlands electorate, again reflecting a stronger community of interest. Currently the seat runs from Bowral to Warragamba, which have nothing in common and, due to the distance involved, makes the electorate difficult to service.

I trust these observations and recommendations are of use to the Commissioners.

M Latham MLC
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