

**Objections of the Australian Labor Party
(New South Wales Branch)
Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel 2020**

Procedural matters and future implications

The Australian Labor Party (New South Wales Branch) is pleased to have the opportunity to make this submission to the draft boundaries issued by the Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel. Before outlining our objections to specific electorate boundaries, we would like to bring to the attention of the Panel two particular matters about the process for making the draft boundaries and the future implications.

1. The malapportionment provisions under S28A of the NSW Constitution

Under s28A of the NSW Constitution a redistribution is triggered when more than a quarter of seats (24) of the 93 seats vary by more than 5% from quota for two consecutive months. We contend that there is a potential for malapportionment in the inland rural districts and the non-Sydney coastal districts.

Indeed, on the Panel's forecasts, there are 15 districts that during the 2023-26 period will vary from the average by more than 5%. A further five electorates are predicted to be more than 4% from the average. Several other seats are forecast to be well over 3% from the average.

We particularly note the risk that, without further assessment, the Act's ambition to ensure a close adherence to the principle of 'one vote, one value' may not be met. An assessment would include considering, in greater detail, enrolment trends for the approximately additional three years post the relevant future time at stipulated by s21 of the Act (ie. 17 April 2023).

It is our contention that such a malapportionment has two impacts. Firstly, there is now a high risk that s28A may be triggered before the next scheduled redistribution in 2027. That brings with it a level disruption for future panels and for the smooth administration of government in the state. A further redistribution will come at a significant cost to the taxpayer and to the parties involved.

Secondly, it is our view that malapportionment has the political impact of advantaging the Coalition over other parties.

We note the Panel's own view at paragraph 25 of the report that "*a rigid attempt to achieve equal elector numbers among districts would have necessitated a wholesale redrawing of almost all electoral district boundaries across the State*". On that basis we have not sought to provide a detailed proposal in this submission to deal with the malapportionment in the coastal and inland areas of the state.

However, we note that s27(3) of the NSW Electoral Act provides that “If the Redistribution Panel is of the opinion that the Panel's revised determination will be significantly different from the draft determination, the Panel must give public notice of its revised determination of the names and boundaries of electoral districts”. We would strongly encourage the Panel to reconsider their views on the malapportionment in inland rural and coastal areas and allow for further public consultation to occur on those matters.

By way of brief demonstration of the nature of matters that may warrant further consultation – in 2013, to take account of projected low growth rural seats, 11 inland rural seats were collectively set at the projected date at 18.1% above quota. Those same seats in current proposals, and without sufficient consideration, have been set at 24.5% below quota at the projected date.

Given this is a period with more variables affecting enrolment forecasts than past experience (particularly considering the social and economic consequences of COVID 19) it is our submission that these issues warrant further rigorous analysis.

2. Sufficient time allocation for public hearings

We note that there has been a trend over recent years to limit the number days allocated to public hearings on Redistribution Panel matters. That trend is demonstrated in the following chart:

REDISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC HEARINGS 1973-2013

YEAR	Number of Public Hearing Days	Districts where the changes were significant
1973	11	n/a
1980	7	n/a
1986/7	8	n/a
1991	26	n/a
1998	7	38 District changes, 13 significant
2004	5	34 District changes, 23 significant
2013	1	None

The opportunity for parties and other organisations to contest and share views on matters relating to the function of our democracy is critical. We would encourage the Panel to note the above trend and give that consideration when scheduling public hearings on the current draft report.

1. ALP Objection involving the electoral districts of Kogarah and Oatley

Effects of the Objection: Restores the existing southern boundary between Oatley and Kogarah; instead transfers parts of the suburbs of Beverley Hills (uniting Beverly Hills shopping centre) and Narwee from Oatley to Kogarah.

Reasons for the Objection:

In relation to Beverley Hills/Narwee:

Residents in Beverley Hills and Narwee living either side of King Georges Road share the shopping centre, transport nodes, schools and places of worship. They would be best served by inclusion in the one electorate, rather than split in half by King Georges Road.

The Beverley Hills Town Centre is a well-known dining and entertainment precinct with restaurants and cafés on both sides of King Georges Road. The Georges River Council includes both sides of King's Georges Road in its Town Centre Masterplan.

The areas is connected by the T4 East Hills train line which runs from Narwee to Beverley Hills, Kingsgrove and Bexley North. Residents access the 450, 940 and 941 bus services to travel to the major commercial centre of Hurstville in the Kogarah electorate.

Beverley Hills Girls High and Beverley Hills Public schools both have catchment areas that serve families on both sides of King Georges Road.

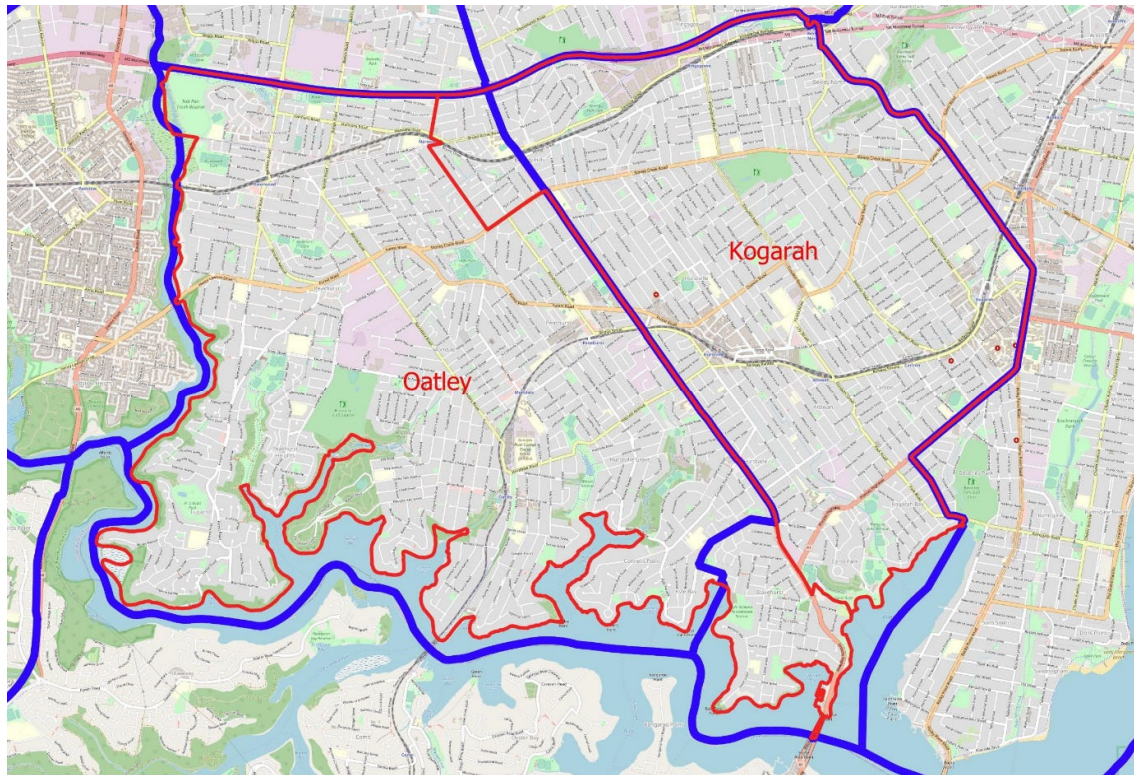
Residents living on the western side use places of worship located on the eastern side of King Georges Road, including the Anglican, Uniting, Baptist and Catholic churches as well as the Kingsgrove Mosque and Southern Sydney Synagogue.

In relation to Blakehurst:

The A1 Princes Highway separates the electorates of Oatley and Kogarah in the south. The A1 Princes Highway carries the majority of traffic passing through the areas from the Sutherland Shire and the Illawarra. As a result, the ability of the communities on either side to cross over to road by car or by foot is limited due to safety concerns.

The physical division caused by the A1 is increasing as work is underway to widen the road to increase its capacity. This will create four permanent northbound lanes and three southbound lanes between the current seats of Oatley and Kogarah between James Street and south of Torrens Street with 80,000 vehicles using this corridor each day.

Map of effect of Objection:



Transfers of electors under this objection:

<u>District</u>	<u>23/3/20</u>	<u>17/4/23</u>
KOGARAH (As Proposed)	58 635(2.5)	59 248(-)
Less that part of Oatley proposed to be sent to Kogarah	-3 654	-3 597
To Oatley		
Plus part SA2 Narwee-Beverley Hills (South of the South Western Motorway and east of Penshurst Road to Hannans Road; and north east of Mercury Road south of Broadarrow Road and north of Stoney Creek Road)		
SA1's 1137003-8; 11-12; 17; 20; 30	+3 081	+3 095
Ex Oatley		
TOTALS	58 062(1.5)	58 746(-0.8)

OATLEY (As Proposed)	57 360(0.3)	57 726(-2.6)
Less part SA2 Narwee-Beverley Hills (South of the South Western Motorway and east of Penshurst Road to Hannans Road; and north east of Mercury Road south of Broadarrow Road and north of Stoney Creek Road)		
SA1's 1137003-8; 11-12; 17; 20; 30	-3 081	-3 095
To Kogarah		
Plus that part of Oatley proposed to be sent to Kogarah	+3 654	+3 597
Ex Kogarah		
TOTALS	57 933(1.3)	58 228(-1.7)

2. ALP Objection involving the electoral districts of Liverpool and Holsworthy

Effects of the Objection: Places the entire suburb of Warwick Farm and most of the suburb of Liverpool within Holsworthy; Liverpool then receives from Holsworthy the suburbs west and south of Liverpool suburb.

Reasons for the Objection:

The Redistribution Panel's proposal for Holsworthy extends its boundaries further east to contain additional parts of Sutherland Shire.

At Holsworthy's western end, additional electors have been added from Liverpool suburb itself. The suburb contains 15 993 current electors, forecast to be 18,233 in 2023. Of those electors in the suburb, under the Panel's proposal, 6,898 (34.9%) current and 7,563 (39.4%) future electors have been placed in Holsworthy.

However, suburbs west and south of the suburb of Liverpool have been kept in Holsworthy. The ALP objection proposes that to remove those suburbs to the district of Liverpool and to further consolidate Holsworthy via the addition to it of most of the suburb of Liverpool and the entire suburb of Warwick Farm.

The Panel's proposal has both the districts of Holsworthy (78%) and Liverpool (83.2%) predominately containing electors from the City of Liverpool Council. Those fundamentals are unaffected by the ALP objection.

Under the ALP objection, the number of electors from the suburb of Liverpool included in our Liverpool becomes 12, 479 (78%) current and 14,739(80.8%) future electors. The remaining electors retained in Liverpool itself are about the same as in the current (pre redistribution) Holsworthy.

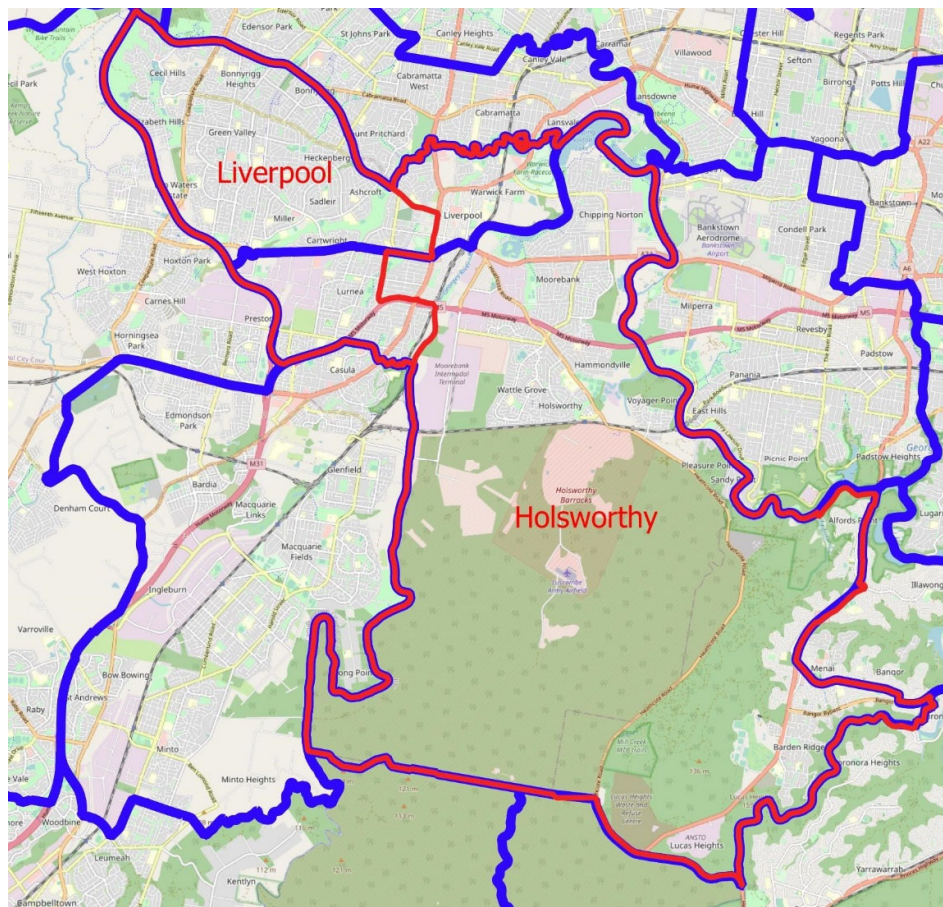
The Moorebank Industrial Precinct which includes Moorebank Industrial Park, the South West Industrial Estate, Moorebank Logistics Park and the M5 Industry Park, are the major manufacturing and Industry Centres and draw the majority of employees from adjoining suburbs which include Liverpool and Warwick Farm. For example, the Moorebank Logistics Park (see <http://qubemlp.com.au/about/>) is Australia's largest Freight infrastructure project and will link Port Botany direct to Rail Terminals and warehousing on a 243 Hectare site.

Warwick Farm adjoins the suburb of Chipping Norton and both are connected via Governor Macquarie Drive. The inclusion of Warwick Farm in Holsworthy also consolidates the Georges River lakes (eg Horseshoe Pond; lake Moore and Chipping Norton Lake) in the same district.

We should recognise that the suburb of Liverpool will be split between Liverpool and Holsworthy and Liverpool whether the Panel's proposal stands or if the ALP objection is upheld. However, the boundaries under the ALP objection, (Hoxton Park Road, the Hume Highway and Elizabeth Drive) will be very clearly understood by residents.

If the ALP objection is upheld it makes sense to rename Liverpool (a district name since 1950) to Green Valley and for Holsworthy (a district name since 2015) to be either retained or renamed Liverpool.

Map of effect of Objection:



Transfers of electors under this objection:

<u>District</u>	<u>23/3/20</u>	<u>17/4/23</u>
HOLSWORTHY (As proposed)	56 113(-1.9)	57 244(-3.4)
Less its share of SA2 Prestons-Edmondson Park		
SA1's 1160005; 8; 18; 20; 24-25; 35	-1 786	-1 867
To Liverpool		
Less its share of SA2 Lurnea-Cartwright		
SA1's 1159902-4; 6; 8-18; 20; 22-25	-5 731	-5 661
To Liverpool		
Less its share of SA2 Casula		
SA1's 1152202-3; 6-10; 23-24; 29; 34-36	-3 548	-3 503
To Liverpool		
Plus its share of SA2 Warwick Farm		
SA1's 1160101-11	+3 334	+3 232
Ex Liverpool		
Plus part SA2 Liverpool (That part north of Elizabeth Drive to Copeland Street and all that part east of Copeland Street and the Hume Highway)		
SA1's 1159801-2; 4; 6-7; 13;15; 21; 23; 26; 28; 32-34; 39; 42-44; 46; 48; 51; 53		
Ex Liverpool	+6 898	+7 553
TOTALS	55 280(-3.3)	56 998(-3.8)
LIVERPOOL (As proposed)	58 534(2.4)	58 953(-0.5)
Less its share of SA2 Warwick Farm		
SA1's 1160101-11	-3 334	-3 232
To Holsworthy		
Less part SA2 Liverpool (That part north of Elizabeth Drive to Copeland Street and all that part east of Copeland Street and the Hume Highway)		
SA1's 1159801-2; 4; 6-7; 13;15; 21; 23; 26; 28; 32-34; 39; 42-44; 46; 48; 51; 53		

To Holsworthy	-6 898	-7 553
Plus its share of SA2 Prestons-Edmondson Park		
SA1's 1160005; 8; 18; 20; 24-25; 35	+1 786	+1 867
Ex Holsworthy		
Plus its share of SA2 Lurnea-Cartwright		
SA1's 1159902-4; 6; 8-18; 20; 22-25	+5 731	+5 661
Ex Holsworthy		
Plus its share of SA2 Casula		
SA1's 1152202-3; 6-10; 23-24; 29; 34-36	+3 548	+3 503
Ex Holsworthy		
TOTALS	59 367(3.8)	59 199(-)

3. ALP Objections involving the electoral districts of Auburn; Fairfield; Granville and Parramatta

Effects of the Objection: Restores the existing Parramatta River and Duck River boundary between Parramatta and Auburn. Parramatta then gains from Granville adjoining and close by suburbs to the suburb of Parramatta (Mays Hill; Westmead; South Wentworthville and part Merrylands) but also returns to Granville the suburbs of Clyde and part Granville. Auburn returns parts of its Bankstown LGA component to both Fairfield and Granville. Fairfield also loses to Granville the balance of Yennora, the entire suburb of Old Guilford and those parts of the suburbs of villawood and Chester Hill north of the Rail Line.

Reasons for the Objection:

In its comments on suggestions, the Liberal Party sensibly stated:

"7. The Liberal Party continues to argue that high growth areas be divided between multiple districts to balance them with established areas.

Containing growth areas within a single district results in significant quota variations."

The Redistribution Panel has added to the district of Parramatta high growth suburbs from both the districts of Auburn and Granville. The result, under their proposal is that Parramatta

would be -8.2% from quota in 2020 and 1.6% above quota in 2023 and guaranteed to be way above 10% above quota in 2027. That's unnecessary and risks malapportionment.

The ALP objection returns to Auburn the high growth suburbs of Silverwater, Newington and Wentworth Point. These suburbs, except for 1920-27 (multi member electorates period) have never been in Parramatta. The suburbs were incorporated in 1906 into the former Auburn Council and have been in Auburn 1927-41; (Concord and Yaralla 1940-71) and Auburn since 1971. Lidcombe (in Auburn) is their shopping centre and there are no school catchment areas in Parramatta that service these residents.

Our objection also restores the current boundary between Parramatta and Granville affecting the suburbs of Granville and Clyde which are also relatively high growth. Parramatta is then compensated for the loss of electors to Auburn and Granville by gaining electors from the western end of the district of Granville who adjoin or are close by to the suburb of Parramatta itself.

The result is a much more sensible and compact district of Parramatta that no longer has explosive growth.

The complete Duck River boundary proposed by the Panel between Auburn and Granville is maintained under the ALP objection.

Other suburbs affected by the ALP objection include:

Chester Hill

The train line is a natural boundary, and should be used as a boundary between the Fairfield and Granville electorates in Chester Hill. This would result in residents north of the train line being in the one electorate and residents south of the train line being in another electorate. This avoids using arbitrary streets such as Orchard St and Campbell Rd which are not natural boundaries. Such a clear distinction between the north and south parts of Chester Hill will create less confusion. Chester Hill was recently re-classified as a major local centre, and is expected to grow substantially in the near future. Schools in this area also already identify with north and south boundary distinctions, such as the Chester Hill North Public School.

Bass Hill

This outcome would also place the entire suburb of Bass Hill inside the electorate of Fairfield, north of the Hume Highway and between Orchard Rd and Hector St, reducing confusion in the community. While Fairfield has previously extended to Bass Hill, it must be noted that historically the electorate of Auburn (which has previously encapsulated Birrong and Yagoona) has never extended as far as Bass Hill.

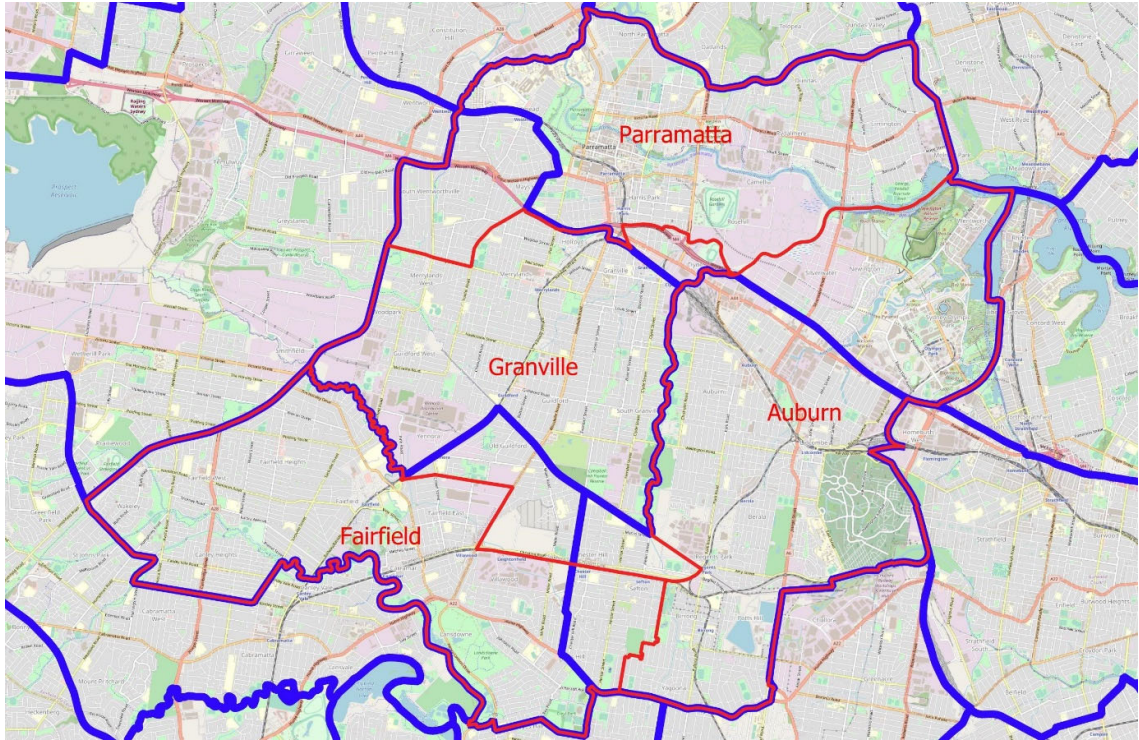
Yennora

The proposal of shifting Yennora to the Granville Electorate is a sensible move as it places the entire suburb in the one electorate which avoids confusion by constituents identifying which electorate they belong to. The proposal should be supported as the entire industrial estate remains in the one electorate.

Old Guildford

Old Guildford residents have communities of interest with Guildford and Granville, with residents utilising the neighbouring facilities of those suburbs. Geographically the shift of Old Guildford into Granville is a logical move due to its close proximity to the Guildford shopping village.

Map of effect of Objection:



Transfers of electors under this objection:

<u>District</u>	<u>23/3/20</u>	<u>17/4/23</u>
AUBURN (As Proposed)	58 455(2.2)	59 217(-)
Plus (all proposed to be sent to Parramatta)	+11 157	+13 745
Ex Parramatta		
Less part SA2 Chester Hill-Sefton (North of Rail Line)		
SA1's 1147902-9;18;23;34	-3 464	-3 499
To Granville		
Less part SA2 Regents Park (West of Rail Line)		
SA1 1158707	-144	-140

To Granville

Less part SA2 Chester Hill (South of Rail Line)

SA1's 1147910;19-22;24-33;41;43 -5 196 -5 265

To Fairfield

Less part SA2 Bass Hill-Georges Hall (Its share of the suburb of Bass Hill)

SA1's 1135408-10;12-14;43;50 -2 683 -2 699

To Fairfield

TOTALS 58 125(1.6) 61 360(3.6)

FAIRFIELD (As Proposed) 57 900(1.2) 58 866(-0.6)

Less part SA2 Chester Hill-Sefton (East of Woodville Road; North of Rail line)

SA1's 1147901;11-16;35-37;39-40;42 -3 481 -3 487

To Granville

Less part SA2 Fairfield East (North of Fairfield Road = entire suburb of Old Guilford and its share of the suburb of Yennora) SA1's 1148007-9;13-17 -2 655 -2 651

To Granville

Plus part SA2 Chester Hill (South of Rail Line)

SA1's 1147910;19-22;24-33;41;43 +5 196 +5 265

Ex Auburn

Plus part SA2 Bass Hill-Georges Hall (Its share of the suburb of Bass Hill)

SA1's 1135408-10;12-14;43;50 +2 683 +2 699

Ex Auburn

TOTALS 59 643(4.3) 60 692(2.4)

GRANVILLE (As Proposed) 59 438(3.9) 61 148(3.2)

Less part SA2 Parramatta-Rose Hill

SA1's 1149205;8 -339 -329

To Parramatta

Less its share of SA2 Wentworthville-Westmead (North of western Motorway)

SA1's 1158901; 5-6; 9-14; 18-19;22;24;27-29;32-35 **and** its share of the split SA1's
1158907;16;20-21;30 -5 711 -6 011

To Parramatta

Less part SA2 Merrylands-Holroyd (North of Merrylands Road and west of Burnett Street)

SA1's 1148501-22 -7 472 -7 589

To Parramatta

Plus part SA2 Granville-Clyde (Entire suburb of Clyde and that part of the suburb of Granville
south of A'becketts Creek)

SA1's 1148134-37;46 +855 +1 869

Ex Parramatta

Plus part SA2 Chester Hill-Sefton (East of Woodville Road; North of Rail line)

SA1's 1147901;11-16;35-37;39-40;42 +3 481 +3 487

Ex Fairfield

Less part SA2 Fairfield East (North of Fairfield Road = entire suburb of Old Guilford and its
share of the suburb of Yennora) SA1's 1148007-9;13-17 +2 655 +2 651

Ex Fairfield

Plus part SA2 Chester Hill-Sefton (North of Rail Line)

SA1's 1147902-9;18;23;34 +3 464 +3 499

Ex Auburn

Less part SA2 Regents Park (West of Rail Line)

SA1 1158707 +144 +140

Ex Auburn

TOTALS 56 515(-1.2) 58 865(-0.6)

PARRAMATTA (As Proposed)	52 524(-8.2)	60 168(1.6)
Less (all proposed to be sent to Parramatta)	-11 157	-13 745
Ex Auburn		
Less part SA2 Granville-Clyde (Entire suburb of Clyde and that part of the suburb of Granville south of A'becketts Creek)		
SA1's 1148134-37;46	-855	-1 869
To Granville		
Plus part SA2 Parramatta-Rose Hill		
SA1's 1149205;8	+339	+329
Ex Granville		
Plus Its share of SA2 Wentworthville-Westmead (North of western Motorway)		
SA1's 1158901; 5-6; 9-14; 18-19;22;24;27-29;32-35 and its share of the split SA1's 1158907;16;20-21;30	+5 711	+6 011
Ex Granville		
Plus part SA2 Merrylands-Holroyd (North of Merrylands Road and west of Burnett Street)		
SA1's 1148501-22	+7 472	+7 589
Ex Granville		
TOTALS	54 248(-5.1)	58 689(-0.9)