



NEW SOUTH WALES

REDISTRIBUTION OF
ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
2013

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
COMMISSIONERS' REPORT



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ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
2013**

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTORATES AND ELECTIONS ACT 1912
CONSTITUTION ACT 1902**

**ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

PROCLAIMED ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2013

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS COMMISSIONERS' REPORT ON THE 2013 NEW SOUTH WALES REDISTRIBUTION OF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS



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CONTENTS

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT	iv
New South Wales Index Map	xiv
Illawarra Index Map	xvi
Central Coast Index Map	xvii
Metropolitan Index Map	xviii
STATISTICAL SUMMARY	XX

2013 NSW State Districts Redistribution – Determined Districts

Albury 3	Granville65	Orange..... 125
Auburn 5	Hawkesbury.....67	Oxley..... 127
Ballina..... 7	Heathcote69	Parramatta..... 129
Balmain..... 9	Heffron71	Penrith..... 131
Bankstown 11	Holsworthy73	Pittwater 133
Barwon.....13	Hornsby75	Port Macquarie..... 135
Bathurst 15	Keira77	Port Stephens 137
Baulkham Hills.....17	Kiama79	Prospect..... 139
Bega 19	Kogarah81	Riverstone 141
Blacktown.....21	Ku-ring-gai83	Rockdale..... 143
Blue Mountains23	Lake Macquarie85	Ryde 145
Cabramatta25	Lakemba87	Seven Hills 147
Camden27	Lane Cove89	Shellharbour..... 149
Campbelltown.....29	Lismore.....91	South Coast..... 151
Canterbury31	Liverpool93	Strathfield..... 153
Castle Hill33	Londonderry.....95	Summer Hill 155
Cessnock35	Macquarie Fields.....97	Swansea 157
Charlestown.....37	Maitland99	Sydney..... 159
Clarence.....39	Manly 101	Tamworth..... 161
Coffs Harbour41	Maroubra..... 103	Terrigal..... 163
Coogee43	Miranda 105	The Entrance 165
Cootamundra45	Monaro 107	Tweed 167
Cronulla47	Mount Druitt..... 109	Upper Hunter 169
Davidson49	Mulgoa 111	Vaucluse 171
Drummoyne.....51	Murray 113	Wagga Wagga..... 173
Dubbo53	Myall Lakes..... 115	Wakehurst 175
East Hills55	Newcastle 117	Wallsend..... 177
Epping.....57	Newtown..... 119	Willoughby..... 179
Fairfield59	North Shore 121	Wollondilly..... 181
Gosford.....61	Northern Tablelands..... 123	Wollongong..... 183
Goulburn63	Oatley 125	Wyong 185

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Appointment

The Electoral Districts Commissioners were appointed by the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Professor Marie R Bashir AC CVO, under commission dated 29 October 2012, pursuant to the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*. The Honourable Keith Mason AC QC, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, was appointed as Chairman. Mr Colin Barry, the Electoral Commissioner and Mr Des Mooney, the Surveyor General were the other two members.

The Redistribution Process

On 4 February 2013 notice of the determined redistribution was published in the Government Gazette. Newspaper advertisements were also published in major metropolitan and regional newspapers and in papers circulating in each district. Suggestions and comments on suggestions were received and made available for public inspection, with almost the entirety of those activities being via the redistribution website (www.redistribution.nsw.gov.au).

Having considered all suggestions and comments, the Commissioners proposed district boundaries and names. Notice was published in the Government Gazette on 17 June 2013. The proposals were also published on the website with accompanying mapping resources and data files. A Report dated 17 June 2013 (with minor appendix amendments on 24 June 2013), available from the website, set out the Commissioners' reasons for the proposed alterations.

Interested persons and organisations were invited to lodge suggestions or objections on those proposed alterations on or before 17 July 2013. Over 260 suggestions or objections were received and made available for public inspection soon after.

The Commissioners considered the suggestions or objections and, as required by the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*, held a Public Inquiry at The Portside Centre, Level 5, Symantec House, 207 Kent Street, Sydney on 5 August 2013. At that Inquiry thirteen oral submissions were made to the Commissioners by nine persons and groups and representatives of four political parties.

Because the Commissioners are of the opinion that the determined boundaries are not significantly different from the Commissioners' proposed boundaries released on 17 June 2013, there is no need for a further round of submissions or a further Inquiry. The number of electors whose enrolled district has changed from the proposal stage to the determination stage of the redistribution is 6,355 electors or 0.13% of the total state enrolment.

This final determination of names and boundaries of electoral districts is based upon the information gathered on behalf of the Commissioners (including the demographic data referred to below) and the submissions presented in writing and orally.

Legislative Requirements

The *Constitution Act 1902* requires a redistribution of electoral boundaries after two general elections have been conducted using the same electoral boundaries. It further provides that the boundaries of each proposed electoral district shall be so determined that, at the time the distribution is made, the number of persons entitled to vote at a general election of Members of the Legislative Assembly in each proposed electoral district is equal to a quotient from which the number of persons in each electoral District will not vary by more than $\pm 10\%$. Under this section, the quotient is obtained by dividing the number of persons entitled at that time to vote in any general election in all the proposed electoral districts by the number of electoral districts at the time of the redistribution.

As for the previous 2004 Redistribution, there are 93 Members of the Legislative Assembly in this 2013 Redistribution.

The *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* (hereafter "the Act") stipulates additional criteria to which the Commissioners must have regard and give due consideration, subject to complying with section 28 of the *Constitution Act 1902*. First, the Commissioners shall have regard to demographic trends within the State and, as far as practicable, endeavour to ensure on the basis of those trends that, at the "relevant future time" i.e. 13 April 2015, the number of electors enrolled in each electoral district will be equal (within a margin of allowance of 10 % more or less) to the average enrolment in electoral districts at that future time.

Second, and subject to the first criterion, the Commissioners shall give due consideration, in relation to each electoral district, to:

- community of interests within the electoral district, including economic, social and regional interests;
- means of communication and travel within the electoral district;
- the physical features and area of the electoral district;
- mountain and other natural boundaries; and
- the boundaries of the existing electoral districts.

Enrolment Data, Quotas and Trends

The figures used for the 2013 NSW Redistribution are as follows:

	Base date	Future time
	3 February 2013	13 April 2015
Number of electors	4,800,967	4,907,575
Number of electoral districts	93	93
Quota	51,623	52,770
Upper quota	56,786	58,047
Lower quota	46,461	47,493

Further details will be available on the redistribution website - www.redistribution.nsw.gov.au until the conduct of the 2015 State General Election and after that time from the New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) website www.elections.nsw.gov.au.

This data was obtained by the Commissioners from the enrolment data available from the NSWEC's own sources including references to other agencies mentioned later in this Report.

As well as being posted on the website, the information was set out in the June Report. No submission questioned this data. Nor did any submission challenge the following statement the Commissioners made about enrolment trends in that Proposed District Alterations Report:

*“An analysis of the current and projected enrolment statistics revealed an overall State increase since the 2004 Redistribution. It also showed a continuing decline in the number of electors in inland western New South Wales against the average state district enrolment. For example the existing districts of **Barwon** and **Murray-Darling** are predicted to decline in absolute enrolment terms to 2015 and there is no demographic evidence to show that that trend will reverse into the future.*

There are equivalent, albeit, lesser trends in districts moving towards the east of the State...

In contrast, the rising enrolment trends in the inner metropolitan region are quite robust, particularly in the short to medium term in the southern fringes of the Sydney CBD. This trend may extend for quite some years if the developments in the western fringe of the CBD take place as recently announced.

The Commissioners have had access to more accurate enrolment statistics and projected enrolment as a consequence of the New South Wales Electoral Commission’s (NSWEC) automatic enrolment process known as SmartRoll. The NSWEC has therefore been able to provide a more accurate base of current enrolment and projections on a Census Collection District (CCD) basis.

*These more precise enrolment and projected enrolment figures have enabled the Commissioners to construct districts much closer to the average enrolment. Consequently, the proposed redistribution has more districts closer to $\pm 2\%$ from the 2013 and 2015 enrolment averages than in the past. The Commissioners were able to minimise the number of districts that diverge to the maximum level of legal tolerance. While the **Riverstone** and **Camden** districts will be close to the maximum divergence from the average enrolment in 2013, the growth in both districts is anticipated to be very strong. This approach is more likely to preserve the important “one vote one value” principle over the two election periods to 2019....”*

The Commissioners remained of this view in finalising the determined district alterations.

Demographic Analysis

The Commissioners recognise that projected enrolment statistics must be the result of an analysis using a number of sources. Fundamental are the use of projected population statistics that are produced by government agencies. Both the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) were consulted regarding projected population figures. Additional “small-area” demographic expertise, as required by the relevant legislation, was also obtained. The conversion of that “population” data into “enrolment” data was undertaken using internal NSWEC enrolment expertise, newly acquired since the 2004 Redistribution as a result of the NSWEC’s new SmartRoll automatic enrolment service.

The Commissioners engaged the demographic services of the Victorian organisation .id (Informed Decisions) Pty Ltd (hereafter “.id”). .id is a politically neutral company of population experts, selected on the basis that they possess strong spatial capability, a keen understanding and knowledge of local government demographic trends with the added benefit of compatibility with the geo-spatial systems used by the NSWEC. .id’s involvement with the local government sector over the last 15 years has resulted in their ability to forecast the population of fringe areas around cities with emphasis on knowledge of local housing market developments.

State district enrolment projections used by the Commissioners were influenced by .id population projections in the regions noted in Table A below:

Table A - Demographic Analysis

2013 State District - Demographic Impact	LG Areas (Short Name) Examined:	2013 State District - Demographic Impact	LG Areas (Short Name) Examined:
Albury	Jerilderie	Monaro	Palerang
Auburn	Auburn		Queanbeyan
Barwon	Bogan	Murray	Conargo
	Coonamble		Murray
	Warrumbungle	Myall Lakes	Great Lakes
Baulkham Hills	The Hills	Newcastle	Newcastle
Blacktown	Blacktown	Penrith	Penrith
Camden	Camden	Port Macquarie	Greater Taree
Campbelltown	Campbelltown		Port Macquarie - Hastings
Castle Hill	The Hills	Shellharbour	Shellharbour
Charlestown	Lake Macquarie		Wollongong
	Newcastle	Strathfield	Burwood
Coffs Harbour	Coffs Harbour		Strathfield
Cootamundra	Junee	Summer Hill	Ashfield
Dubbo	Warrumbungle	Sydney	Sydney
Goulburn	Boorowa	Upper Hunter	Warrumbungle
	Goulburn	Vaucluse	Woollahra
	Upper Lachlan	Wallsend	Lake Macquarie
	Wingecarribee		Newcastle
	Yass Valley	Wollondilly	Wingecarribee
Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie		Wollondilly
Liverpool	Liverpool	Wollongong	Wollongong
Maitland	Maitland	Wyong	Wyong

Some Principles Applied

In the Proposed District Alterations Report dated 17 June 2013 accompanying the proposed redistribution, the Commissioners set out the statistical and other enrolment data upon which their recommendations were based. No submission questioned this enrolment data, which is referred to above.

The Report also laid out various principles taken into account, those impacting on boundaries being stated as follows:

*“The Commissioners have taken the strong view, as reflected in the legislation, that the principle of “one vote, one value” is paramount in the establishment of revised electoral boundaries in 2013 but, more importantly, at the time of the next two elections in 2015 and 2019. Therefore, the continuing declining enrolment trend in the western regions of the State, when combined with the growth in the metropolitan inner city region, have warranted the proposed abolition of one rural district, **Murrumbidgee**, and the proposed creation of a new district, **Newtown**, in inner Sydney.*

The Commissioners in delineating the proposed boundaries gave due consideration to maintain existing boundary configurations as far as practicable. The boundaries were also defined, where possible and particularly in rural and regional areas, to include whole Local Government Areas (LGAs) so as to reflect community of interest. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of LGAs split by electoral districts. Currently, 34 regional LGAs are split by existing boundaries and this is reduced to 12 under the proposed boundaries Close attention was also paid to major features such as national and state parks, roads, motorways and railways....”

Nothing advanced in response to the earlier Report has persuaded the Commissioners to change their views. Indeed, when finally determining the boundaries, the Commissioners were able to further reduce the number of rural and regional LG areas divided by electoral districts to 11 - see Table B below:

Table B - Regional LG Areas split by existing 2004 and determined 2013 electoral districts

Existing 2004 Regional LG Area Splits	Determined 2013 Regional LG Area Splits
Armidale Dumaresq	
Bega Valley	
Bellingen	
Bland	
Blayney	
Byron	
Cabonne	
Carrathool	
Cessnock	
Coffs Harbour	
Cowra	
Great Lakes	Great Lakes
Greater Taree	Greater Taree
Junee	
Lachlan	
Lismore	
Liverpool Plains	Liverpool Plains
Mid-Western Regional	Mid-Western Regional
Narrabri	
Narromine	
Palerang	
Port Macquarie-Hastings	Port Macquarie-Hastings
Port Stephens	Port Stephens
Richmond Valley	
Shoalhaven	Shoalhaven
Singleton	Singleton
Tamworth Regional	
Tenterfield	
Tumut	Tumut
Tweed	Tweed
Upper Lachlan	
Walcha	
Wingecarribee	Wingecarribee
Yass Valley	
34	11

The Commissioners do not understand the above principles to have been challenged in the responses to the proposed boundaries. It is recognised that some who responded in writing or gave oral evidence at the Inquiry were concerned about the physical size of the districts in the west of the State. The Commissioners say more about this later. There were also some submissions to the effect that the legislative criteria fail to pay due regard to the contribution and importance of rural communities compared to those in urban areas. The Commissioners believe that this debate is a matter for Parliament.

Two other broad matters deserve mention at this point.

One is obvious. The Commissioners did not consider the political effects of electoral boundaries.

The second relates to Section 28A of the Constitution Act which would trigger a “special distribution” in the event that more than one quarter of the number of electoral districts were to become “malapportioned” (as defined in Section 28A(2)) for a period of more than two months. The Commissioners are of the view that the determined boundaries do not in any way risk such an occurrence.

The principles applied with respect to the names of electoral districts will be outlined when those matters are addressed.

Determined District Alterations

Key Determinations

Abolished

The district of **Murrumbidgee** is determined to be abolished.

Created

The district of **Newtown** is determined to be created.

Re-named

The following districts are determined to be re-named:

- **Cootamundra** (formerly **Burrinjuck**)
- **Holsworthy** (formerly **Menai**)
- **Murray** (formerly **Murray-Darling**)
- **Prospect** (formerly **Smithfield**)
- **Seven Hills** (formerly **Toongabbie**)
- **Summer Hill** (formerly **Marrickville**)

Summary of Reasons

The Commissioners have taken the strong view, as reflected in the legislation, that the principle of “one vote, one value” is paramount in the establishment of revised electoral boundaries in 2013 but, more importantly, at the time of the next two elections in 2015 and 2019. Therefore, the continuing declining enrolment trend in the western regions of the state, when combined with the growth in the metropolitan inner city region, have warranted the determined abolition of one rural district, **Murrumbidgee**, and the creation of a new district, **Newtown**, in inner Sydney.

It has been determined that six districts are to change their name. This has been necessary as some district boundaries have changed sufficiently to move the current district name locality either well towards the district border or even out of the altered district completely.

The Commissioners have chosen to align water-adjacent boundaries to the hydrolines, lines at the centre of a watercourse, in bodies of water such as Port Jackson in order to firmly define the shore lines within their associated electoral district and so clarify the enrolment of those residing on fixed moorings or house boats. Having received no negative alternative view, this has been reflected in the determined boundary changes to districts. In some tables this new boundary principle has resulted in occasional minor anomalies when 2004 statistics are compared with the 2013 determinations.

Overview of Determinations by Region

Having received over 260 written submissions and heard oral presentations regarding the proposed district alterations, the Commissioners acknowledge that strong communities of interest develop throughout all areas of the State. However, the Commissioners must, when choosing between multiple options, comply with the overriding elector enrolment quota requirements set down in the Act. Where feasible, the Commissioners have minimised the number of rural and regional LG areas that are split by State district boundaries – see Table B.

Although a number of submissions were passionate in their support for a particular local community issue, the Commissioners have a responsibility to conduct a redistribution that complies with the Act across the State. The Commissioners are confident that any individual determined boundaries do not restrict community interactions.

The information set out below largely reproduces the Commissioners’ reasons from the Proposed District Alterations Report of 17 June 2013. The Commissioners note that most of the proposals received actual or tacit support in the suggestions and objections lodged in response to the proposed boundaries or the submissions made at the Public Inquiry.

The regional comments that follow are summaries of the determined district alterations and are intended to show the application of the statutory criteria and illustrate the Commissioners’ goals of:

- ensuring “one vote, one value”, so far as practical;
- maximising the potential to support community interests especially by minimising LG area splits in rural and regional areas; and
- balancing the generally declining rural enrolment with the relatively strong enrolment growth in regions within and adjacent to the metropolitan area.

For all determined districts, changes in the enrolments between the current boundaries and determined boundaries are detailed adjacent to the determined district maps which are located later in this Report.

As mentioned above, further detail can be obtained through the use of enrolment data and mapping resources on the redistribution website - www.redistribution.nsw.gov.au.

The Western Region – Determination Overview

The Commissioners considered a number of objections from individuals, groups and political parties relating to the physical size of electoral districts, particularly in the regions west of the Great Dividing Range, and the consequential significant distances between local Members of Parliament and their constituents. While the strong concern regarding all of the issues that surround this geographical separation is acknowledged, continuous decline in the number of electors in inland New South Wales and the overriding numerical constraints imposed by the Act limit the number of options that can be introduced in this region.

Numerous submissions were received regarding the proposed geographic area of the altered district of **Barwon**. To reinforce the position expressed in the previous paragraph, the redistribution task is one that requires the careful balance of whole of the State population/enrolment demographic trends against the inescapable reality of declining enrollees per unit area in the western regions. Consequently the Commissioners have determined that there should be no change to that already proposed for the **Barwon** district.

Barwon district is determined to be bordered in the north and west by Queensland and South Australia and now includes the whole of the Unincorporated Area and the whole of the LG areas of Central Darling Shire, Bourke Shire, Cobar Shire, Brewarrina Shire, Bogan Shire, Lachlan Shire, Walgett Shire, Coonamble Shire, Warren Shire, Gilgandra Shire, Narrabri Shire, Warrumbungle Shire and Broken Hill City.

Murray-Darling, now bordered by the district of **Barwon** in the north, the borders of South Australia and Victoria in the west and south respectively, leads to the determination to re-name the district **Murray**, a name for a district of similar geographic location and historical significance dating back to the early part of last century. The determined district now contains the whole of the LG areas of Wentworth Shire, Balranald Shire, Hay Shire, Carrathool Shire, Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee Shire, Conargo Shire, Deniliquin, Wakool Shire, Berrigan Shire and Murray Shire.

Albury district retains Corowa Shire Council reflecting the close community links within this region and gains the LG areas of Jerilderie and Urana Shires.

Rural Regions – West of the Divide – Determination Overview

Having a need to satisfy enrolment levels in inland districts and allow for long term declining enrolment, the Commissioners have determined that a district must be abolished in this region. This also permits the maintenance of LG areas as whole inclusions within districts, thereby reflecting established communities of interest. The Commissioners have determined that the existing district of **Murrumbidgee** be abolished and those electors included in the surrounding districts of **Murray**, **Barwon** and **Burrinjuck**.

Burrinjuck district has consequentially moved towards the west leading the Commissioners to determine re-naming the district as **Cootamundra** in recognition of the locality towards the centre of the altered district.

Impacted by the south-east movement of the growing metropolitan and surrounding districts, **Goulburn** district moves generally west to compensate. Since the City of Goulburn remains the predominant urban feature of this district, the name **Goulburn** will be retained.

In the central and northern regions, continuing the rural focus of maintaining LG areas as much as possible, it is determined that significant changes occur in the following districts:

- **Orange** district now contains only the whole LG areas of Orange City, Forbes Shire, Parkes Shire and Cabonne;
- **Dubbo** district contains the whole LG areas of Dubbo City, Narromine Shire and Wellington as well as that portion of the Mid-Western Regional LG area that is currently in **Dubbo** district, such that both **Orange** and **Dubbo** districts shift to an east-west alignment;
- **Bathurst** district now includes all of the LG area of Blayney Shire;
- In order to maintain the strong community of interest in the Mid-Western Regional LG area, the three districts of **Dubbo**, **Bathurst** and **Upper Hunter** continue to share the area as currently divided; and
- **Northern Tablelands** district gains the LG area of Moree Plains Shire from **Barwon** district and loses the LG area of Tenterfield Shire to **Lismore** district.

North Coast Region – Determination Overview

The Commissioners took into consideration submissions regarding the proposed variations to the areas of Killabakh, Marlee, Elands and surrounding localities in the Greater Taree City Council which would remain in the district of **Oxley** under the proposed boundaries. After some deliberations, the decision was made to include this area in the district of **Myall Lakes** to reflect the strong community of interest that exists between these localities and those to the west and south. The alteration of this boundary does not constitute a significant variation from the proposed electoral boundaries or the current and projected enrolment quotas. Moreover this results in the Greater Taree City Council being included in only two districts rather than three.

Generally slightly under quota, the region is restrained by the Queensland border and the Pacific Ocean and then the slightly less defined Great Divide in the west.

As for the rural regions, minimising the division of LG areas has been a focus, the consequence of which has been the determinations that:

- **Tweed** district largely retains its existing boundaries;
- the western border of the district of **Ballina** moves to the western border of the LG area of Byron Shire;
- **Lismore** district has gained the western portion of the Tenterfield Shire Council to maintain enrolment levels and bringing all of the Council into the one district;
- **Clarence** district contains the whole of the LG areas of Clarence Valley and Richmond Valley;
- **Coffs Harbour** district contains the whole of Coffs Harbour City Council;
- **Oxley** district moves closer to the coast as there is some LG area rationalisation along its western border impacting both **Tamworth** and **Northern Tablelands** districts and along its southern border impacting both **Myall Lakes** and **Upper Hunter** districts;

- **Port Macquarie** district continues to contain the eastern portion of the LG area of Port Macquarie-Hastings with some rationalisation around the Telegraph Point and Upper Lansdowne localities to allow polling place access to isolated electors. Lord Howe Island remains in this district; and
- **Myall Lakes** district generally remains stable other than the northerly portion of the Greater Taree City Council area.

Hunter to the Central Coast – Determination Overview

A number of submissions were received in relation to the proposed boundaries between the districts of **Charlestown**, **Lake Macquarie**, **Newcastle** and **Wallsend**. After some detailed analysis, the Commissioners made some minor adjustments to the proposed boundaries between **Lake Macquarie** and **Wallsend** (Glendale locality), **Lake Macquarie** and **Charlestown** (Cardiff South and Warners Bay localities) and **Newcastle** and **Wallsend** (Sandgate locality) with the net effect of including whole localities in electoral districts and meeting quota requirements in this region. Submissions relating to the locality of Redhead were not able to be accommodated for elector quota reasons.

The region's complex coastal geography and the constraints imposed by the Hawkesbury River in the south and the relatively sparse enrolment in the LG areas in the Upper Hunter district in the north have resulted in determinations that:

- **Port Stephens** district reverts largely to the Port Stephens Council area with the loss of its previous Newcastle City Council component;
- **Maitland** district contains the whole of the area of Maitland City Council;
- **Wallsend** district contains the western portion of the Newcastle City Council area;
- Newcastle City Council area, previously split between 5 districts, is determined to be split between the Newcastle regional districts of **Newcastle**, **Wallsend** and **Charlestown**. **Newcastle** district now includes some localities north of the Hunter River;
- **Charlestown** district gains the Redhead locality from **Swansea** district;
- **Swansea** district gains the north eastern portion of **Wyong** district (San Remo locality);
- **Wyong** district now includes the western portion of Wyong Shire Council area but loses much of the Berkeley locality to **The Entrance** district; and
- **Gosford** district loses the Springfield locality to **Terrigal** district but gains the Somersby and Narara localities from **The Entrance** district.

South Coast (including Sutherland Region) - Determination Overview

A number of submissions were received regarding the proposed boundary between the districts of **Kiama** and **South Coast** dividing the locality of Tomerong. The Commissioners determined that the number of electors was small enough to allow the whole of the locality of Tomerong to be included in the district of **South Coast** without adversely impacting on the current and projected quotas for the districts of **Kiama** and **South Coast**. While examining this section of boundaries, it was also noted that a small portion of the locality of Falls Creek was divided, so this was also adjusted to include the whole locality of Falls Creek in the district of **Kiama**.

Bound by the Victorian border in the south, the Pacific Ocean in the east, the Woronora River and Botany Bay in the north and the Great Divide in the west, this region has mixed growth trends with a slight overall deficit. This has resulted in the following determinations:

- From the southern extremity, **Bega** district has gained the Bemboka/Bega Valley locality from **Monaro** district, with **Monaro** district also losing its portion of the Yass Valley Council area to **Goulburn** district in the north, thus uniting this Council into the one district;
- Robust enrolment trends in the **South Coast** district and relative declines in the Illawarra region have resulted in the need for the **Kiama** district to cross over the Shoalhaven River to gain the south-west Nowra region from the **South Coast** district;
- **Kiama** district now follows the Kiama Municipality Council area boundary in the west losing the Robertson region of the Wingecarribee Shire Council area to **Goulburn** district;
- The **Shellharbour**, **Wollongong** and **Keira** districts at their northern edge move into the **Heathcote** district and, at their southern **Shellharbour** district edge, gain the growing Shell Cove locality;
- The northern edge of **Heathcote** district moves to gain the localities of Menai and Bangor from the **Menai** district;
- **Menai** district, having lost the locality of Menai to **Heathcote** district, is determined to change its name to **Holsworthy** district; and
- Having received a number of submissions to the proposals for the Sutherland region, the Commissioners determined that the boundaries would remain the same as those proposed i.e.:
 - o **Miranda** district changes to an east-west orientation to gain Alford's Point and Illawong localities from the existing **Menai** district and now includes the majority of the locality of Miranda, uniting the Miranda shopping region and those Sutherland Shire Council communities along the Georges River; and
 - o **Cronulla** district also moves to a more east-west orientation as it gains the southern portion of **Miranda** district and loses the Sylvania Waters locality to **Miranda** district.

The Hume Highway Corridor and South West Sydney - Determination Overview

With no change in the number of districts, and given the geographic constraints of the Hawkesbury River in the north and the Blue Mountains in the west, this region needs to absorb the differing enrolment trends of the metropolitan and regional areas.

The Commissioners received a number of written and oral submissions in relation to the division of Yass Valley Council between the districts of **Goulburn** and **Monaro**. This is an LG area that is currently split under the existing electoral district boundaries and the Commissioners had intended to expand this split to incorporate the locality of Gundaroo. However, after due consideration of the submissions from concerned residents and Council and examining the impact of the suggested change on the current and projected quotas, the Commissioners determined that the Yass Valley Council is better incorporated in its entirety in the district of **Goulburn**. The variation to the quota is not significant enough to deviate from the principle of including whole LG areas where possible.

As the Commissioners have determined to abolish the district of **Murrumbidgee**, the consequential change moves north up the Hume Highway leading to the determination that:

- With the move of **Cootamundra** (the renamed **Burrinjuck**) district westward, **Goulburn** district now has an east-west orientation as it includes all of the LG areas of Goulburn-Mulwaree, Boorowa, Upper Lachlan Shire, Yass Valley and a significant portion of Wingecarribee Shire;
- **Wollondilly** district gains the eastern portion of **Goulburn** district (Mittagong, Bowral and Burradoo localities) and loses the south-western portion of Campbelltown City Council area (Menangle Park and Ambarvale localities) to **Campbelltown** district. In addition it loses the Camden Park locality to **Camden** district;
- **Campbelltown** district loses its northern region, towards the locality of Ingleburn, to the **Macquarie Fields** district;
- **Camden** district loses its Campbelltown City Council area component to both **Campbelltown** and **Macquarie Fields** districts;
- **Camden** district gains the relatively sparsely populated southern regions of **Mulgoa** district (the localities of Greendale, Badgerys Creek and Wallacia) and gains the Austral locality of the **Macquarie Fields** district;
- **Macquarie Fields** district moves south losing the Prestons and Lurnea localities to the **Holsworthy** (previously **Menai**) district;
- **Liverpool** district contracts to the east with its western semi-rural localities moving into **Mulgoa** district; and
- **Cabramatta** district remains east-west orientated running from Lansvale to Bonnyrigg Heights.

Sydney North Shore and the Hills Region - Determination Overview

With enrolment patterns that generally follow state-wide trends, the North Shore region of metropolitan Sydney has relatively minor needs for district boundary changes other than being slightly enrolment deficient. The enrolment excess in **Riverstone** district flows east to satisfy that deficit, consequentially causing relatively minor variations from west to east.

The Commissioners are of the view that the significance of LG boundaries diminishes in metropolitan districts, compared to rural and regional areas. LG boundaries are regularly traversed, such as for the purposes of shopping and recreation, and this is also evident in the voting pattern locations of electors. Consequentially, the Commissioners have sought, as far as practicable, to retain whole localities within metropolitan districts in order to maintain community of interest. At election time, the locations of polling venues become of prime importance to electors. These locations have been considered when delineating the determined boundaries, in order to reduce elector confusion and also reduce the number of absent votes taken.

The following outline describes the flows or general movements of the determinations in this region:

- **Hawkesbury** district trends south-west;
- **Castle Hill** district moves north into more rural areas;
- Consequentially **Baulkham Hills** district tends to move east;
- **Hornsby** district gains more of the northerly portions of the Hornsby Shire Council area and also gains Thornleigh and Pennant Hills localities from **Epping** district;
- **Ku-ring-gai** district loses Lindfield locality to augment the lower north shore region but gains most of the Pymble locality to Mona Vale Road; and
- **Davidson** district crosses Boundary Street on its southern border to gain Castle Cove locality from **Willoughby** district which itself gains Crows Nest locality from the enrolment positive **North Shore** district.

Sydney - Southern Metropolitan Region (Vaucluse east to Auburn and south to Kogarah) - Determination Overview

In the enrolment sense this area of metropolitan Sydney is dominated by the need to share the enrolment excesses of the **Sydney** and indirectly **Riverstone** districts. Locked in by the Blue Mountains in the west, the numbers needed to be shared from **Riverstone** district have been achieved predominantly by the expansion of existing north-western districts further into the north and west. The remaining numbers to be shared from **Sydney** district have required a new district, determined to be called **Newtown**, in the growth area south of the Sydney CBD. This causes a consequential trend to the west by the existing districts along Parramatta Road.

A number of submissions were received objecting to the placement of Centennial Park in the district of **Heffron** rather than **Sydney**. At times, there was a suggestion that only a member whose electoral district included a feature such as Centennial Park could effectively represent persons concerned about the welfare of such an icon. The Commissioners could not agree with such a proposition. Alternatively, the submissions focussed upon the community of interest shared by the residents living adjacent to the Park and Paddington. However the large population growth in the inner city has rendered it impossible to maintain all localities historically in the district of **Sydney** within that one district without having an adverse impact on the current and projected enrolment quotas. Taking this into account, the Commissioners decided against the suggested alteration to include Centennial Park in the district of **Sydney**.

The significant aspects of the proposal are:

- **Sydney** district loses the park localities of Moore Park and Centennial Park to **Heffron** district, the Chippendale and Surry Hills localities to the new district of **Newtown** and the western portion of the locality of Ultimo to **Balmain** district;
- **Coogee** district loses the Kensington locality to **Heffron** district and gains the South Coogee locality from **Maroubra** district;
- **Maroubra** district then flows north and west around the top of Botany Bay gaining the localities of Pagewood and Daceyville;
- South-west of the Sydney CBD it is determined that the western portion of the existing **Balmain** district, the eastern portion of the existing **Strathfield** district, the eastern portion of the existing **Canterbury** district, **Marrickville** district and the southern portion of the **Sydney** district be transformed into two districts, one new and one renamed:
 - The new district of **Newtown** in the east, a growth area centred on the locality of Newtown and located south of Parramatta Road; and
 - With **Marrickville** district now split, the newly named **Summer Hill** district to the west and north of Parramatta Road;
- Consequentially the remaining inner west districts all trend west until the eastern edge of **Mulgoa** district;
- Districts north of the Georges River also move slightly to the west moving **Lakemba** district into a north-south orientation and **Bankstown** district to move slightly to the north-west;

- The Commissioners considered the written and oral submissions in relation to the proposed boundaries in the Carss Park locality. The Commissioners believe a stronger community of interest exists to the north in the district of **Kogarah** rather than to the east where a physical boundary (a canal and parkland) separates Carss Park from the neighbouring locality of Kogarah Bay. It was therefore decided to make no further change to the proposed boundaries. This is also in keeping with the existing boundary in the area; and
- **Auburn** district gains South Granville locality from **Granville** district.

Western Sydney to the National Parks - Determination Overview

Bound by the Blue Mountains in the west and as discussed previously, this region is also impacted by the over-enrolment in **Riverstone** and **Sydney** districts. Excess enrolment from the **Riverstone** district has already been mentioned as moving to the north and east, but it also impacts through the northern portion of **Londonderry** district and then down to the south until the trend meets that moving north from the south-western districts along the Hume Highway. In particular:

- **Hawkesbury** district now contains the whole of the Hawkesbury City LG area;
- The Commissioners received over 45 submissions from individuals, organisations and political parties in relation to the proposed movement of Mt Wilson, Mt Irvine and Mt Tomah from the district of **Blue Mountains** to the district of **Hawkesbury**. The Commissioners were persuaded that the communities of interest were significant enough to retain these localities in the district of **Blue Mountains** and found that the quotas in the two districts were not adversely impacted by this minor change.
- The western portion of **Penrith** district has retained the localities of Glenbrook and Lapstone and gained the northern portion of Cranebrook locality;
- **Mulgoa** district changes to an east-west orientation with the existing **Smithfield** district contracting east and north into **Blacktown** and **Toongabbie** districts. This movement has prompted the determination to rename **Smithfield** district as **Prospect** district;
- Both **Blacktown** and **Toongabbie** districts move east to the extent that the Commissioners have determined to rename **Toongabbie** district as **Seven Hills** district; and
- Both **Granville** and **Fairfield** districts compact as the **Riverstone** district inspired southerly movement meets both the **Sydney** district inspired westerly movement and the **Camden** district inspired northerly movement.

Further Information - New Determined Boundaries

Maps depicting the determined new district boundaries can be accessed through the redistribution website (www.redistribution.nsw.gov.au) from the date of Proclamation, 18 September 2013.

The maps to be made available, as for the proposed boundaries, will be available in a number of formats and will allow readers to view the determined boundaries at differing levels of detail. It is recommended that these resources are used in conjunction with the mapping and written details contained in this Report. The mapping resources available are:

- Printable maps with index maps of NSW covering four regions and the 93 individual determined districts. These maps will be provided in various resolutions to ease any potential download issues;
- Google maps tool displaying the determined district alterations including the election day polling places that were used by the NSWEC at the NSW State General Election in March 2011;
- The Electoral Channel on the Land and Property Information's (LPI) SIX website for scrutiny of the current 2004, the June 2013 proposed NSW district alterations and September 2013 determined NSW district boundaries. The current federal division and LG area boundaries can also be displayed. A help document is provided for users on the redistribution website; and
- GDA94 Geographical MapInfo Mid/Mif files for use in Geographical Information Systems.

Acknowledgements

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.....
The Honourable Keith Mason AC QC (Chairperson)



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des Mooney', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

.....
Des Mooney (Surveyor General, New South Wales)



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Colin Barry', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Colin Barry (Electoral Commissioner)

Electoral Districts Commissioners for New South Wales

12 September 2013