# **Redistribution of Electoral Districts**



MAKING SUGGESTIONS OR OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES - FACT SHEET 4

## Who can make suggestions or objections?

Anybody, including groups or organisations may make suggestions or objections to the proposed districts released by the Electoral Districts Commissioners (the Commissioners) on 17 June 2013.

## When can I submit suggestions or objections?

Any suggestions or objections in relation to a proposed alteration of an electoral district may be made from Monday, 17 June 2013 and must be lodged with the Commissioners by Wednesday, 17 July 2013. Suggestions or objections received after Wednesday, 17 July 2013 will not be accepted.

#### How do I make a suggestion or objection?

Ideally, suggestions or objections:-

- if provided electronically, should be submitted via the Redistribution website www.redistribution.nsw.gov.au or;
- if provided on paper, should be typed on single-sided A4 paper and not bound;
- further, oral submissions to the Commissioners may be made by those who submit a suggestion or
  objection during the 17 June to 17 July 2013 period. See the section below titled "How can I make an
  oral submission on my suggestions or objections to the proposed boundaries?"

All suggestions or objections must be accompanied by a cover sheet and include a full name, postal address, contact telephone numbers and an email address so that submissions can be acknowledged and contact made should further information be required. If you have requested to be heard by the Commissioners, please ensure the relevant section of the form is marked so that the Redistribution Secretary may reach you by one of the listed contact methods and arrange a time. If your suggestions or objections come from a group or political party, that information must also be included on the cover sheet.

All suggestions and objections must quote a receipt number, if made by an individual who has made a submission in an earlier phase of the redistribution and received a receipt number.

If you are not able to submit your suggestion or objection online, please download the cover sheet from our website, contact us on 1300 135 736 or email **enquiries2013@redistribution.nsw.gov.au** to obtain a copy. In addition, provision of an electronic version of the suggestion or objection on CD or USB drive would also be appreciated (if you are not submitting online), particularly with longer and more complex submissions.

As with the earlier submission phases, if your suggestion or objection contains maps in spatial data format, please also attach paper or Portable Document Format (PDF) versions of the maps where possible to assist with clarity. It would assist the Commissioners if persons or organisations proposing to make suggestions or objections using maps were to use the proposed district maps that are available on the website as the base for those submission maps.

If access to the website is not possible, the Commissioners' report and maps are available from the Office of the Commissioners at Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney. Current enrolment and projected enrolment statistics are also available from the Office of the Commissioners. It is a preference of the Commissioners that comments contain alternative solutions rather than just criticism.

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For further information visit: www.redistribution.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736

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#### What should be included in a suggestion or objection?

Submissions should be clear and logical and include reasons that support your suggestion or objection. If you are able to demonstrate a level of community support for your suggestion or objection, this could also assist the Commissioners in their decision-making processes.

All suggestions and objections made in this phase of the redistribution must be relevant to the district boundary changes proposed by the Commissioners and not what others suggested or proposed in earlier stages of the process.

Those wishing to augment their written suggestions or objections via an oral submission must indicate that they wish to do so at the time of their suggestion or objection.

#### How can I make an oral submission on my suggestions or objections to the proposed boundaries?

This latter stage of the Redistribution process includes the potential for those who make a written suggestion or objection concerning the proposed boundaries between 17 June to 17 July 2013 to make an oral submission to the Commissioners about their written submission. Only those who have made a written suggestion or objection will be invited to make an oral submission if so requested.

Public hearings will commence from late July/early August 2013 and will be held at The Portside Centre (Symantec House, Level 5, 207 Kent Street, Sydney), and will be structured to occur by regional area.

Oral submitters must address points raised in their suggestions and objections only, defending their own arguments and not criticising others. If points have been made by previous speakers it is not necessary to repeat in detail such points.

The Commissioners have determined that individuals will be allocated up to 5 minutes, councils up to 10 minutes and registered political parties up to 30 minutes. If persons or organisations are not present when called to speak, they will forfeit their opportunity to be heard.

Speakers must at all times be relevant to their suggestions or objections otherwise they will be asked to conclude.

## How do I lodge my suggestions or objections?

Written suggestions or objections must be lodged, including a completed and signed cover sheet (where relevant) by the deadline via one of the following four methods:

Via:	Details	Deadline
Website:	www.redistribution.nsw.gov.au	12 midnight Wednesday, 17 July 2013
Fax:	(02) 9290 5949	12 midnight Wednesday, 17 July 2013
Post:	GPO Box 832, Sydney NSW 2001	12 midnight Wednesday, 17 July 2013
In person:	New South Wales Electoral Commission, Level 25, 201 Kent Street, Sydney NSW	5pm Wednesday, 17 July 2013

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#### MAKING SUGGESTIONS OR OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES - FACT SHEET 4

#### How will I know my suggestion or objection has been received?

The Office of the Commissioners will make contact with all submitters via the following methods:

- If your suggestion or objection was lodged electronically via the Redistribution website, you will receive an
  email with a receipt number;
- If your suggestion or objection was lodged via mail, in person or facsimile, you will receive email confirmation with a receipt number (if you have provided an email address);
- If you do not provide an email address, we will either mail confirmation to the address supplied or contact you via telephone to advise you of the receipt number; and
- If you have indicated that you wish to make an oral submission on your suggestions or objections to the
  proposed boundaries, you will be contacted to inform you of the date of the relevant hearing and your
  allocated time-slot.

## What happens next?

Following the 30 day window to lodge suggestions or objections in writing, and within a maximum of 70 days, the Commissioners must hold one or more public inquiries on the suggestions or objections submitted, providing the submissions are not frivolous or vexatious. (PEEA Part 2 Sec 14(5)).

Similar to earlier phases where public opinion was sought, all suggestions and objections lodged with the Commissioners by Wednesday, 17 July 2013 will thereafter be made available for public inspection on the Redistribution website and at the Office of the Commissioners.

Following the public inquiries, the Commissioners will prepare a final determination of electoral districts, boundaries and names. If the proposal differs significantly from the draft proposal, legislation allows for another consultation process to take place (PEEA Part 2 Sec 14(12)). Otherwise the new boundaries and names are proclaimed by the Governor and published in the Gazette and maps displayed at the Office of the Commissioners, at Local Council offices and on the NSW Redistribution website.

#### Where can I get more information?

The NSW Redistribution website **www.redistribution.nsw.gov.au** will be the main source of information about the electoral redistribution. Information will be updated regularly and all suggestions, comments and objections will be published there.

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For further information visit: www.redistribution.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736

