

The Secretariat of the Electoral Districts Redistribution Panel
c/o NSW Electoral Commission
GPO Box 832
Sydney NSW 2001

To whom it may concern,

I have some comments and proposal about the proposed electoral district of Hornsby, in particular the Cherrybrook area.

The suburb of Cherrybrook and its town centre is proposed to be within the district of Hornsby. However, I note that there is a practical travel discontinuity between the rest of the Hornsby district to Cherrybrook. Cherrybrook is separated from the Hornsby town centre by Berowra Creek and surrounding reserves. There are two ways to get from Cherrybrook to the Hornsby town centre, one via Galston Road and one via Pennant Hills Road.

The route via Galston Road is within the electorate, but is a huge detour with a route length of about 17km and is known to be windy and unsafe during extreme weather. The route via Pennant Hills Road is shorter and more direct, but cuts through the proposed electoral district of Wahroonga. It will also be the likely route used due to its easier accessibility. For an MP (Hornsby) whose office is assumed at Hornsby town centre, it does not make sense to cut through another electorate to get to his/her constituents at Cherrybrook.

I note that the variance above the quotient is above 3% for the surrounding districts of Castle Hill and Epping (current district). Therefore, these districts have little capacity to take up/retain the electors at Cherrybrook. However, Wahroonga is -0.21% below the quotient, meaning it has the capacity to take up extra electors from the Cherrybrook area. Cherrybrook will also be closer to an assumed Wahroonga electorate office at Wahroonga (suburb) or Normanhurst, then to an assumed Hornsby electorate office at Hornsby.

Therefore, it will make more sense for the Cherrybrook area (highlighted in figure), to be under the district of Wahroonga.


10 November 2020