

REGIONWIDE

Seats start a debate

MAJOR PARTIES BICKER OVER REDISTRIBUTION OF ELECTORATES' BOUNDARIES

CHIFLEY CHANGES

■ **Loses:** Lethbridge Park, Tregar, Bidwill, Hebersham, Emerton, Mount Druitt, Whalan, Rooty Hill, Minchinbury to the seat of Lindsay

■ **Gains:** Blacktown north to Marayong and east to Kings Park and Lalor Park to Kings Langley and Blacktown south from the seat of Greenway

■ The AEC will now review the submissions and a redistribution committee convened to consider proposed boundaries and a report will be released before the end of 2015

Ian Paterson and Alison Balding

THE Labor Party wants to cement its stronghold on the west by giving Mt Druitt to the seat of Lindsay and making Penrith part of a mountains seat.

The party's amended proposal to the Australian Electoral Commission would see suburbs from Bidwill to Minchinbury and Lethbridge Park to Rooty Hill given to Lindsay, with Chifley handed Blacktown up to Marayong and as far east as Toongabbie.

Suburbs west of Orchard

Hills would join the seat of Macquarie, potentially changing the Liberal lean in Lindsay.

Chifley federal Labor MP Ed Husic said this was not the first time Blacktown had done the dance into his seat.

"There's been a fair bit of Blacktown doing the hokey pokey in Chifley, one moment it's in then it's out, then it's back in and out again," Mr Husic said.

"You do a lot of work to make contact with people in your area but at the same time, if the seat changes, it is an opportunity to meet new people."

Labor spokeswoman for the seat of Macquarie, which covers the Blue Mountains, Susan Templeman, said the changes were suggested to avoid splitting the Blue Mountains, which was what the Liberal Party's proposal advocated.

"There are certainly strong arguments put in many submissions about how the Blue Mountains connects strongly with Penrith and the Nepean region," she said.


The Liberal Party has rejected Labor's idea that Agnes Banks, Londonderry and Berkshire Park join

Macquarie but supports the proposal for Wallacia and Luddenham to join Lindsay.

Lindsay federal Liberal MP Fiona Scott's office was contacted for comment but she did not respond before *The Standard* went to press.

The Liberal Party has slammed Labor's submission.

"The blatant partisan approach taken by the ALP is evident from the outset," the Liberal Party revised submission said.

 Do you agree with the proposed changes? @thedruitt