



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 128

Richard Newton

2 pages

To: New South Wales augmented Electoral Commission 24/7/2024

My Comments on Objections to the Draft Plans of the Redistribution Committee for NSW to remove the Federal Seat of North Sydney

My name is Gordon Richard Newton. I have lived for over 25 years in Castlecrag which is in the Federal Electorate of North Sydney. This part of Sydney is known as the Lower North Shore. Our North Sydney Electorate is a Federation seat. It is 123 years old and I understood the AEC to be reluctant to abolish a Federation without good cause.

I submit that there is no good cause (or reason) to abolish this seat and I object to it being abolished for the reasons set out in Margaret Stoneman's **Objection 720** with which I wholly agree and endorse.

Having lived in the lower North Shore (a federation seat) for decades I suggest our community in the North Sydney Federal electorate has few things in common with the upper North Shore community in the Bradfield Federal electorate in the Kur-in-gai Council area into which Castlecrag would be included under the draft plans. The problems are different between our lower North Shore North Sydney Federal electorate and I can't see how a candidate representing the upper North Shore to Hornsby can also focus on our Willoughby City Council area that is proposed to be removed from the North Sydney Federal electorate into the Bradfield Federal electorate.

The NSW Government, especially with its densification plans around transport hubs in North Sydney and Crows nest and shopping centres, has planned for our North Sydney Electorate to greatly increase in population in the short term. I particularly refer here to Ms Stoneman's predictions and comments under the heading '*Demographic projections fail fact check test*' in her **Objection 720**. The Committee by applying historic data has apparently ignored a projected demographic increase when deciding that our North Sydney electorate fails the quota requirement for 2028. With respect, I believe the Committee is wrong and for this reason alone our North Sydney Federal electorate should NOT be abolished.

The current major freeway expansion in North Sydney will cause this area to be a critical congestion point (car park) with the limited capacity of the Harbour Bridge. This will be in conflict with the increased desire of the upper North Shore residents in the Bradfield Federal electorate and those in the Warringah Federal electorate to access the bridge. A conflict of interest across the newly proposed electorates would result. While initially

a state issue, it is also a national issue and our community in North Sydney Federal electorate needs a focused parliamentary representative to represent us, not one focused on the Northern Beaches Federal electorate of Warringah and another on the upper North Shore electorate of Bradfield.

North Sydney and Chatswood are also major cities and business hubs. There are 28,000 small businesses plus the large corporate (high rise) concentrations in the North Sydney Federal electorate. The North Sydney Federal electorate has a different demographic and population density and a differing representation requirement to those of leafy upper North Shore electorate of Bradfield, the northern beaches Federal electorate of Warringah and the totally different Federal Electorate of Bennelong, that would result from the proposed carving out into three of our North Sydney Federal electorate.

Our community in our North Sydney Federal electorate currently has an engaged community that cares about its environment, socioeconomic achievements and political representation. The removal and splitting into three of our seat would have an ongoing devastating effect on the cohesion currently existing within our community. It would be a tragedy for our federation seat to be abolished, particularly as it would result from what I believe to be invalid demographic projections applied by the Committee that fail a fact check test and appear to serve the wishes of the major parties. Please restore my trust in the AEC! I ask for our North Sydney Federal electorate to be retained.

Richard Newton