



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 118

Caroline Gallagher

2 pages

To: The AEC
New South Wales augmented Electoral Commission in Canberra ACT

Date: June 26th 2024

RE: My objections for the New South Wales federal redistribution; in particular the abolishment of North Sydney electorate

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing you today as I am shocked that North Sydney electorate is proposed to be abolished. I am asking you to reconsider and have another (much less cohesive electorate) abolished. I believe there were 35 electorates on your list.

Why do I believe that North Sydney should NOT be abolished? I have quite a few reasons but I will start with the most important one to me – community:

1. North Sydney electorate is my community. I have been part of it for the past 19 years and it has become part of my identity as an Australian resident/citizen. I am a proud North Sydney constituent. I have raised my 3 children in it, who all have attended primary and high schools within the electorate (Hunters Hill Primary School, Wenona and Bradfield College). They have played in various sports and sporting venues across this electorate including many years in Willoughby through NSNA (North Sydney Netball Association – btw what will NSNA do in terms of its identity???) . We do our shopping in Lane Cove and in Chatswood. We have our medical issues assessed in North Shore Hospital. I volunteer in North Sydney. I have made a point to support local shops and businesses within this community. It is my world!
2. North Sydney from a larger perspective is proven itself to be an established and united community. It came together and voted an independent member to parliament (Kylea Tink) in 2022. Consequently, it united again, and our electorate was one of the few electorates that was able to vote YES for the Voice Referendum. Both achievements were able to be accomplished because we are a well-connected community: North Sydney's does connect, discuss, listen and act to-and-with each other. I simply don't understand how it can be dissected into 3, after these incredible feats which demonstrate our strength as a community. North Sydney has a large beating heart!
3. How can you marry placing our third largest business centre (North Sydney) into an electorate that already has a business area that defines the electorate, ie Manly? How is one MP going to serve two very different business communities? I will need convincing that there is a rational argument that will make this work! North Sydney business community deserves its own MP and identity.
4. I simply cannot imagine Lane Cove being part of Bennelong. Lane Cove is a council that is so green, conscientious and has recently abolished gas from its developments. What does it have in common with Macquarie Park or Marsfield?
5. I have been told that the AEC bases its decisions on a long and independent process but unfortunately it does not take into account future population projections. I strongly feel that the AEC should base its decision on the

amount of development which is in the pipeline at North Sydney Council and our other councils. Splitting up a well-functioning community only for it to potentially/likely be put back together in the not-too-distant future, does not sit well with me as a constituent but also as a taxpayer.

6. Lastly, and I am aware that this is a side note: How come we are reducing the number of electorates whilst the total population numbers are increasing (also considering the reports of record number of immigrants arriving into our nation? How many constituents is too many for one MP? Has this question been raised/assessed? And it should consider that not all MPs are part of a large political organisation.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to your reply!

Kind regards

Caroline Gallagher

