



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 210

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2 pages

The AEC proposal to abolish North Sydney electorate is very concerning to me for the following reasons:

- 1 The claimed changes comprising the basis enabling the AEC to make a case for abolishing the electorate is an act of political skulduggery and makes a mockery of our system of representative democracy. Thus it brings the integrity of the AEC into question and raises serious doubts about its mode of operation and the external influences being brought to bear on it.
- 2 It is very evident that the background motivation / reason for this proposed change is to reduce / reverse the rising trend of independent representation in order to bolster the fading fortunes of the major political parties. The aim of the AEC / its influencers is to reverse the migration of voters from the major parties to independents and so, by default, effect but yet another disgraceful gerrymander event! Both the political manoeuvrers and the general public have so often seen gerrymandering in action that they blithely believe that it should just continue on as a normal thing. Well it must not and AEC's contribution to it must be called out and stopped.
- 3 In the case of North Sydney electorate, the AEC's proposal aims to split up the large numbers of NS voters, dispersing them into adjacent existing electorates wherein it believes that the independent vote will be dispersed enough to minimise the likelihood of independent candidates being elected. THAT IS ILLEGAL AND CONTRARY TO THE LEGISLATED AND INTENDED PURPOSE OF AEC.
- 4 I presume that the following applies:
 - 4.1 The two major parties do not give a damn where the previous independent votes go, as long as it results in a reduced likelihood of independents being re-elected.
 - 4.2 The destruction of the North Sydney electorate is the aim of the AEC influencer/s as it is the best strategy for returning the federal political system to a '2-horse race'.
 - 4.3 Given that the policies of both major parties differ significantly in only a few ways, this effectively amounts to a policy cartel. Whoever provides the funding enabling a party to enter the Parliament also backs both major parties and so retains major control of Australia, irrespective of which 'horse' wins. The general public (the people who pay to keep the AEC funded and so enable it to continue its activities) are left out and continue to be treated with utter contempt.
 - 4.4 I wish I could be more optimistic than this, but it is what it is.
- 5 It is incumbent on the AEC to act in the interests of Australian citizens. Destroying North Sydney electorate is seriously acting against the interests of all Australian citizens. The major background reason for this is that it will result in further weakening our democracy by removing elector representation (currently being served by the independents) and bolstering the concentrated power of the party controllers. We did not vote for these people and they have no right to force their control over government.
- 6 The rising trend of independent representation is a direct result of the failure of the major parties to properly represent the will of the electorate and is obviously a major concern to both Labour and Liberal parties. It is preventing the increasing concentration of power in the major parties which further diminishes individual representation and so further destroys the remnants of our democracy. Australian democracy as well as the other democracies worldwide is on the rails and we all need to be careful to ensure its health and survival as the alternative is living under autocratic rule. The idea of being locked up in regimes such as those of China or Russia is repugnant and totally unacceptable.
- 7 I, for one, will not allow this proposed eradication of the North Sydney electorate and believe that a Royal Commission should be introduced to examine all aspects of the operation of the AEC. This must be adequate to identify the individuals by name within that organisation, their political biases and the extent to which they are capable of influencing

the steering of the Commission's actions. The anonymity of commissioners and staff will be removed. These activities need to be clearly identified where they even slightly deviate from the Federal laws governing the AEC activity and the legislated penalties associated with violation.

- 8 North Sydney used to be considered to be a "blue ribbon" electorate - owned by the Liberal Party. If that was once true, it certainly is no longer true.
 - 8.1 Three elections back, the Independent Ted Mack romped in and looked after the interests of North Sydney electorate. He was widely respected and well appreciated for his contributions. (look him up on Internet and understand). He stood aside for his own altruistic reasons and paved the way for the Liberals to return to North Sydney.
 - 8.2 He was subsequently replaced by Joe Hockey. I had a lot to do with Joe and, although he was the object of public criticism due to being landed with some pretty awful Liberal Party policies, he did his best to represent his constituents. I do not know for sure, but I surmise that he came to considerable disagreement with the Liberal Party. What is certain is that he took up a position as Australian ambassador to the USA. Draw whatever conclusions you can about that.
 - 8.3 The Liberal Party candidate for North Sydney, Trent Zimmerman, was successful in the following election. From Day1 and his entire term he demonstrated an unprecedented level of arrogance and contempt for democratic representation.
 - 8.4 Consequently, in the following election, the NS electorate got rid of him and voted in Independent Kylea Tink and so democratic representation has returned to us.
 - 8.5 And now the AEC has been corrupted and is attempting to put the skids under Kylea Tink! Well you are not getting away with that!