



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 290

Dr Philip Laird OAM, FCILT, Comp IE Aust

3 pages

I write to object to the proposal of The Redistribution Committee to abolishing the Division of North Sydney.

A. Before commenting on this proposal, I support the proposal of the Redistribution Committee for the existing Division of Cook be jointly named to honour:

- the Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Cook GCMG PC (1860–1947), a former Prime Minister of Australia, and
- Captain James Cook FRS (1728–1779).

The suburb of Cook in Canberra, in the ACT, at least by an official sign notes that it is jointly named.

B. Turning now to the seat of North Sydney.

1. The first thing to ask is that is it really necessary for New South Wales' entitlement to members of the House of Representatives to decrease from 47 to 46; when the present number of Representatives is 151 and the new Parliament is to have 150.

Does not the AEC have any discretion in this matter? If not, is it desirable that the guidelines be changed.

Given that there are 76 Senators. could not the number of Representatives in the new Parliament have been 152 members ?

2. On page 6 and again on page 31 it is noted that in the abolition of a seat, the AEC is guided by the Electoral Act with “namely the numerical requirements and the obligations relating to community of interests, means of communication and travel, the physical features and area of the proposed electoral division and the boundaries of existing electoral divisions.”

Suggestions to the redistribution and comments on suggestions advocated 21 different electoral divisions to abolish.

These are listed in Table G on page 34.

By some mysterious process, just five Electoral divisions are investigated for abolition. Four of these are listed in Table G, as Banks, Cunningham, North Sydney and Warringah and the division of Werriwa is added.

Then, with little or no further explanation, apart from as noted below¹ we are informed that “As a consequence of making the necessary adjustments to ensure that all electoral divisions would meet the numerical requirements of the Electoral Act, the Redistribution Committee unanimously proposes abolishing the existing Division of North Sydney.

One would have thought that all each and every one of the Electoral divisions would have been investigated for abolition.

3. On page 18 it is noted that “ At June 2023, almost two-thirds of New South Wales’ population (approximately 5.45 million people) was located in Greater Sydney. In the period June 2022 to June 2023, the population in the Greater Capital City Statistical Area of Sydney grew by 2.79 per cent. This was a higher rate than the rest of the state, which only grew at 1.01 per cent over the same period. “

If one applies the logic that abolition of a seat within NSW is necessitated by NSW not growing as faster than the rest of Australia, then it would surely follow **that a seat to be abolished would be outside of the Greater Capital City Statistical Area of Sydney.**

4. On page 35, it is noted that ‘North Sydney’ has been used as the name of an electoral division since 1901 and is therefore considered to be an original federal electoral division. The name refers to the area originally covered by the electoral division. The entirety of the current Division of North Sydney is contained in the area covered by the 1901 Division of North Sydney.

Does the fact that North Sydney is an original federal electoral division count for anything ?

5. North Sydney was the seat held by former Prime Minister, W. M. Hughes from 1922 to 1949. Mr Hughes was also the longest serving

¹ “It became apparent that an abolition of an outer metropolitan or provincial electoral division would necessitate higher numbers of elector movements across the state when compared to the abolition of an inner metropolitan electoral division. This is consistent with the observation of where the lower rates of growth in elector numbers are, in inner metropolitan Sydney, when compared to the location of the higher growth in elector numbers – in Western Sydney, particularly to the south-west.”

member of the House of Representatives (from 1901 to 1952). Could I ask if this taken into account?

6. North Sydney was the seat held by former Independent MHR Mr Ted Mack from 1990 to 1996. Mr Mack also gave distinguished service as the Mayor of North Sydney and a Member of the Legislative Assembly of NSW. Could this please be taken into account?

7. North Sydney was where Sister Mary Mackillop lived (from 1883?) before her death there in 1909. There is now a museum on Mount Street in North Sydney in her memory. She is the only Australian to date to have been canonised as a Saint. This took place in October 2010, and In the week leading up to her canonisation, the Australian federal government announced that it was protecting the use of MacKillop's name for commercial purposes. Australia Post issued an official postage stamp to recognise MacKillop's canonisation. Could this please be taken into account.

8. North Sydney is an important commercial area. Many companies have their head office in North Sydney. Some examples include Pacific National, Microsoft (Australia) and Zurich Australia. Many companies have regional offices in North Sydney.

9. A question arises as to projected population growth of the present North Sydney electorate. It is highly likely that this will be accelerated by the new Sydney Metro City from Chatswood to Sydenham which is to have new stations built including at Crows Nest and Victoria Cross.

This Metro is due to start operations in August 2024. Some development will have already taken place or have been commenced already. My expectation is that once the line starts operations, with a very quick and frequent service to the Sydney CBD, is that further Transit Orientated development will take place in North Sydney.

10. Your favourable consideration of this submission would be appreciated.

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