




**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Objection 302

Helen Smith

2 pages



1 July 2024

The Australian Electoral Commission.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Electoral Boundary Proposed Changes  
Objection to the abolition of the Seat of North Sydney

I most strongly object to the proposed abolition of the seat of North Sydney.

### **Community of Interests**

For nearly forty years I have lived in the federal electorate of North Sydney - firstly in Naremburn and now in Greenwich. My children attended daycare and then the local public school and high school in North Sydney. From the time when my children were young, the area comprising North Sydney, Crows Nest and St Leonards has been the backdrop of my life. It's all covered for me - work, shopping, socialising, exercising, libraries, medical and volunteering. Local transport is the T1 Train line through Wollstonecraft - it's the artery of our lives. Over the years a strong sense of common community interest has developed - we share a very strong commitment to improving the life of our community, helping individual residents and improving the quality of the built environment and caring for our precious open spaces and bushland.

My involvement in the local community is very important to me. AND I want my political representation to be as closely aligned to my community interest as much as possible. If the redistribution goes ahead, I will be in an electorate with Denistone - I see little community of interest coming from a redistribution. The distances are too great, the lived experiences are so very different.

### **Pressures of Population**

We are living daily with the pressures of a growing population in our local area.

There is a large cluster of massive high rise of tower blocks being constructed in the vicinity of St Leonards Station. Then there is the new Metro Station at Crows Nest which will also have its tower blocks - government policy is to concentrate high grow along transport lines.

Over the next couple of years, my local area is anticipating that local schools will be at capacity, there is pressure on public open spaces, sporting facilities are being redeveloped to cater for the influx of population. As is it the roads are clogged and parking is difficult - as the local population explodes, these issues will become a lot more pressing, for existing residents and new ones. They will require careful management.

I firmly believe that transport hubs need consistency of electoral representation - the area North Sydney to St Leonards (covering rail and metro) needs an integrated approach. That

representation should extend to the surrounding areas - our lives revolve around these facilities. If we carve up this integrated area into multiple seats, we impact effective decision making, add to complexity, and it's just a silly idea.

Yet, I read in the population projections used for the redistribution that the population of the North Sydney electorate is proposed to DECREASE between 2023 and 2029. These projections are certainly not consistent with the explosive growth (current and planned) in my area. My lived experience is definitely not of a decrease but of massive growth. The reality is that it's a total growth focus at government and council level - a decrease is just not on the cards.

### **Historical Significance**

North Sydney as a seat dates back to Federation, and it has a proud history of supporting independents. We had a local independent member for many years with Ted Mack. He was our local hero!

Then at the last election we are back with an independent. After many years of my local member representing not me but a political party, finally we the people once again had a voice. I would be just so sad to lose our wonderful vibrant responsive local independent. Having an independent who listens and takes up concerns is really exhilarating! I was just fed up with raising issues with the local member and getting no response at all.

Please, please do not abolish our local seat.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Helen Smith