



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 388

Aneka Henshaw

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To the Australian Electoral Commission,

As a 22-year-old lifelong resident of Hunters Hill, I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed redistribution plan that seeks to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney. This plan would see our community absorbed into the electorates of Warringah, Bradfield, or Bennelong, a move that I believe would significantly disrupt our community of interest and undermine the unique identity and cohesion that we have built over many years.

North Sydney is a vibrant and engaged community with strong social, economic, and regional ties. Growing up in Hunters Hill, I participated in local netball, sailing, and tennis clubs, all of which have a strong North Sydney identity. I was also a long-time student at the local dance school, Jenan School of Dance, and attended preschool and primary school in the local area. Our community is tightly knit, with many residents involved in various local groups and organisations. The bonds we have formed through these shared interests are a crucial part of our identity.

In particular, at the 2022 Federal Election we united to support an independent community representative as our Member of Parliament. This project saw the community draw together and advocate for themselves, participate in community events and discuss key issues with frankness, humility and openness. I established an organisation of young people (~16-25 years), Kylea Tink Next Generation, to support this community independent project and act as a conduit for information between young people as their local member. We have encouraged more young people in the electorate to pay attention to, be curious about, and participate in the political landscape. This is crucial for a healthy democracy.

Our community is known for its engagement and activism. North Sydney was one of the first electorates to stand up for independent representation in 2022 and voted in favour of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the 2023 referendum. We value our cultural diversity, with half of our population born overseas and a third speaking a language other than English at home.

North Sydney has a rich history, being one of the original 75 federation divisions contested in Australia's first federal election 123 years ago. Many families in our community have lived here for generations, proud to be represented by prominent figures such as a prime minister, a treasurer, and independent trailblazer, Ted Mack. This historical significance is a vital part of our community identity.

The proposal to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney neglects the strong sense of community and identity we share. I urge the AEC to reconsider this proposal and retain the federal seat of North Sydney, allowing us to continue to stand together as a distinct and vibrant community, with independent representation.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Aneka Henshaw