



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 389

Nicholas Wyndham

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To the Australian Electoral Commission,

As a lifelong resident of St Ives in the neighbouring electorate of Bradfield, I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal seat of North Sydney. While I do not live in North Sydney, I believe that merging its electorate with Bradfield, Bennelong, and Warringah will have significant negative impacts on all involved communities, including my own.

North Sydney is home to the third-largest business centre in Australia, with 28,000 small to medium-sized businesses. These businesses have unique needs and interests that do not align with those of Bradfield, which has its distinct economic ecosystem centred around different commercial activities and industries. The merging of these electorates would dilute the focus and representation each community requires, potentially hindering the economic growth of both areas.

North Sydney and Bradfield have distinct social fabrics. North Sydney is known for its vibrant community groups, cultural diversity, and active social engagement. Bradfield, while also diverse, has its unique community dynamics. Absorbing North Sydney into Bradfield could undermine the social cohesion and identity of both communities. Residents of Bradfield might find it challenging to adapt to the sudden increase in population and the differing social priorities, leading to a less cohesive community overall.

North Sydney and Bradfield have distinct physical landscapes and urban planning characteristics. The integration of these areas would complicate urban planning and resource allocation. St Ives, for example, is a suburban area with a different pace of life and infrastructure needs compared to the more urbanised North Sydney. This mismatch would likely lead to inefficient allocation of resources and planning difficulties.

The projected population growth in North Sydney, with 19,500 new residents expected by 2036, highlights the need for dedicated representation. I am concerned that incorporating this growing population into Bradfield would result in less effective representation for both current Bradfield residents and new constituents from North Sydney.

The historical significance of the federal seat of North Sydney, one of the 75 original federation divisions, should not be overlooked. Abolishing this seat would erase a significant part of our national heritage. Maintaining North Sydney as a separate entity honours this history and respects the legacy of its past representatives, including a prime minister, a treasurer, and independent trailblazer Ted Mack.

In conclusion, the proposed abolition of the North Sydney federal seat and its merger with Bradfield, Bennelong, and Warringah is not in the best interest of the affected communities. It would dilute the unique identities, economic interests, and social cohesion of each area, leading to less effective representation and governance. I urge the AEC to reconsider this proposal and retain North Sydney as an independent federal seat.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Wyndham