



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 431

Miriam Gilmour-Hancock

2 pages

My name is Miriam Gilmour-Hancock, and I am a Lavender Bay resident in the Federal seat of North Sydney. We have owned our home here since 2005, and we feel a strong connection to the people, businesses and community organisations in our electorate. The North Sydney electorate is our home where my family live and work.

We have raised our family in North Sydney. Our children went to primary school and high school locally. They played sport in Crows Nest and Willoughby and all three participated in cubs and scouts in Northbridge. They had music lessons in Crows Nest and Waverton. We shop in Northbridge, Chatswood, North Sydney and Crows Nest. We have been members of the St Mary's, North Sydney Parish. Since 2011, my children and I have been employed in businesses and organisations in the North Sydney electorate. All members of our family utilise the local services such as Royal North Shore Hospital and the allied health services in the the surrounding area. We have subsequently established strong roots in North Sydney. It is where we live and work, our community and our home.

Over the last 20 years, we have built our lives in North Sydney and I feel strongly that the North Sydney electorate should be retained because:

1. It has unique characteristics and needs that might not be adequately addressed if its residents are absorbed into neighbouring electorates;
2. Current networks, connections, sporting groups, businesses, community groups, schools and transport lines are intrinsically linked within the current North Sydney electorate;
3. Maintaining the seat ensures continuity in addressing current long-term projects and community goals;
4. North Sydney is the third largest business centre in Australia and the significant economic corridor that runs through the electorate. The needs of the 28,000 small to medium size businesses do not overlap entirely with those of the newly proposed areas of Bradfield, Bennelong or Warringah. I therefore believe that North Sydney's businesses, organisations and industrial zones deserve the focus of a dedicated local member;
5. The historical significance of the federal seat of North Sydney is part of our community's identity. North Sydney is one of the 75 original federation divisions contested in Australia's first federal election 123 years ago.

North Sydney is a cohesive and engaged community: North Sydney is home to many environmental, humanitarian, religious and social groups all working together to improve our community. (It is telling that we were one of the first electorates to stand up for independent representation in 2022, and one of the few to vote for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the 2023 referendum). We respect and value our cultural diversity, with half of our population born overseas and a third speaking a language other than English at home. And we are home to several active and competitive sports teams, including two of the largest community-based sporting organisations in the state.

I am a very proud and engaged resident of the North Sydney electorate. I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the seat of North Sydney be abolished and request for it to remain intact, with minimal changes to accommodate changes in overall numbers of electors in NSW.

Your faithfully,

Miriam Gilmour-Hancock

