



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 445

Alan Marel

4 pages

From: Alan Marel [REDACTED]

Subject: AEC objection to the proposed NSW Electoral Boundary change, relating to Warringah, Mackellar and North Sydney.

Date: 9 Jul 2024 at 4:07:02 PM

To: Alan Marel [REDACTED]

Bcc: [REDACTED]

AEC: objection to the proposed NSW Electoral Boundary change, relating to Warringah, Mackellar and North Sydney.

Dear Redistribution Committee,

As a resident of North Curl Curl, I would like to register my objection to the proposed redistribution that would take North Curl Curl out of Warringah, as well as to oppose the abolition of the seat of North Sydney.

Our family feels strongly that keeping communities of interest together is important. We have lived in North Curl Curl for close to 40 years, during which time it was one of the safest Liberal held seats in NSW. The community has come together and mobilised to remove the long standing Liberal incumbent, who did not represent the interests of the electorate. A grassroots community movement grew and grew, and our Independent candidate worked very hard to overcome the substantial financial and personnel advantages of the major political parties to win the seat of Warringah.

At the last election we witnessed similar grassroots movements and support in Mackellar and North Sydney, which resulted in the election of formidable, intelligent, female Independents who like Zali Steggall in Warringah, truly represent their electorates. It is hardly a surprise to find out that the primary suggestion to abolish

Warringah came from the Liberal Party, and North Sydney's abolition came from the National party. Perhaps abolishing an outer metropolitan division would be more appropriate.

There is a tremendous sense of community in Warringah, Mackellar and North Sydney, and people here are proud of their Independent female representatives, and the community bond that saw the birth and flourishing of these grassroots movements.

These communities have enabled political change at a Federal level. We have witnessed people power, instead of being offered the "least worst" option, when choosing who to vote for from the major parties, we have shown that there is another alternative, and that communities and electorates can be truly represented, and will no longer be taken for granted. It is also relevant that in a heavily male dominated parliament, all of the proposed electorates that the AEC proposes to abolish in both NSW and Victoria are currently held by female MPs. A more balanced gender diversity in parliament should be a factor worthy of consideration, and would be in keeping with [75] of the AEC's reasons for proposal, that "keep together or improve representation of existing communities of interest".

Therefore I support Zali Steggall's proposals, which are aimed at keeping metropolitan communities and areas of interest together. Instead of abolishing North Sydney, this could be achieved by:

Moving the boundaries of North Sydney in a northerly direction and allowing the electorates surrounding to assume the required number of voters from Bradfield;

Move the boundaries of Mackellar westwards into St Ives and Berowra to move east to include the area around Hornsby. This would keep the whole of Mona Vale road, one of only three major roadways into the Northern Beaches, in the division of Mackellar, which would make sense on many levels, especially in regard to infrastructure planning and maintenance;

The areas around Dee Why, North Curl Curl, Killarney Heights and Forestville would be able to remain part of the division of Warringah, communities they currently share common interests with, as well as geographical zones of interest;

Warringah could expand into the current North Sydney LGA, up to the eastern side of the Warringah freeway, including all of Kirribilli, areas of Neutral Bay that are not currently part of the division, North Cremorne and Cammeray.

I believe that this would deliver a better and fairer boundary redistribution, and would accommodate the differing population growth rates, while keeping together communities of common interest, and maintaining more female representation in parliament.

If we're going to "keep the bastards honest" the major parties need to know that there are electorates out there that have strong communities that will bypass their candidates if they refuse to listen to the voices of their constituents. That has to result in a better, stronger and fairer parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Marel



North Curl Curl. 2099. NSW.