



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 448

Lars Johan Hedstrom

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To: The AEC NSW Redistribution Committee.

Subject: Draft plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 NSW redistribution.

My name is Lars Johan Hedstrom, and my wife and I have lived in the North Sydney electorate since 1985, initially in Neutral Bay, and then in Willoughby. Our three children were all born at Royal North Shore Hospital, and went to local schools.

The local community is well educated, and engaged, with the issue of engagement particularly strong when the local member has been an independent, such as Ted Mack, and most recently Kylea Tink. My political engagement has not been particularly high for most of this period, but to experience grassroots democracy during the last Federal election campaign was very inspiring.

And I believe that such engagement is a very healthy aspect of a functioning democracy. It seems to me that abolishing the seat of North Sydney would reduce that grassroots political engagement, and sense of community. In fact I have only ever felt truly represented in Canberra when Ted Mack or Kylea Tink has been our member, and I would like to have the opportunity to vote for Kylea again at the next election.

There are also strong historical reasons to keep North Sydney as a Federal electorate, and the significant business centre of North Sydney is very distinct to more suburban centres such as Ryde, Manly or Hornsby, located in the three neighbouring electorates who have been proposed to take over North Sydney.

Projections for population growth is very strong for the electorate, as higher density living is planned for the area, particularly along the railway and Metro lines. It is conceivable that future population trends will lead to a need for a re-established North Sydney electorate, which would make the proposed, current abolishment of North Sydney an unnecessary and costly mis-step.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the seat of North Sydney be abolished and request for it to remain as it is, in recognition of its healthy democratic engagement, and likely population trends.

Yours sincerely

Lars Johan Hedstrom

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