



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 465

Louisa Timbrell

2 pages

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The NSW Redistribution Committee
FedRedistribution-NSW@aec.gov.au

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

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Louisa Timbrell, and I am a lifelong resident of the Federal seat of North Sydney, residing in Lane Cove. I have been a part of this community since my birth in 1995, attending primary and high school, dance school, university, and now working within North Sydney. My professional journey includes roles at Royal North Shore Hospital and currently at the Ministry of Health in St Leonards. I am also deeply engaged in the social fabric of our community, participating in social netball at Ridge Street and frequenting various local trivia nights with friends from Lane Cove, Chatswood, Crows Nest, Waverton, Wollstonecraft, and Cremorne.

I strongly oppose the proposed abolition of the seat of North Sydney for the following reasons:

1. **Population Growth:** The North Sydney electorate is experiencing rapid population growth, with an estimated 24,000 new homes to be built in the next five years. The Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) proposal does not adequately account for this increase. Suburbs such as Lane Cove and others within the electorate feature high-density housing, which is not equally represented in the surrounding seats of Bennelong, Bradfield, and Warringah as these areas are further from the Sydney CBD. It is crucial that these high-density areas remain grouped and represented under our current MP to ensure their unique priorities are addressed, which may not be adequately represented within the Bennelong seat.
2. **Economic Significance:** North Sydney's CBD is the third-largest business center in Australia and warrants focused representation. The northern economic corridor, stretching from North Sydney to Chatswood, would be fragmented among three different electorates under the proposed changes. Additionally, public transport connectivity between Lane Cove and Bennelong suburbs is poor, and the soon to open metro line between Chatswood, Crows Nest, and Victoria Cross will traverse three separate electorates under the new proposal. This division hinders cohesion and complicates the ability of MPs to effectively address public transport needs for their communities.
3. **Community Unity:** North Sydney is a cohesive and connected community, both socially and culturally. Many environmental, humanitarian, religious, and social groups operate across this electorate, advocating for a brighter future. Segregating this historically bound community would result in a significant loss of social cohesion and could lead to important community interests being overlooked in the new electorates.

4. **Historical Significance:** Abolishing North Sydney, one of the original 75 federation divisions, would be a disservice to our nation's history. North Sydney is also a community that proudly embraces Aboriginal heritage and was one of the few to vote Yes to an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Maintaining the historical integrity of this seat is essential to preserving the foundations of our independent nation.

In light of these reasons, I strongly oppose the draft proposal to abolish the seat of North Sydney. I urge consideration of alternative redistribution options that would better accommodate the changing number of electors in NSW without dismantling our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,

Louisa Timbrell

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