



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Objection 523

Mark Austin

2 pages

10 July 2024

Mark Austin  


To: The NSW Redistribution Committee

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

My name is Mark Austin, and I am a resident in the Federal seat of North Sydney from Longueville. My family and I have lived here since 2006, and we feel a strong connection to the communities and schools here. My wife and I are both active volunteer and contributors to different community and sporting groups in the area.

I am opposed to the seat of North Sydney being abolished because:

1. **Population growth:** First and foremost the population right across our electorate is growing rapidly but the AEC's proposal does not appear to account for this growth. For example, the NSW State Government plans to see 5,900 new homes built in the North Sydney LGA alone by 2029. If that growth is replicated across the four LGAs currently contained in the federal seat that would see more than 24,000 new homes built across our community.

In addition to this, North Sydney Council is expecting 19,500 new residents to move into the area by 2036. This is a 27% increase in just one of the four LGAs that currently make up the seat of North Sydney and indicates that it is highly likely that to proceed with abolishing our seat now would be completely counterproductive, as arguably the case to re-establish it come 2029 will be more than obvious.

2. **Our business community:** As home to the third-largest business centre in the country, we also believe that North Sydney's businesses and industrial zones deserve the focus of a dedicated local member. North Sydney has a total of 28,000 small to medium size businesses whose needs do not overlap entirely with those of the newly proposed areas of Bradfield, Bennelong or Warringah.
3. **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. And we are home to several active and competitive sports teams, including two of the largest community-based sporting organisations in the state.

4. Long history with independent representation: 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. It has also over the years had political representation by independents, which fit with the unique and community minded spirit of the area. I do not consider myself to be like the constituents or the character of the other surrounding electorates and would like to retain the unique features of our 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

Yours faithfully,

Mark Austin