



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 598

Chris Bilsland and Jim Owen

2 pages

July 11, 2024.

RE: Objection to the abolition of NORTH SYDNEY electorate.

Dear AEC,

I have lived in Lane Cove since migrating to Australia in 2001. We chose Lane Cove based on its proximity to work however very quickly we became attached to the natural environment and relaxed village atmosphere. I was amazed by the community and environmental support extended by our Lane Cove Council, often in partnership with Willoughby Council in particular, as well as North Sydney Council.

I know other groups and individuals have voiced concerns about the community that exists in the North Sydney electorate, its heritage, and structural differences between North Sydney and the electorates of Warringah and Bradfield that will affect people who would be absorbed by those respective expanded electorates. In this objection, I will focus on the personal links that we have as Lane Cove residents, after reflecting on our lack of connection with the Bennelong electorate beyond the Lane Cove River.

We became citizens in 2003 and now have strong connections with sporting clubs in Lane Cove and North Sydney. We frequent the library which allows us to borrow from North Sydney library as well. We frequent Chatswood to shop, Crows Nest for entertainment and events, and North Sydney /Waverton for harbour walks, and Kirribilli markets. We participate in activities sponsored by Lane Cove, Willoughby, and North Sydney Councils. We have attended many thought provoking talks and lectures at Willoughby Uniting Church and in North Sydney venues.

Although we both work near Macquarie Park, that is the extent of our connection with Bennelong. We do not participate in any activities other than work in the Bennelong area. After talking with many other people in my area who were not aware of the proposed redistribution they expressed similar reactions – that apart from work or visiting family that may live in Bennelong, they have little to do with Bennelong. Kids activities? Lane Cove, Chatswood, Willoughby or Crows Nest. Art classes, groups for adults; again, if not in Lane Cove these activities are largely pursued in Chatswood, Willoughby, North Sydney or Mosman. Lane Cove has many service organisations thanks to Council, to fulfil people's desire to volunteer and serve their community.

Finally, I will comment on the difficulty of public transport connection to Bennelong. Personally, I use public transport whenever possible and know from first hand experience that public transportation between Lane Cove and Ryde, Epping and even Macquarie Park where I work is declining and will get worse in August with the cancellation of route 294 on Epping Road. In Lane Cove our functional transport routes take the freeway to the city, Pacific Highway to North Sydney, connect to St. Leonards station, or alternatively we drive to Artarmon or Wollstonecraft train station. Overall, we can get to many places in the current North Sydney electorate. In contrast there are no viable bus or train options to get to Ryde unless you live close to Chatswood or North Ryde train stations.

To summarise, Lane Cove and Bennelong are disconnected parts of Sydney and it is puzzling why we must be cut up and portioned off to an electorate with which Lane Cove has little connection.

Therefore, we strongly object to the proposal to abolish the North Sydney electorate as proposed. We ask you to consider alternate proposals such as the proposal being developed by our federal representative's office.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our objections to the proposed redistribution of the North Sydney electorate.

Best regards
Chris Bilsland and Jim Owen
Lane Cove NSW 2066.