



Objection 637

Jane

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The Australian Electoral Commission (Attn: NSW Redistribution Secretariat)

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Canberra ACT 2601

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to object to the proposed redistribution of the Federal Seat of North Sydney among three different electorates for the following reasons:

- 1. North Sydney was first and foremost a founding seat and has existed since Federation. It would be a travesty to abolish such a historic seat due to the major parties, both Liberal and Labor not liking the fact that an independent has taken over.
- 2. Everyone that lives in the seat of North Sydney largely identifies as cohesive social group and has similar views, politically as well as socially. These views differ vastly with the neighbouring electorates of Warringah or Bradfield. For example, it would be insanity for neighbouring suburbs such as Cammeray and Northbridge to be separated into two very disparate electorates and grouped in the "insular peninsular" attitudes of those who reside on the Northern Beaches and the conservative "oldies" that live in the upper North Shore. The seat of North Sydney is vibrant, younger than their neighbours and is way more open-minded unlike Bradfield or Warringah.
- 3. To rebut what is perhaps the most cited reason for getting rid of the seat of North Sydney, population growth, I point to the NSW Transport Oriented Development (TOD) program. Crows Nest and St Leonards which is within the boundary of the seat of North Sydney has been identified by the government for accelerated future development. The plan is expected to deliver 6,680 new homes according to the NSW government (https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/plans-for-your-area/priority-growth-areas-and-precincts/st-leonards-and-crows-nest/the-2036-plan). This alone will increase the population of the seat of North Sydney by at least 13,000 people. So if the argument is that the seat doesn't have enough of a population, does it mean we will get it back once the population increases? If the answer is no, then the prudent thing would be to keep the seat of North Sydney and abolish another seat that doesn't have the same rate of projected population growth. I highly doubt that the seat of Warringah would have that rate of population growth in the next 5 years. If anything, that seat should be abolished and absorbed into the neighbouring seats.

In summary, it would be very short sighted of AEC and threaten the social cohesion of the district should this particular redistribution go ahead given the projected massive population growth in this historic seat and the more obvious candidates for redistribution in other Sydney areas.

Thank you for your attention,

Kind regards,

Jane