



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 639

Annabelle Burley

2 pages



12th July

re Proposed abolition of federal seat of North Sydney

I write this email to voice my objection to the proposed abolition of the North Sydney federal electorate and to recommend that you reconsider the redistribution having regard to the proposal made by my local MP, Kylea Tink.

My husband and I have lived in Greenwich since 1998. We have raised our three children here and two have now left home. We have formed close local ties with the community, our children have attended primary school at Greenwich Public and have participated in local sporting and social activities in the area and I am active in a number of community organisations. My husband works in the Sydney CBD.

For the following reasons, in my view it is important to maintain the North Sydney electorate in substantially its current form. The proposal to abolish North Sydney and locate its community members separately in the Bennelong, Bradfield and Warringah electorates will mean that we now form a part of Bennelong, an electorate that extends from Greenwich in the south east to Ryde in the west. It puts our neighbours in Crows Nest, Wollstonecraft, St Leonards and Willoughby in two different electorates. It has the effect of dividing a substantial and established community into parts. The following points cause me to form this view.

1. **Public Transport.** Greenwich and its residents look towards North Sydney for public transport. We walk to Wollstonecraft station for the train. Numerous school children and adults commuting for work catch the train from there. The tendrils of the harbour dominate the geography of our local area. Transport links in Greenwich are directed the North Shore train line and thence the city. The ferry, which my husband has caught to work for 25 years, travels up and down the lane cove river to Circular Quay. The Metro line will soon open a station at Crows Nest which will provide further focus for public transport.
2. **Social and Entertainment.** The natural focus for us is towards the east, not the west of Greenwich. We regularly go to the cinema in Neutral Bay or Chatswood, we take walks in the local area into Waverton and Blues Point and catch public transport to the city in that direction.
3. **Shopping.** For general shopping we either go to Lane Cove, Northbridge, Chatswood or North Sydney. The light industrial area in Artarmon houses many businesses that we use for more specialist services such as car servicing, equipment hire and other sundries.
4. **Sport.** Our daughter played netball for Greenwich with the Northern Suburbs Netball Association with the courts located in Willoughby. There was no question of going to Ryde for such sport. Similarly, our sons played soccer in the Ku-ring-gai District Soccer Association for which the focus was up the

North Shore Line. My husband plays tennis at Neutral Bay which is near North Sydney.

5. **Community.** I manage a local council owned hall in Greenwich that is frequently used by people from Greenwich, Artarmon, Wollstonecraft and Lane Cove. In other words, all from what is now part of the North Sydney electorate.
6. **Jobs.** Our children obtained casual hospitality jobs in the businesses in Crows Nest and North Sydney.
7. **Historical and political.** The North Sydney electorate has been in place since federation. I do not make a political statement when I refer with some pride to the history of that electorate for its independence, and separate identity, by reference to the period of Ted Mack's tenure as a local MP and now Kylea Tink. They provide evidence that North Sydney may be seen to be independent-minded as a group. It is not to be assumed that the electorates of Bennelong and Bradfield have the same approach.
8. **Population growth.** To my observation it is likely that there will be substantial population growth in North Sydney (in its present boundaries) in the next few years. This is evident from the State Government's ambitious plans for use of the North Shore line as a focus for higher density building, with a relevant focus on St Leonards. Augmenting that growth is the fact that the Metro line will soon open a station at Crows Nest. Further, there are already several substantial building projects underway at our doorstep, on River Road, where apartments housing, I understand, several thousand residents will be opened.

In summary, the North Shore electorate has for over 150 years been a natural and identified part of Sydney. The formation of the electorate brings together a natural catchment area and its history has served to bind the citizens in it more closely. As a member of the community, I consider that the links connecting me and my family with people to the north and east located in Chatswood, Artarmon, North Sydney and Kiribilli are far closer than those who are located with those in the west in Ryde [etc]. It would be a shame to cast those connections to one side, especially as the likely population increases in my current electorate are likely to be substantial.

Kind regards
Annabelle Burley