



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 645

Mark Benham

2 pages

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The Electoral Commissioner
Australian Electoral Commission

11 July 2024

Dear Commissioner

RE: Redistribution of NSW Boundaries & Removal of Federal Seat of North Sydney

My name is Mark Benham and I have been a resident of the lower North Shore of Sydney for the last 34 years.

As a resident of the current Federal seat of North Sydney, I am concerned at the current proposal to remove the seat and redistribute the area to the seats of Bennelong, Warringah and Bradfield. I would like to register an objection to the redistribution on the grounds of a failure to maintain a viable, thriving community of interest and the failure to use the current population growth forecasts for the North Sydney electorate.

The suburbs included within North Sydney are typically referred to as the Lower North Shore of Sydney and share common community based views, groups and interests. It is notable that North Sydney was one of the first electorates to choose a community based Independent and to vote in favour of the Voice to Parliament following an active community based movement.

At the same time, the North Sydney business community is critically important within the community and its views are also important. These issues require a Federal member representing both the residential and business community speaking with a single voice.

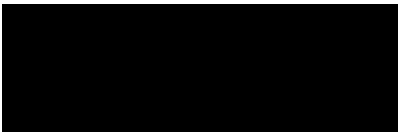
The proposed redistribution of the North Sydney CBD to Warringah means Federal representation will need to speak on behalf Northern beaches residents as well as those of Kirribilli, Waverton and North Sydney and the North Sydney business community. These are vastly different communities with often polar opposite views particularly on major development. This does not reflect a common community of interest.

Conversely, residents of suburbs such as Cammeray, Artarmon, Lane Cove and Greenwich will no longer have a representative able to fully represent them in relation to matters directly connected with the area such as the development of the North Sydney CBD and Transport Infrastructure. These suburbs are hugely affected by any plans for the North Sydney CBD or harbour crossings.

Regarding population growth, one of the arguments given for the redistribution is the lower population growth of the area. As a resident, this appears to be contradicted by the significant residential development taking place in the area. The redistribution process appears to have ignored the State government projections. Current forecasts suggest in almost 20,000 new residents within the next decade. This level of growth focused in and around the North Sydney/Crows Nest/St Leonards area will presumably then require a future redistribution to reflect the revised density of population in the suburbs surrounding the North Sydney CBD.

I am therefore asking the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the proposed redistribution and leave the Federal seat of North Sydney intact.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Mark Benham.

Mark Benham