



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Objection 667

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2 pages

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NORTH SYDNEY NSW ██████████

12 July 2024

NSW Redistribution Committee  
Australian Electoral Commission  
[FedRedistribution-NSW@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-NSW@aec.gov.au)

Dear NSW Redistribution Committee,

**Re: Draft plan to abolish the federal electoral division of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 NSW redistribution**

We live in Waverton in the federal electoral division of North Sydney (“North Sydney”). We have lived here since we arrived from interstate twenty years ago. We have developed a strong connection to the local community. Our local area provides much of what we need and enjoy. We ‘put back’ into the community through, for example, our volunteer work for the Crows Nest Centre, which takes us to the homes of many vulnerable people, who rely on the services provided by many community-minded volunteers.

We were shocked and disappointed to learn of the draft proposal to abolish North Sydney.

We ask that you please strongly consider the proposal of our current local member, Kylea Tink, to retain North Sydney with adjusted boundaries to accommodate the changes in the overall numbers of electors in NSW.

We believe that the draft redistribution proposal is short-sighted, in that it fails to recognise the targeted population growth (i.e. urban infill) in the area. The population in North Sydney is increasing rapidly but the proposal does not appear to consider this current or projected growth. For example, the State Government’s plans require 5,900 new homes to be built in the LGA of North Sydney alone by 2029. North Sydney Council expects 19,500 new residents to move into the LGA by 2036 – a population increase of 27%. With growth also in the other three LGAs in the federal division, the population increase in the near future will be significant. The amount of residential construction in the area supports the expectation that the targets will be met, with accompanying significant population growth. It would be a great pity (and potential embarrassment) if North Sydney were abolished now, only to need to be re-established at the next redistribution.

In our twenty years in North Sydney, it has been, and continues to be, a cohesive and engaged community. North Sydney is home to many environmental, humanitarian, cultural, religious and social groups who work for the benefit of our community. It is therefore not at all surprising that through a community-led ‘bottom up’ process, North Sydney was one of the first electoral divisions to stand up (again) for independent representation in 2022, having had an independent member for two terms (1990-1996). North Sydney also demonstrated its community cohesiveness by being one of the few electorates to vote Yes in the 2023 referendum.

North Sydney is also the third-largest business electorate, with around 28,000 small and medium sized businesses. These businesses and industrial zones deserve the focus of a dedicated local member as their needs do not fully overlap those of the newly proposed areas of Bradfield, Bennelong or Warringah, which are predominantly residential in nature.

Last, but not least, the historical significance of the federal electorate of North Sydney is part of our community's identity. North Sydney is one of the seventy-five original electoral divisions. The abolition of North Sydney would be most disrespectful, not only to current residents, but also to our history. We are proud to live in an electoral division with a long-term political history.

To reiterate, we strongly oppose the draft proposal that North Sydney be abolished. We request that it remain, with only minimal changes required to accommodate not only recent population growth, but also the planned large increase in the overall number of electors in North Sydney in particular.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Electronically signed by:

*Julian Coghlan and Andrea Beattie*