



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 684

Margaret Keelty

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To: The NSW Redistribution Committee

Subject: Draft plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 NSW redistribution

My name is Margaret Keelty, and I am a resident of McMahons Point in the Federal seat of North Sydney.

My husband and I have lived here since the 1970s, and we feel a strong connection to the communities here. For example:

- We are both members of the North Sydney parish and regularly attend mass at Francis Xavier church in North Sydney.
- We frequent local venues to eat, drink and socialise
- We are members of several local clubs
- We shop locally
- In addition to having a vehicle and using public roads we are also very regular users of public transport
- We attend a local gym and regularly walk in St Leonards park.

We are opposed to the proposed electorate redistribution and abolishing of the North Sydney electorate for the following reasons:

1. North Sydney is a unique, cohesive and engaged community: It is telling that we were one of the first electorates to stand up for independent representation with Ted Mack in 1990 and Kylea Tink in 2022, and we are one of the few to vote for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the 2023 referendum.
2. North Sydney is home to many environmental, humanitarian, religious and social groups all working together to improve our community. We respect and value our cultural diversity, with half of our population born overseas and a third speaking a language other than English at home. And we are home to several active and competitive sports teams, including two of the largest community-based sporting organisations in the state.
3. Both business and residential community: We are also unique in being home to the third-largest business centre in the country alongside an enormous and growing residential area and we need to keep the balance. We believe that North Sydney's residents, businesses and industrial zones deserve the focus of a dedicated local member who to represent them and maintain this a balance.
4. 123 Years of history: The historical significance of the federal seat of North Sydney is part of our community's identity. North Sydney is one of the 75 original federation divisions contested in Australia's first federal election 123 years ago. This is very important to us. If you think that means nothing then you do not understand the people you are making decisions for and we would question your ability to represent our interests fairly and be on this committee.

I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the seat of North Sydney be abolished and request for it to remain. I ask that you please consider Kylea Tink MP's proposal to retain a North Sydney seat with adjusted boundaries to accommodate changes in overall numbers of electors in NSW.

Yours sincerely

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12/7/24