



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 688

Saskia Groen

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12 July 2024

AEC REDISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

Dear AEC Redistribution Committee,

I'm writing to object to the draft plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney.

I support keeping the seats of both Warringah and North Sydney.

I've lived in Seaforth in the Warringah electorate for over 24 years and can attest to the identity and community of both Warringah and North Sydney. Both communities have a very active community engagement in the political process, shown by the significant campaigns for independent candidates over the years.

Whilst it is not the intention of the redistribution committee to be seen as partisan in support of the major political parties - it is at risk of being seen as just that by abolishing a seat recently won by a female independent candidate.

Community faith in the democratic process should be a major consideration of the committee.

The level of community engagement necessary for an independent to run a successful campaign and to win a seat from one of the major parties in Australia should not be underestimated. Such a campaign requires a huge, dedicated volunteer team.

Abolishing the same seat a few years later will be seen by some as an act of revenge. In a time of widespread dissolution and apathy with the democratic process in Australia, to abolish a division with a high level of community engagement in the democratic process is simply undemocratic and appears targeted.

I urge you to reconsider the abolition of North Sydney.

SINCERELY,

SASKIA GROEN

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