



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on Objections 16

Aiden Brennan

2 pages

Mr Tom Rogers
Electoral Commissioner
Australian Electoral Commission
Via AEC website

Dear Electoral Commissioner,

Please take this letter as a formal comment agreeing with objection 521 - Bill Hartnell's submission, that proposes to amend the "*May 2024 proposed NSW electoral redistribution report*", so that the electorate proposed to be named "Warringah" will instead be named "North Sydney". **Please note: I do not support amending any of the proposed boundaries. I only support an amendment in the naming of this specific electorate.**

Bill's submission eloquently articulates a range of reasons as to why this seat should be named "North Sydney" instead of "Warringah". I would only like to add some personal commentary.

I have lived in Cremorne and Mosman for over 15 years and consequently been in the federal electorate of Warringah the entire time. I have always found this odd and jarring, even before I was old enough to vote. The Northern Beaches is very different to the lower north shore and I never understood why we were classed as voting within a region quite different to our own.

I would suspect this sentiment would be felt even more strongly in areas even closer to the suburb of North Sydney, such as Lavender Bay, Milsons Point, McMahons Point, Kiribilli, Waverton, Wollstonecraft etc. According to Google Maps - a drive from the suburb of North Sydney to the LGA formerly known as Warringah is over 20 minutes. For context, a drive to the domestic airport in Mascot is a shorter time. I suspect people in North Sydney and surrounding suburbs would feel being part of a "warringah" electorate as much as an anathema as being in an electorate called "Mascot".

Redistributing voters who live in suburbs close to North Sydney and were previously in the electorate of "North Sydney" and moving them to "Warringah" will feel to many as though you are moving their federal representation to an entirely new area. An area they don't live close to or culturally understand and connect with. This can be easily avoided - "North Sydney", while a specific suburb, can also be used as a generic label for the northern suburbs of Sydney and I believe every member of this proposed electorate would identify with it.

Please also do not take my submission as in anyway associating or agreeing with the objection campaign that was led by Kylea Tink. Tink's campaign is purely interested in saving her political career, not on community outcomes and should be ignored. I believe the AEC's decision to devise the maps in the manner they have is probably the only way forward considering that all the electorates in the Northern Beaches and Lower North Shore were sizeably under their population quota. I was stunned at how poorly informed many objections provided by Tink supporters were. To assert a seat should be kept because you like the particular local member is

completely absurd, to suggest this is a political stitch up is dangerous for our democracy. Tink deserves strong condemnation for deliberately inciting her supporters to abuse the AEC's process.

I commend the AEC for its work on the redistribution and suggest that the changing of the name from "Warringah" to "North Sydney" is a very minor amendment to the May 2024 report which would have demonstrably positive outcomes.

Yours Sincerely,

Aiden Brennan

 Mosman
