



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 161

Mark Fletcher

2 pages

Dear Members of the Australian Electoral Commission,

I am writing to express deep concerns regarding the proposed abolition of the North Sydney electorate. This proposal, as it stands, fails to adequately consider crucial factors that are pivotal to the vibrant and growing community within our electorate.

Population Growth

The North Sydney electorate is experiencing rapid population growth, a trend that is projected to continue significantly in the coming years. With the new metro which is set to open TWO stations in the North Sydney LGA there is a significant amount of growth in apartments and typically a different demographic than further north which is comprised mostly of single building residences. Also apartments typically mean younger, and as has been shown so far by population trends with recent builds that there is a large proportion of people who weren't born or whose parents weren't born in Australia. How can someone from the Northern Beaches represent the population of that area and the North Sydney LGA properly?

Currently, the NSW State Government's plan to accommodate 5,900 new homes in the North Sydney LGA by 2029 is indicative of broader growth patterns across our four LGAs. This influx equates to an estimated 24,000 new homes across our community, underscoring the pressing need for continued representation that aligns with our expanding population.

Furthermore, North Sydney Council anticipates a 27% increase in residents by 2036 within just one of the four LGAs currently encompassed by the North Sydney electorate. This demographic shift highlights the potential short-sightedness of abolishing our electorate now, only to face the necessity of its reinstatement in the near future.

Our Business Community

As home to the third-largest business center in the nation, North Sydney boasts a diverse and dynamic business community comprising approximately 28,000 small to medium-sized enterprises. These businesses require dedicated local representation that understands and advocates for their unique needs, which may not align entirely with those of the proposed new electoral areas. It is impossible to argue that the North Sydney CBD is not significantly different to that of anywhere else in the proposed electorates.

North Sydney's Cohesive Community

Our electorate is distinguished by its cohesive and engaged community, encompassing a rich tapestry of environmental, humanitarian, religious, and social groups united in their commitment to Australia's betterment. North Sydney has consistently demonstrated leadership in advocating for independent representation and supporting initiatives such as the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in 2023.

We celebrate our cultural diversity, with half of our population born overseas and a third speaking languages other than English at home. Additionally, North Sydney hosts prominent community-based sporting organizations, underscoring our vibrant community spirit.

As a long term local there is no affinity at all with the other areas that we are being proposed to be merged with, this proposal has the makings of taking away my representation and disengaging myself and other locals from the Federal Electoral process.

In summary, this decision to abolish North Sydney is short sighted and endangers the community's engagement and representation. What is truly hard to understand that growing area is being abolished over other areas whose numbers who better fit the formula for deciding whether they are not worthy to exist. This decision needs t be reconsidered immediately in the name of fairness and accuracy to your own models.