Objection 180

Nikki Templeton

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The Australian Electoral Commission

Level 8

121 Walker Street

North Sydney NSW 2060

1 July 2024

To members of the NSW Redistribution Committee,

Re: Removal of North Sydney as a federal seat at the next federal election

I am a member of North Sydney, based in Willoughby, and I write to register my objection to the removal of North Sydney as a federal seat at the upcoming federal election.

I understand the AEC's objective to balance population numbers across electorates, but I think it would be a mistake to remove North Sydney as a seat for a number of reasons:

1) I was part of a volunteer group in the last federal election that selected a candidate and organized a community movement to get them elected to parliament. The sense of community that was created through that process was unlike anything I've been involved in before in my life. I felt welcomed and celebrated as part of the North Sydney community, and the many community events afforded me a unique opportunity to get to know a much broader cross-section of people than I would have otherwise. It takes time to get to know people and feel part of a community, and I feel like a redistribution would sever that strong sense of community.

2) The fact that we turned North Sydney from a safe liberal seat back to an independent seat shows the degree of community support for this electorate. That sort of change doesn't happen unless you mobilize a groundswell of committed, united people. And that's what North Sydney was.

3) I've lived in Willoughby for 12 years and am involved in a number of community groups in the area. The redistribution would separate Willoughby from areas like Cammeray and North Sydney – two areas that I spend a great deal of time in.   I feel a

much stronger affinity with the lower north shore area than the upper north shore area that the proposed seat of Bradfield would encompass.

I hope you will reconsider your proposal to remove the seat.

Thanks & regards,

Nikki Templeton