

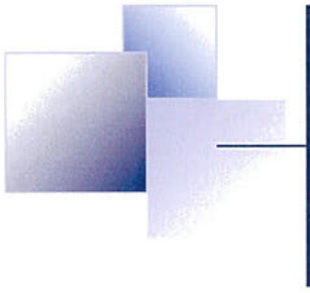


**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Objection 203

Eva Wiland

2 pages



Eva Wiland

Australian Electoral Commission  
Attn: NSW Redistribution Secretariat  
Locked Bag 4007  
Canberra ACT 2601

Re: Proposed redistribution for NSW

I am writing to formally object to the Australian Electoral Commission's proposal to abolish the North Sydney federal electorate, as outlined in the AEC's consultation document of June 14, 2024. As a North Sydney resident and voter, I believe abolishing our electorate would have significant detrimental effects on our community representation and effective democratic participation. Below are the key points of my objection:

- 1. Population growth:** The population right across North Sydney is growing rapidly but the AEC's proposal fails to account for this growth. For example, the NSW State Government plans 5,900 new homes in the North Sydney LGA alone by 2029. If that growth is replicated across the four LGAs currently contained in the federal seat, that would result in more than 24,000 new homes built across our community. Furthermore, North Sydney Council is expecting 19,500 new residents to move into the area by 2036. That is a 27% increase in just one of the four LGAs which currently make up the seat of North Sydney. It is highly likely that to proceed with abolishing the seat of North Sydney now would be completely counterproductive, as arguably the case to re-establish it in 2029 will be more than obvious.
- 2. North Sydney's business community:** As home to the third biggest business centre in Australia, I also believe that North Sydney's businesses and industrial zones deserve the focus of a dedicated local member. North Sydney has up to 28,000 small to medium size businesses whose needs do not overlap entirely with those of the newly proposed areas of Bradfield, Bennelong or Warringah.
- 3. 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. Many families have lived in the area for several generations, and are proud to have been represented by a prime minister, a treasurer and independent trailblazer Ted Mack.
- 4. Historical and cultural significance:** North Sydney has a rich historical and cultural heritage that deserves continued recognition through dedicated electoral representation. The electorate's boundaries reflect decades of community identity and shared values, which should not be disregarded lightly.
- 5. Community representation:** North Sydney is a distinct community with unique interests and needs. The current electorate boundaries allow for focused representation in federal parliament, ensuring that local issues are appropriately addressed. Abolishing the electorate would dilute this representation and reduce the ability of residents to engage effectively with federal politics.
- 6. North Sydney is a cohesive and engaged community**  
North Sydney is home to several environmental, humanitarian, religious and social groups. It is noteworthy we were one of the first electorates to stand up for independent representation in 2022, and one of the few to vote for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the 2023 referendum. We respect and value our cultural diversity as half of our population is born overseas and one-third speaks a language other than English at home. North Sydney is home to several active and competitive sports teams, including two of the biggest community-based sporting organisations in the state.
- 7. Practical considerations:** Abolishing the North Sydney electorate could disrupt local government services and infrastructure planning, as well as community cohesion. The electorate's current boundaries provide a practical framework for coordinating local governance and development initiatives.



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8. **Voter disenfranchisement:** Many voters in North Sydney have built relationships with their elected representatives over time, fostering trust and accountability. Abolishing the electorate would disrupt these relationships and potentially disenfranchise voters who rely on consistent representation.
9. **Consultation and alternatives:** I urge the Australian Electoral Commission to explore alternative solutions, such as expanding the North Sydney electorate to include Bradfield, rather than the reverse. Meaningful consultation with residents and stakeholders is essential to ensure that any changes reflect the best interests of the community.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose the abolition of the North Sydney federal electorate and request that the AEC reconsider this proposal in light of the points raised above. Our community's democratic rights and effective representation in federal parliament must be preserved and respected.

Thank you for considering my objection. I look forward to your response and further opportunities to contribute to this important consultation process.

Kind Regards,



Eva Wiland

