



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 211

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2 pages

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

Re: Abolition of the seat of North Sydney

Abolishing the federal seat of North Sydney is a poorly constructed solution for dealing with population growth affecting electoral boundaries and as a proposal from the AEC represents a disregard for the current residents because:

1. Representation

- **Loss of Voice:** Abolishing the seat would mean residents lose their direct representation in Parliament. This can lead to a reduced ability to influence decisions that affect their community.
- **Electoral Fairness:** Redistribution of North Sydney's population to surrounding electorates could lead to overrepresentation in some areas and underrepresentation in others, skewing electoral fairness.

2. Community Interests

- **Distinct Needs:** North Sydney has unique socioeconomic characteristics and needs that might not be adequately addressed if its residents are absorbed into larger, less cohesive electorates.
- **Local Issues:** Specific local issues such as infrastructure, development, and public services are better managed by a representative familiar with and focused on the North Sydney area.

3. Historical Significance

- **Historical Identity:** North Sydney has a long history and a distinct identity. Abolishing the seat would undermine this historical significance and community pride.
- **Continuity:** Maintaining the seat ensures continuity in addressing long-term projects and community goals.

4. Economic Impact

- **Business Community:** North Sydney is a significant business hub. A dedicated representative ensures that the interests of local businesses and economic development are effectively advocated.
- **Property Values:** Changes in representation can affect perceptions of stability and desirability, potentially impacting property values and investment in the area.

5. Public Services and Infrastructure

- **Focused Advocacy:** A dedicated representative is better positioned to advocate for essential public services and infrastructure projects specific to North Sydney.
- **Resource Allocation:** Without dedicated representation, North Sydney might receive less attention in terms of resource allocation, leading to potential neglect in critical areas like healthcare, education, and public transport.

6. Community Cohesion

- **Social Fabric:** The social fabric of North Sydney, including community groups and networks, relies on coherent representation to maintain strong community ties.
- **Cultural Identity:** Abolishing the seat could dilute the cultural identity and cohesion of the North Sydney community as residents are merged into larger, more diverse electorates.

7. Political Stability

- **Voter Disenfranchisement:** Residents may feel disenfranchised and disillusioned with the political process if their electoral boundaries are significantly altered.
- **Electoral Confusion:** Frequent changes to electoral boundaries can cause confusion among voters, potentially lowering voter engagement and turnout.

8. Constituent Services

- **Accessibility:** A dedicated local MP provides easier access for constituents seeking assistance with federal matters.
- **Effective Advocacy:** Constituents benefit from having a representative focused solely on their issues, providing more effective advocacy and support.

Conclusion

Abolishing the federal seat of North Sydney would lead to significant negative consequences for the residents, including loss of dedicated representation, potential neglect of local issues, and disruption to the community's social and economic fabric. Maintaining the seat ensures that the unique needs and interests of North Sydney's residents are adequately represented and addressed.

Yours sincerely

David Minnett

