



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 212

Anna Booy

2 pages

To: The Australian Electoral Commission, Redistribution Committee

Re: Saving the seat of North Sydney

From: Anna Booy, [REDACTED]

Date: 3 July 2024

I have lived in Kirribilli, which is in the Federal seat of North Sydney for 19 years. I was heartbroken to hear about the possibility of abolishing our electorate and wish to register my concern about this.

As I understand it, if the redistribution were to go ahead, our area of North Sydney would form part of the electorate of Warringah. The seat of Warringah current extends from Mosman up to beachside suburbs such as Curl Curl and Dee Why and suburban areas such as Beacon Hill and Frenchs Forest. While these are worthy parts of Sydney, they are quite distinct in terms of community interest, community lived experience, environment and social make up from the areas currently forming part of North Sydney.

My experience of my electorate is as follows:

1. Our built and natural environment is inner city, with both low- and high-rise apartments forming much of its current housing. The suburbs in which I spend most of my time - Kirribilli, Milsons Point, Saint Leonards, Waverton and Chatswood - clearly reflect this. Recent NSW State Government planning proposals strongly suggest this strata development will only increase; thus, the nature of the electorate will tend more to urban inner city rather than beachside, suburban. It is hard to imagine that the population of this area will do anything other than expand dramatically in the future. We need our current electorate to remain cohesive and connected.
2. North Sydney electorate has many significant and large educational institutions within its boundaries which adds to the character of the area and to some of the issues faced by residents. Within a few kilometres we have the following schools - Loretto Girls Kirribilli, Saint Aloysius Junior, Saint Aloysius Senior, Wenona School, Monte Sain' Angelo Mercy College, Shore School (several campuses), Marist Catholic College North Shore, North Sydney Girls' High School, North Sydney Boys' High School, North Sydney Public School (North Sydney Dem), and Cameragal Montessori School to name the most obvious. Issues of public transport, general population growth, families, school expansion, use of public parks and facilities, traffic and parking are all impacted by the existence of these important institutions.
3. My community consists almost entirely of interests within the existing electorate and include:
 - a. Regularly attending the community choir at Marist Catholic College, North Sydney
 - b. Involvement in Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli
 - c. Supporting and attending the Ensemble Theatre, Kirribilli
 - d. All our regular shopping for food is done in Milsons Point, Chatswood or North Sydney

4. My experience of the community of North Sydney is that it is highly diverse; I believe half of our population was born overseas and a third speak a language other than English at home. Any visit to St Leonards or Chatswood, or to take the train from Milsons Point in any direction demonstrates the depth of such diversity. Despite (or perhaps because of) this diversity, the community comes together over what it sees as important social issues and recently was one of the few electorates to vote strongly in favour of the Voice to Parliament. It has also elected an independent 'teal' candidate whose electoral platform was focused on the social issues of climate change, gender equality and anti-corruption. I do not believe it is an exaggeration to say that the election of Ms Tink has brought the electorate even closer together. She has worked tirelessly to bring matters to our attention and in attending events she has organized and involving myself in some of her campaigns, I have forged friendships from across the electorate - from Hunters Hill and Lane Cove to McMahons Point.

5. I do not drive as we have relatively good public transport and while I frequently go to the City of Sydney, I rarely go to the areas covered by the seat of Warringah as they are not easily accessible by public transport from North Sydney. In terms of transport, many areas of North Sydney, being older and more compact, do not have off street parking for cars which has implications going forward for the management of electric vehicles and vehicle ownership generally. Without a private car, there is (perhaps surprisingly) no easy access to the beach from here and with our increasingly hot summers, neither are there many available public swimming pools. I say this only to again demonstrate the disconnect from the proposed new electoral boundaries, and the real risk of damaging our sense of belonging to a vibrant, distinct community.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this from a concerned resident who has long respected the valuable work of the AEC. We are fortunate to have this balanced democratic system and fortunate to be able to air our views without fear or favour.

Yours sincerely
Anna C H Booy