



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Objection 238

Victor von der Heyde

2 pages

Australian Electoral Commission

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

Re: Proposed abolition of the federal electorate of North Sydney

I'm writing to object to the proposed abolition of the federal electorate of North Sydney. I live in Lane Cove West, I grew up in the house I live in and I've had a connection to this house and area for 73 years.

I'm objecting on four grounds.

1. The federal electorate of North Sydney reflects a cohesive community called the Lower North Shore.

The Lane Cove, North Sydney and Chatswood areas make up the major part of the Lower North Shore. I see myself as living on the Lower North Shore. There's a sense of community in that term. What the proposed abolition would do is break up the cohesiveness of this area. I went to high school in North Sydney for 6 years, my father went to the same school, I started a Buddhist group twenty years ago on the Lower North Shore and the group still meets in North Sydney and I teach there. For all my medical needs or for a large shopping centre I go to Chatswood and occasionally to Artarmon. All these are part of the Lower North Shore and part of the federal electorate of North Sydney. I have nothing to do with Ryde, where Bennelong is. It's a different community. Please don't break up our community.

2. High population growth in the federal electorate of North Sydney.

The electorate takes up different Local Government Areas. Mine is Lane Cove, with currently around 39,490 people. There's a massive increase in new units being built. For some years now when I look out my window I see cranes in Lane Cove North building large unit complexes. The State Government minimum requirement for Lane Cove LGA is 3400 new homes for the period 2025 to 2029. At a figure of 2.52 two people per dwelling (from the ABS) that's an additional 8568 people in 5 years time, just in the Lane Cove LGA. So an increase to 48,058 over 5 years. That's an increase of 21.7% over five years or 4.3% population increase per year. When you look at the amount of unit construction in North Sydney LGA and in Chatswood, it's similar. This is driven by the State Government. I think this should be taken into account. If there's still an issue that the current population is a little small, then surely one of the boundaries could be moved a little, like moving the northern boundary of North Sydney to Boundary Street in Roseville. I find it hard to believe that the increase in population in North Sydney is low. I don't see that on the ground.

3. Physical features of the North Sydney electorate that make it distinct.

The electorate of North Sydney has large areas that front Parramatta River or Lane Cove River or Middle Harbour or Sydney Harbour. It's a distinct non-beach electorate where most people are close to the water. This gives it a physical character which none of the three electorates that North Sydney would be divided up onto would have.

4. Historical significant of being one of the original electorates.

While the significance of history can't be measured, there is a history of the North Sydney electorate that would be lost or sidelined if the electorate were abolished. This is one of the original 75 electorates. I think it's worth being careful when one considers abolishing an electorate which has such a sense of community and such a history.

Please don't abolish my electorate.

Yours faithfully,

