



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 240

Denis Fernandez

3 pages

The Australian Electoral Commission
 Attention: New South Wales Redistribution Secretariat
 Locked Bag 4007 Canberra ACT 2601

**RE: Objection to Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Divisions in
 New South Wales Proposal to Abolish the Federal Seat of North Sydney**

I am writing to express strong objection to the Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) proposal to abolish the Federal Seat of North Sydney. My concerns stem from several key reasons:

1. Historical Significance ~ North Sydney's Political Tapestry of 123 Years of Trailblazers

Since its proclamation in 1900, the Federal Seat of North Sydney is a cornerstone of political significance, towering in stature, North Sydney's original electoral expanse was vast, reaching out to encompass the Northern Beaches. However, in 1922, this monolithic territory was segmented to give rise to Warringah—a mere splinter compared to North Sydney's grandeur. It wasn't until 1949 that the Divisions of Bennelong and Bradfield emerged, yet these divisions have always remained in the towering shadow of North Sydney's legacy and its pivotal role in shaping the Australian Federation. A snapshot of the North Sydney representatives ~ luminaries who've left their mark:

- a. **Dugald Thomson:** A trailblazer from the start, Thomson's legacy echoes through the decades.
- b. **Major General Sir Granville Ryrie:** His military prowess translated to political leadership.
- c. **Billy Hughes:** A former Prime Minister, Hughes steered the nation through tumultuous times.
- d. **Ted Mack:** A mayor, state parliamentarian, and independent force—his impact endures.
- e. **Joe Hockey:** From Treasurer to U.S. Ambassador, Hockey's journey spans continents.
- f. **Trent Zimmerman:** A champion of same-sex marriage, his advocacy resonates.
- g. **Kylea Tink:** The third independent to represent North Sydney—a testament to resilience.

Generations have stood tall under North Sydney's banner. Their stories and our community shape our democracy.

2. Business Community ~ Boasting Country's Third-Largest Business Centre

Over 28,000 small to medium-sized businesses have unique needs that differ from those in the newly proposed areas of Bradfield, Bennelong, or Warringah. For consideration:

- a. **Economic Contribution:** North Sydney's business district plays a pivotal role in the national economy. It contributes significantly to GDP, employment, and innovation. The concentration of businesses in this area drives economic growth and fosters entrepreneurship.
- b. **Industry Diversity:** The business landscape in North Sydney spans various sectors, including finance, technology, professional services, and creative industries. This diversity ensures resilience and adaptability, especially during economic fluctuations.
- c. **Startups and Scale-ups:** North Sydney is a hub for startups and scale-ups. These agile companies drive innovation, create jobs, and attract investment. Their unique needs—such as access to funding, mentorship, and networking—are distinct from established corporations.
- d. **Infrastructure and Connectivity:** The business community relies on robust infrastructure—high-speed internet, transport links, and modern office spaces. North Sydney's connectivity to the central business district (CBD) and proximity to major transport hubs enhance its appeal.
- e. **Local Support Networks:** Business associations, chambers of commerce, and networking events thrive in North Sydney. These platforms facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing, and advocacy for business-friendly policies.

The business sector of North Sydney is characterized by its vibrancy, variety, and significant contribution to the economic framework of Australia. Acknowledging and addressing its distinct requirements is crucial for fostering enduring growth and affluence. This approach further solidifies the argument for preserving the Federal Seat of North Sydney as a prominent global player and a key national economic participant.

3. **Population Boom ~ North Sydney's Urban Surge**

The North Sydney electorate is on the brink of a housing revolution.

Picture this: 5,900 new homes sprouting up by 2029, transforming the North Sydney Local Government (LGA). But wait, there's more—extrapolate that growth across all four LGAs within our federal seat, and you've got a whopping 24,000 new homes reshaping the electorate's skyline!

And hold onto your hats: North Sydney Council estimates a 27% population surge in just one LGA by 2036—19,500 fresh faces calling our community home.

Abolishing our seat now? That's like tearing down a skyscraper before it's even finished—the need for re-establishment will hit like a ton of bricks by 2029.

Let's retain North Sydney and to continue building a future together that stands tall!

4. **Cohesive Community ~ North Sydney's Power Mix Where Unity Thrives**

Our community pulses with life—a vibrant tapestry woven from diverse threads.

Here's the scoop:

- a. **Independent Mavericks:** In 2022, we stood tall again for independent representation. Mavericks who defy the norm—our heartbeat.
- b. **Indigenous Voice:** When the 2023 referendum called, we answered.
- c. **Global Flavour:** Half our crew hails from distant shores. Cultures collide, blend and enrich our spirit ~ harmony in diversity.
- d. **Game On:** Sports fever runs deep. Our teams? Not just players—they're glue binding us together.

North Sydney: Where the mix makes magic!

5. **Respectful Counter Proposal for AEC consideration:**

I respectfully propose the retention and expansion of the Federal Seat of North Sydney. This adjustment would accurately reflect the full local government area boundaries of Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Willoughby, and include Mosman. Such an alignment would better represent the history, socio-political and geographical realities of the Sydney Harbour and Southern Middle Harbour communities.

The benefits for consideration by the AEC which will better serve Australians are:

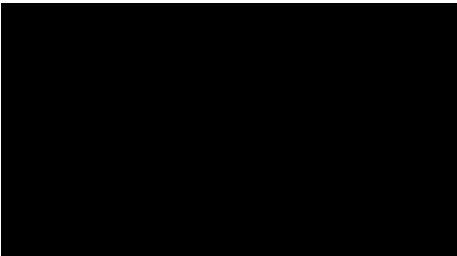
- a. **Enhanced Service Delivery:** By retaining the North Sydney electorate and expanding it to include Mosman, creates a more comprehensive service network. The combined area would cover a diverse range of communities, allowing for tailored and efficient service provision.
- b. **Synergy with Existing Local Government Areas:** Including Mosman aligns with the operational reality of service delivery in neighbouring areas such as Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, and Willoughby. Coordinated efforts across these local government areas resulting in better outcomes for residents and business.
- c. **Preserving Community Character:** The North Sydney electorate and the inclusion of Mosman reinforces the shared identities and community needs. Retaining their separate representation as North Sydney electorate ensures that local character, heritage, and values are respected while benefiting from shared services.

- d. **Strategic Planning:** A unified approach allows for strategic planning that considers the entire region. By including Mosman, we can address common challenges like infrastructure capacity, housing, recreation and environmental constraints effectively.
- e. **Ageing Population Support:** Mosman and North Sydney are expected to have ageing populations ~ age quake. By retaining and combining, Commonwealth resources, will be better facilitated to effectively service seniors, ensuring their well-being, dignity and quality of life.

In summary, retaining the North Sydney electorate and expanding it to include Mosman enhances service delivery, fosters collaboration, and maintains their respective characters.

I urge the AEC to reconsider its proposal and recognise the unique character and needs of North Sydney.

Yours sincerely,



Denis G Fernandez

Son | Husband | Father

Town Planner (UNSW)

Project Management (RMIT)

Councillor – City of Willoughby – Sailors Bay Ward (Ret.)

President – Australia Timor-Leste Business Council (Ret.)

President – Castlecrag Progress Association (Ret.)

Vice President – Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations (Ret.)

Section Scout Leader – 1st Northbridge Sea Scouts (Ret.)

Coach, Manager and Player – Northbridge Football Club (Ret.)

Player – Lane Cove Football Club (Ret.)

Alumni - Lane Cove Public School

Decades resident of the Federal Seat of North Sydney

4th July 2024