




**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 241

Matthew McKay

2 pages



Australia Electoral commission
Redistribution committee

Dear committee,

My objection to the proposed redistribution is as a long-time resident of North Sydney electorate. Myself, my wife and my children live, work, shop and went to school in this electorate. All of our recreation and socialising is done in this electorate with friends and family who also live here.

We are a proudly eclectic community and voted for a community independent to reflect this. We do not generally support the broad brush politics of the two major parties. It is deeply offensive that the AEC would choose to redistribute boundaries and in doing so accommodate the LNP and ALP but completely ignore the concerns of those who choose an alternative.

My specific objections are as follows:

Population growth

Your population projections ignore the future growth around the Metro. We are increasing our population significantly and this is not being factored in. North Sydney Council is expecting 19,500 new residents to move into the area by 2036. This is a 27% increase in just one of the four LGAs that currently make up the seat of North Sydney and indicates that it is highly likely that to proceed with abolishing our seat now would be completely counterproductive, as arguably the case to re-establish it come 2029 will be more than obvious. Nor has the AEC considered NSW State Government plans to see 5,900 new homes built in the North Sydney LGA by 2029.

Business community

North Sydney is a significant business city, one of the largest in the country, and as such deserve the focus of a dedicated local member. North Sydney currently has a huge number of businesses (more than 25,000). The proposed redistribution will see this merged with Brookvale, Mosman and Manly with is ludicrously too many for a single representative.

We are a cohesive and engaged community

We have a proud history of independent representation. It is telling that 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 do not choose to follow the major party lines and the AEC redistribution appears to be a cynical exercise to force this.

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.

It is bitterly disappointing and sad that the AEC is proposing to abolish my electorate without considering common sense, schooling within our electorate, our community desires, natural electoral boundaries and even history with North Sydney being a foundation seat.

I look forward to a review and reversal of this proposal. It is poorly planned, illogical and just plain wrong on so many levels.

Yours sincerely

Matthew McKay

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