



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 242

Gina Roncoli

2 pages

Dear Redistribution Committee,

I live in Freshwater, which is in the electoral division of Warringah. I have owned a home here for 23 years, raised my daughter from infancy to adulthood, and been an active member of this community. I moved here from Berowra where my husband and I owned a home for nearly 10 years.

Based on my experience in living in these electorates I **emphatically object** to the proposal to remove northern areas from the division of Warringah. I also object to the proposal to abolish the seat of North Sydney in the NSW federal redistribution.

Neither of these proposals make any sense to anybody who actually lives in those electorates as they risk tearing apart strong and thriving metropolitan communities, and undermining their representation at a Federal level.

The latter is particularly of concern given the proposals to abolish Warringah and North Sydney have been strongly prosecuted by the Liberal and National Parties and allied interests.

The reasons are obvious - both the divisions of North Sydney and Warringah have undergone a significant demographic shift in recent years, resulting in the emergence of younger and more progressively engaged communities that helped reshape the political landscape in the 2019 and 2022 Federal Elections. This has been to the detriment of the Liberal Party which traditionally ruled the 'insular peninsular.' As such their proposal to abolish two electorates is clearly aimed at punishing the voters who unequivocally rejected them at successive elections. It should also be seen as an overtly opportunistic attempt to jerrymander the democratic representation of these two electorates to benefit vested political interests, not the voters.

Which is why it is imperative that the AEC remains apolitical by giving more weight to community voices rather than political parties.

It's also crucial ensure the composition of the House of Representatives accurately reflects 21st century Australian society by upholding principles of gender equality and diversity. It is no coincidence that two electorates that are being targeted are represented by Independent women MPs. At a time of inadequate gender diversity in parliament, this should be a key factor in considering whether the proposed redistribution will in fact **"keep together or improve representation of existing communities of interest", as set out at [75] of the AEC reasons for proposal.**

With these considerations in mind, I think issues around population change and fair representation will be better addressed by expanding the existing localities within Warringah and North Sydney in order to grow the required numbers of voters within these electorates. This can be more fairly achieved by;

1. Moving the boundaries of the division of North Sydney in a northerly direction to allow the surrounding electorates absorb the required number of voters from Bradfield.
2. Moving the boundaries of the division of Mackellar westward into St Ives and Berowra to include the area around Hornsby.

This allows the geographically aligned areas around Killarney Heights and Forestville, Dee Why and North Curl Curl to remain in the division and continue the strong links they share with communities within Warringah. Maintaining the northern boundaries of the Warringah electorate will also minimise the impact on North Sydney by pushing the south/western boundaries of the division of Warringah to the Warringah Freeway only.

In respect to North Sydney – rather than abolish the division, it makes much more sense to strengthen the existing metropolitan community by extending the boundary of the electorate in a north westerly direction to take in Chatswood.

In summary, I respectfully request the AEC consider the need to deliver an apolitical boundary redistribution to the communities in Warringah and North Sydney that recognises the potential population growth in these electorates, respects and considers existing social and economic interests and improves community representation in line with the AEC's objectives to "keep together or improve representation of existing communities of interest".

Regards,

Gina Roncoli