



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 262

Jane Cowley

2 pages

The Australian Electoral Commission
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra
ACT 2601

Submission on proposed abolition of North Sydney electorate

My name is Jane Cowley (I am on the electoral roll under my full name Catherine Jane Cowley) and I have lived at my current address for 24 years with my husband and family. I have lived in 6 overseas countries and across 3 states of Australia and to say I have never felt more connected to my North Sydney community is an understatement.

I am therefore writing to you to oppose the abolition of my current federal electorate of North Sydney and my potential inclusion in the electorate of Bennelong. There are a number of reasons for this but the major ones are;

- *The cohesion and strong identity of North Sydney is well documented.* From the decision to turn our electorate independent, again, in 2022 (in the tradition of the wonderful father of independents Ted Mack) to being one of the few electorates to vote yes in The Voice referendum in 2023. There is enormous cultural diversity (half the electorate was born overseas) and yet we have a large number of environmental and humanitarian, religious and ethnically based groups who often work together in harmony to achieve the common goal of making our community and our society a better place. This is an uncommonly engaged community.
- *My local community of Hunters Hill in 2003 successfully opposed, vigorously, the forced amalgamation of our LGA to the west (towards the current Bennelong electorate).* One of the reasons was that we have little in common with the values and vision of the community of the Ryde LGA both then and today. We are very different in outlook and values.
- *My own experience as a long standing committee member of a sports club based in Hunters Hill* tells me that our membership draws towards Lane Cove and further east to North Sydney not to the west towards Ryde and beyond. Our members are more united across the river and north than west across Pittwater Road.
- *Everything I do-shopping, senior schools for my children and social activities goes north and east towards North Sydney.* For example I play tennis outside my club at Naremburn, my children play rugby for a North Sydney club, my favourite restaurant is in Lane Cove, I do my shopping in Chatswood, I visit medical specialists clustered around North Shore Hospital, once the metro line opens at Crows Nest buses to there will be a major draw for those who work and school in North Sydney and beyond.....the list goes on. I am not alone in my “drawn north” across the river and to those places in the existing North Sydney area. It goes to the heart that North Sydney is where my local community belongs not west towards Ryde and beyond.
- *North Sydney is the third largest CBD in Australia.* Its businesses and industries (large and small) deserve a dedicated electorate and MP that can advocate for their needs. Those businesses as much as the people living in North Sydney have a homogeneity and commonality that will now be split across three electorates.

- *Finally, with the increased push for more housing the transport hubs of North Sydney and Crows Nest will see rapid growth in population that I believe the AEC has failed to take into account.* Currently there is massive work on new apartments in the St Leonards precinct (Lane Cove LGA) and I believe North Sydney LGA is expecting an increase in new residents in excess of 25% in the next ten years. Why abolish an electorate that would most likely need to be reinstated in a few years time? It seems to be throwing the baby out with the bath water.

In conclusion I oppose the abolition of the North Sydney electorate and would propose that the boundary of the existing electorate move further north from Victoria Rd Chatswood to Boundary Rd or beyond in the direction of Roseville. To me this makes more sense culturally, demographically and business wise.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Cowley

