



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Objection 266

Sarah Towler

2 pages

The Australian Electoral Commission

Locked Bag 4007,

Canberra ACT 2601

**Subject: Draft plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 NSW redistribution**

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

My name is Sarah Towler, and I am a North Sydney resident from Wollstonecraft. My family and I have lived here since 2020. Both my husband and I had lived in the community previously and were drawn back to it to raise our family. We knew this is a unique and nurturing community and we wanted our child to grow up in such a place. We feel a strong connection to this community with our child attending public school here, my husband working in the North Sydney CBD and I work remotely from home three days a week. We were so proud to live in a community of independent thinkers and who have opted to vote for an independent MP with values strongly aligned to our own. By abolishing our electoral you are taking something away from us that could not be replicated with the proposed fractioning of our unique voice.

We are a rapidly growing community and I strongly request the AEC considers this. It could be a waste of desperately needed public resources, if an electoral that has existed since federation is abolished, only for the next review to indicate that due to the already predicted growth means it needs to be reestablished. We know this growth is happening. Increasing housing is a material focus of both Federal and State government. The NSW State Government plans to see 5,900 new homes built in the North Sydney LGA by 2029 and similar growth could be expected across the four LGAs currently contained in the federal seat. This would tally to more than 24,000 new homes built across our community. North Sydney Council has publicly confirmed that the Council is expecting 19,500 new residents to move into the area by 2036. We are a growing community that deserves its voice.

In my family we work, study and live in this community. The character of this community is very different to our coastal northern beaches neighbours. We are the third-largest business centre in the country, which has different needs to the more suburban areas of Bradfield, Bennelong or Warringah. North Sydney has a total of 28,000 small to medium size businesses whose interests are best served by the focus of a dedicated local member.

One of the biggest reasons for choosing this as our home was the cohesive and engaged community committed to climate action, a forward-focused economy, Integrity in federal politics and equality and respect. We are 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 respect and value our cultural diversity, with half of our population born overseas and a third speaking a language other than English at home. And we are home to several active and competitive sports teams, including two of the largest community-based sporting organisations in the state. This redistribution can weaken our unique voice and I strongly believe that diminishing people's voices is counterintuitive in a strong democracy.

The new boundaries also split people from their local schools and public transport. It separates Northbridge from Cammeray, St Leonards from Crows Nest, and the Chatswood CBD from its state

schools. Residents of Greenwich will be detached from their local Wollstonecraft station and grouped with residents of Ryde, Meadowbank and Marsfield instead. Their issues with schools and transport will be different and potentially marginalised in the new distribution.

I suggest that the boundaries may reasonably be adjusted in a way that reflect the size of our unique community. I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the seat of North Sydney be abolished.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah

Wollstonecraft, 2065

4 July 2024