



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 294

Dr Chris Baker

2 pages

5 July 2024

To: The Australian Electoral Commission

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

My name is Chris Baker, and I am a North Sydney resident from Artarmon. My family and I have lived here since 1982, and we feel a strong connection to the communities and schools here. My sons attended Artarmon Primary School. I am a research analyst and have lived and worked in Artarmon for 28 years, and prior to that in North Sydney and Waverton.

I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the seat of North Sydney be abolished and request for it to remain intact, for the following reasons:

Population growth: The population right across our electorate is growing rapidly but the AEC's proposal does not account for this growth. For example, the NSW State Government plans to see 5,900 new homes built in the North Sydney LGA alone by 2029. If that growth is replicated across the four LGAs currently contained in the federal seat that would see more than 24,000 new homes built across our community. In addition to this, 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.

Our business community: As home to the third-largest business centre in the country, we also believe that North Sydney's businesses and industrial zones deserve the focus of a dedicated local member. North Sydney has a total of 28,000 small to medium size businesses whose needs do not overlap entirely with those of the newly proposed areas of Bradfield, Bennelong or Warringah

North Sydney is a cohesive and engaged community: North Sydney is home to several environmental, humanitarian, religious and social groups all working together towards a better Australia. 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 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.

123 years of 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.

I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the seat of North Sydney be abolished and request for it to remain intact.

Yours faithfully

Dr Chris Baker

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4th July 2024