



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 323

Sally Paton

2 pages

To
The NSW Redistribution Committee
Australian Electoral Commission

Objection to the proposed abolition of the North Sydney Electorate

Dear Committee,

I live in the current seat of North Sydney, in the suburb of Greenwich. My family and I have been here for 30 years, and have a strong affinity for the district.

I believe the electorate should not be broken up for the following reasons.

1. It is an established cohesive community

In my daily life I have strong community links within the area. I shop in Chatswood, Crows Nest and Lane Cove. My doctor is in Crows Nest and my Physio is in Willoughby. I have worked in both North Sydney and Crows Nest. I use community services like Libraries in North Sydney and Lane Cove, I go to the movies in Cremorne. My children's netball fixtures were at the Willoughby Leisure Centre Netball courts and we played local teams, Artarmon, Willoughby and Northbridge. We eat out in Kirribilli and Crows Nest, and Artarmon, not Eastwood.

North Sydney is an established, cohesive community, politically and ethically. The community of North Sydney selected, supported and elected an independent member on the basis of our shared values. We also voted in support of the Indigenous Voice to Parliament in 2023. The electorate of Bennelong, which I may be part of, did not.

Solution: Incorporate into North Sydney the Local Government Areas of Willoughby North Sydney and Lane Cove, as outlined in Kylea Tinks submission to the AEC

2. Natural boundaries

North Sydney has more than ½ of its boundaries as harbour foreshore. This acts to concentrate activity within that area. We have similar planning and development issues within the electorate. We need a representative that understands our unique geographical issues.

3. Historical reasons

North Sydney is a foundation electorate, established in 1901 and has existed for 123 years. It has a proud legacy of political awareness voting in well-respected independent candidate Ted Mack.

4. The **transport** links are all within the existing electorate. The T1 trainline runs between North Sydney and Chatswood. My bus current route runs to Lane Cove and North Sydney via Crows Nest. The new bus route will run from Greenwich to Crows Nest. There's no easy public transport to Ryde for example.

5. High Growth Area

I argue that the population data the committee has used is out of date. The LGAs within the electorate are required by the NSW state government to increase their populations substantially. St Leonards South has 900 extra dwellings currently under construction. It is hard to get exact figures, but Lane Cove LGA is expected to have another 5,400 dwellings by 2029. And the Crows Nest Metro station area has more, with numbers like 6000 dwellings (ascertained from the NSW State Government web site.) North Sydney council is expecting 19,500 new residents to move into the area by 2036. This means the boundaries would have to be redrawn yet again.

Solution: Remove a seat in an area of less growth. We do not need to abolish North Sydney to achieve electoral requirements. Enlarging North Sydney would solve the short term population problem.

6. Co-ordinated planning.

The proposed split of the North Sydney electorate will further exacerbate the planning problems of the area. The vibrant commercial hub of St Leonards / Crows Nest is already bisected by 3 LGAs. The residents of this area would also be represented by 3 different Federal Members despite being only metres apart. As a further insult they would be left at the periphery of these Federal electorates as their problems would be left to the other elected representatives to solve.

Solution if we incorporate the residual LGAs into north Sydney we would have a better integrated and co-ordinated planning decisions, made by all levels of government.

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

Yours faithfully

Sally Paton

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Sally Paton.

4 July 2024