



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 324

Robert Harrington

3 pages

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The NSW Redistribution Committee
Australian Electoral Commission

RE: My objection to the proposal to abolish the Federal Seat of North Sydney.

Dear Committee Members,

The intention to redistribute the electoral boundaries and in so doing abolish the electorate of North Sydney is a travesty. I object to it.

1. THE COMMUNITY OF INTEREST TEST.

Before redistribution is enacted, it is the committee's obligation to consider the community of interest test. Should this redistribution proceed, it will severely impact the connection that I have cultivated with the local community that resides in the North Sydney electorate.

For example, my Cammeray gym, that I attend three times a week, will be located outside my electorate. My social club, "Norths" located in Abbott Street at Cammeray, likewise, will be located outside my electorate. The Church that I attend, St Marys in Miller St North Sydney, will be located outside my electorate. Kirribilli RSL club of which I'm a long-term member will be located outside my electorate.

I take a keen and active interest in local politics. I always campaign for likeminded candidates running at local council elections. I, without doubt, identify with Willoughby Council and its politics. I do not want it to be located outside my electorate. Local council elections are just around the corner, and I don't want my local representative to be situated in locations like Hornsby or Asquith which will be the circumstance if the redistribution proceeds as intended.

Abolishing the electorate of North Sydney will therefore have an adverse impact upon the attachment that I have with my community.

The school in Kirribilli which my son attended and the school in North Sydney which my daughter attended will be located outside the boundary of my electorate if

redistribution proceeds. I continue to maintain social interaction with parents from both schools. We advocate for a common cause, politically and religiously.

I play golf at Lane Cove golf course. Again, should redistribution proceed as proposed it will isolate me from this community. A community of common interest.

I meet regularly with an active political group of friends at Maggio's Café in Cammeray. We discuss all manner of topics especially politics. I want this association to be relevant to my locality not to somewhere up the line like Hornsby or St Ives for example.

I undertake shopping in Chatswood. It too will be shifted outside my electorate. My community of common interest is in and around Cammeray, Crows Nest North Sydney. Not Turramurra, Gordon or Wahroonga.

No one local member can serve the common interest of constituents with such diverse interest. A local member is to be exactly that LOCAL.

Here in North Sydney, we are a community of common interest. No better test can be applied to the cohesiveness of our community than the following two examples.

Example A.

The enormous community effort to come together to elect an independent candidate to Parliament in 2022. It was a compelling and unifying common goal by the local community. In the 123-year history of the seat of North Sydney it is only the second time that an independent has been elected to this seat. A highly emotional and bonding experience it was to achieve this result by a community with a common cause.

Example B. The local community campaign to advocate for a YES vote in the recent Indigenous voice to parliament referendum was profound. Our community rallied, yet again, for a common cause. Our locality was one of a select few that gained a majority YES vote in this referendum.

It takes a community bonded by a common denominator to achieve such results.

Such examples that have been set out, demonstrate that we here in the electorate of North Sydney are a community of common interest. Here, I fraternise with like minded people politically, culturally, religiously and emotionally. The intention to locating me in an electorate that embraces the suburbs of Hornsby, Asquith, Turramurra, St Ives for example, with which I have absolutely nothing in common, is profoundly disappointing. We don't speak the same language. Abolishing the

electorate of North Sydney will therefore have an adverse impact upon my belonging to my community. Please don't allow this to come to past.

2. PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH.

How is it possible the AEC has arrived at results that indicated population decline in the subject area. There has got to be something wrong with the foundation of this prediction. All indicators point to a population growth in our area.

My profession as an Architect puts me in an advantageous position to be across the future population projections trends. For example, our local council planning policy is designed to ensure rapid growth over the upcoming decade. Crows Nest is designated by the NSW Department of Planning as a priority growth node. This is supported with the imminent opening of the new metro line with metro stations positioned in Crows Nest and in North Sydney. Constructed over both metro stations are government initiated high-density, high-rise residential towers. Such high-density residential towers are typical with what is happening in the locality of St Leonards and surrounds. The NSW department of Planning website indicates the delivery of 6,680 new homes, with the capacity for an extra 119,979 sqm floor space and 16,500 new jobs in Crows Nest and St Leonards.

In addition, North Sydney Council is planning for 19,500 new residents to move in the area over the next decade.

As an Architect, I take particular interest in development and urban renewal, and I can see what is under construction and what is just about to be delivered. This all is at odds with the AECs predictions.

3. CONCLUSION.

If the proposal to abolish the electorate of North Sydney proceeds, then it will have an adverse impact upon me. I will be isolated from my community. From people that I fraternise with. From like-minded people with political, cultural and emotional commonality. We are a unique community. Please don't destroy what we have here in North Sydney.

Yours sincerely
Robert Harrington.