



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Objection 363

Mary Lou Merven

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To: The NSW Redistribution Committee

Date: 8 July 2024

Re: Objection to the AEC's proposal to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney

Dear Sir/Madam

North Sydney is a rapidly growing and diverse community with a unique history of strong community activity, action and representation by community-backed major party and independent representatives in the federal parliament. To fracture this electorate would be a real loss, not only to this community, but also to our country's democracy.

I understand that voter numbers in electorates must be fairly distributed and am grateful that we have a strong and independent institution in the AEC to oversee this process. However, it appears that the AEC has not accounted for current and future growth in North Sydney.

Current population projections, as well as state and local government policies and planning for increased housing mean the electorate will grow strongly in the very near future. Such growth requires focussed federal representation based on the bank of knowledge and experience gained across the electorate of North Sydney since Federation.

Infrastructure, including transport, and services supported by the federal government are critical to the exponential growth occurring in the North Sydney CBD (one of the largest in the country) and surrounds right now. A number of other parts of the electorate have been identified for high density housing. Both businesses and residents of these areas need the representation of a dedicated MP to ensure that their current and future needs are met.

The cultural, social and political life of our diverse community is cohesive, engaged and respectful. Our many and varied educational, religious, cultural, sporting and social institutions have been well supported by our federal representatives of all political persuasions over our history. Witness the community action from all corners of the electorate for the last federal election and the recent referendum. These are examples of such action with a proud history in North Sydney. They could also be said to be a role model to other electorates seeking to activate the power of their citizens in participating more fully in our democracy.

The history and traditions of North Sydney and its voters will not be well served by splitting them amongst three electorates which do not share our unique history and future needs.

I oppose the draft proposal to abolish the seat of North Sydney and request that it remain essentially intact.

Mary Lou Merven

██████████ Neutral Bay, NSW, 2089