



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 365

The Reverend Dr Ray Williamson OAM

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Waverton 2060
8th July 2024

TO: The Australian Electoral Commission – NSW Redistribution Committee

Re: Objection to the AEC's proposal to abolish the Electorate of North Sydney.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to request that the AEC seriously reconsider its proposal to abolish the electorate of North Sydney.

North Sydney is a well-established and high functioning community, and this electorate has existed since federation in 1901. It is an electorate with a strong history of independent and progressive ideas. Having had independent representation in the past, it was one of the first electorates to stand up for such representation again in 2022, and one of the few to vote for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the 2023 referendum. This was indicative of the electorate being a tight network of community minded individuals.

Furthermore, North Sydney is a growing area. The AEC's proposal to abolish this electorate seems not to consider seriously the existing and future population growth inside the electorate. There is much evidence of this future growth, including state and local planning policies, the number of developments under construction and the number of developments in the pipeline for future construction. Also, the NSW Government has plans for 5,900 new homes to be built in the North Sydney LGA alone by 2029, and the North Sydney Council is expecting 19,500 new residents to move into the area by 2036. This anticipated growth suggests that the proposed abolition of the electorate is very short-sighted.

It would also mean that the effective parliamentary representation of such a growing area would be severely compromised to the disadvantage of the people in the area. North Sydney has unique socio-economic characteristics and needs that might not be adequately addressed if its residents are absorbed into neighbouring electorates. Furthermore, all networks, connections, organisations, social case works, etc are intrinsically linked by being part of this community since 1901. Maintaining the seat ensures continuity in addressing long-term projects and community goals.

I feel privileged to live in the North Sydney community, and I strongly request the AEC to set aside its draft proposal for the electorate of North Sydney be abolished and to honour its unique history by retaining it as a seat in the Commonwealth Parliament.

Yours sincerely,



The Reverend Dr Ray Williamson OAM