



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Objection 472

Michael Wright

4 pages

# NORTH SYDNEY FEDERAL ELECTORATE RETENTION - SUBMISSION

- 1. The Petitioner** vigorously and strongly objects to the abolition of the historic North Sydney electorate, one of the founding electorates of the Australian Federation. The petitioner has lived in the North Sydney electorate for the majority of his 80 years, variously at Naremburn, Neutral Bay, Wollstonecraft, Artarmon, Cammeray and Northbridge, and has experienced at first hand the changes to the fabric of the society in that time, from a working class / middle class suburban mix in the 1950s to the development of a vibrant mix of business, commercial and educational zones and residential districts with a strong sense of community.
- 2.** The petitioner is a fifth generation resident of the electorate and does not wish to see such an identifiable, progressive, inclusive area hacked up in pieces and offloaded to electorates that have little in common with its harbourside and business amenity.
- 3. Population growth**  
The population across the electorate is growing rapidly but the AEC's proposal does not take into account this growth. I understand that the NSW State Government plans for 5,900 new homes to be 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.

4. North Sydney Council is expecting an additional 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. These figures indicate that it is highly likely that to proceed with abolishing the seat would be completely counterproductive, as arguably the case to re-establish it by 2029 will be more than obvious.
5. The impending opening of the Metro line extending from Chatswood to Sydenham (August 2024) and the NSW Government's policy of urban consolidation with an explosion of population around new transport nodes both suggest that the above quoted figures are likely to err on the low side.

**6. Identity -- North Sydney is a cohesive and engaged community**

North Sydney is home to a number of environmental, humanitarian, religious and social groups all working together towards a better Australia. It is telling that we were one of the electorates to stand up for independent representation in 2022 [as was the case with the election of independent Ted Mack earlier, 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. We are home to a number of active and competitive sports teams, including two of the largest community-based sporting organisations in the state.

**7. North Sydney business community**

As home to the third-largest business centre in the country, I 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 with those of the newly mooted areas of Bradfield, Bennelong or Warringah electorates

**8. 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. Many families are proud to have been represented by a prime minister, a treasurer and the independent trailblazer Ted Mack and many gain their identity from being part of a cohesive community

**9. An Educational Hub** - North Sydney electorate is the location of university campuses and many public and private schools that intersect significantly with the broader interests of the residents and the business community. **It is essential that a local member be centred on this major business and cultural district and be available to assist with policy development and decision making.**

**10.** Currently North Sydney electorate has boundaries with Warringah, Bennelong and Bradford electorates. We in Northbridge have little connection or identity with the Bradfield electorate which stretches far to the north and whose business and cultural centres are not readily identifiable.

**11.** It is respectfully submitted that rather than North Sydney electorate being divided up as the proposal goes, and in view

of the historical phenomenon of increasing desirability in living in the area **and** the potential for massive population increase, that the North Sydney electorate be retained and its boundaries expanded, if necessary, and that Bradfield electorate be incorporated into the surrounding electorates of Bennelong, Mackellar and Berowra with their mid to outer city issues and problems.

Michael Wright

████████████████████ Northbridge NSW 2063

██████████

SUBMISSION RE THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF NORTH SYDNEY