



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 575

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2 pages

To: New South Wales augmented Electoral Commission

Date: 12 July 2024

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

I believe the decision to abolish North Sydney electorate is a grave error for the following reasons;

- The AEC has proposed the abolition of two House of Representative seats -one in Victoria (Higgins) & one in NSW (my seat of North Sydney), while only creating one in WA (Bullwinkle).
- Australia's population is growing and the number of electorates should be growing with it, not being reduced. There is no legally or constitutionally fixed number of House of Representative seats that the AEC is bound to, so why reduce the number from 151 to 150 based on an outdated formula that doesn't take into account growing populations.
- How can the AEC justify the abolition of my electorate of North Sydney, when Australia's population has grown from 24.6 million in 2017, is currently 26.7 million and is projected to be at least 33 million in 2033? This cannot be justified.
- Changing the boundaries is one thing but to actually eliminate North Sydney, which has existed since Federation in 1901, makes no rational sense in a growing state. NSW population in 2017 was 7.9 million, in 2024 it is 8.41 and is projected to reach 8.75 by 2033.
- In addition, the 2023 NSW state zoning changes introduced by the Minns government will see major medium and high-rise developments along the North Shore rail link, with a 1200 metre zone around the new Crows Nest metro station being identified as a key development site. This will greatly increase populations in the St Leonards and Naremburn areas.
- Other transport hubs who have been targeted for 1200m medium to high rise development zones are Hornsby (Bradfield) & Macquarie Park (Bennelong). Both these suburbs will experience an exponential increase in population over the next decade.
- The area around the Chatswood Interchange has already been targeted to develop high rise residential towers. The area has recently been granted approval for 15, 25, 27 & 55 storey towers for residential and business occupants
<https://www.marble.com.au/news/23126/chatswoods-skyline-transformed-taller-towers-emerge>
- The AEC has failed to consult appropriate sources for future growth numbers, including state and local planning policies, the number of developments under construction and the number of developments in the pipeline for future construction
- The North Sydney LGO alone is expected to increase by 19,500 residents by 2036
- The AEC decision to abolish North Sydney electorate and divide the residents between other electorates on the northern transport line comes just at a time when the development and population growth is set to grow substantially.
- The new proposed boundary which splits the high growth centre around St Leonards and Crows Nest into three different electorates makes no rational sense. This proposed

boundary adds unnecessary complexity that will lead to a fragmented and inadequate representation of businesses and residents at a federal level.

- I honestly can see no rational argument to eliminate North Sydney electorate or reduce the number of electorates in NSW & Australia when our population is growing not reducing. From 1901 – 2022 the numbers of electorates have only continued to increase to ensure adequate representation of a growing and diverse populous

Table 3.1 Ratio of electors to Members

Year of election	Electors	Members	Average number of electors per Member
1901	907,658	75	12,102
1946	4,744,017	75	63,254
1949	4,913,654	123	39,948
1983	9,373,580	125	74,989
1984	9,866,266	148	66,664
2001	12,636,631	150	84,244
2016	15,676,659	150	104,511

- 2017 review added an extra electorate to 151

Therefore, I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the federal seat of North Sydney be abolished and request for it to remain, with adjusted boundaries to accommodate changes in overall numbers of electors in NSW.

I also ask that you please consider Kylea Tink MP's proposal in this regard

Yours truly

Sue-Ellen Smith

