



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Objection 617

Lorna Stewart

2 pages

**To: The NSW Redistribution Committee**

**Subject: Draft plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 NSW redistribution**

My name is Lorna Stewart, a long-time resident in the Federal seat of North Sydney [62 years]. My family and I [aged 12] arrived in Australia in 1962 from the UK and our first home was in Blues Point Tower at the bottom of Blues Point Road, North Sydney. After 3 years there, we bought a house in Castlecrag, where my mother lived until she moved to Northbridge where she still resides at the age of 98. After 5 years back in the UK, I returned and bought my house in Willoughby in 1981, which is still my home. I also run my business in Willoughby and Northbridge. So we have a very strong connection to the Federal seat of North Sydney along with the various LGA communities in the electorate.

I strongly object to the seat of North Sydney being abolished, and the areas being broken up and joined to the surrounding electorates of Bennelong, Bradfield, and Warringah. Those 3 electorates have a very different culture from North Sydney, and since I have remained in one electorate for 62 years, to be annexed to another electorate would be like leaving my beloved home.

It also seems to me that the AEC is taking a very narrow view of future growth:

1. The business community in North Sydney is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest business centre in Australia and there is a strong cohesion right across the electorate. Breaking up the current electorate would have an adverse effect on business growth as being absorbed into 3 very different electorates would reduce the impact of what we currently enjoy.
2. The population is growing very fast, and I understand that the NSW State Government plans to build almost 6,000 new homes in the North Sydney LGA alone. Chatswood is also growing exponentially. So what happens down the track when the numbers rise – will the AEC then have to re-establish the North Sydney electorate?

In addition, I ask you to consider the notable history of the North Sydney electorate:

1. North Sydney is one of the original federation divisions contested in Australia's first federal election 123 years ago. To abolish this electorate would be like wiping the board of something very significant in the history of Australia's birth and development. We have been served well by several MPs, most notably John Spender [1980-1990], followed by the legendary Independent Ted Mack who served as Mayor of North Sydney [1980-1988], State MP for North Shore [1981-1988], and finally as Federal MP for North Sydney [1990-1996], and currently by the independent Kylea Tink, who was elected to Federal Parliament in 1922. So we have a history of strong political representation, demonstrating the cohesiveness of the voters of the North Sydney electorate. Splitting us up into 3 different electorates would be terrible – Bennelong is Labor which would be contrary to the current political views of the North Sydney electorate which is demonstrably independent, Bradfield is Liberal, and deeply conservative, once again contrary to the mindset of the North Sydney electorate, and Warringah is independent, aligned with the North Sydney electorate, however I accept that it's not feasible to join North Sydney to Warringah!

2. Finally, over the years I have personally witnessed and experienced the strong cohesiveness and engagement of the North Sydney community. We have come together over many humanitarian, environmental and political issues, working in harmony and respect to improve our local way of living and that of Australia as a whole. North Sydney is a very special electorate, offering so much value to our community.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the Federal seat of North Sydney be abolished, and request that it remain intact, with minimal changes to accommodate changes in overall elector numbers in NSW.

Yours sincerely,  
Lorna Stewart

 Willoughby 2068  
11 July 2024