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NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 638

David Bennett and Family

3 pages

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - NSW](#)
Subject: Objection to Draft plans to abolish Federal seat of North Sydney in proposed 2024 NSW redistribution
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Dear NSW Redistribution committee

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal to abolish North Sydney federal electorate.

I object strongly to this for the reasons outlined below.

My name is David Bennett and I am a current resident in the North Sydney Electorate, having lived in Waverton and Wollstonecraft for 20 years in November this year, and an owner for 17 years. My family is now growing up here and our twin girls attend the local school and we are engaged in the local community. Additionally I have worked in North Sydney CBD and now use our company's North Sydney offices as required as I am predominately working from home. As such working from home, you get to even better experience the local area and community.

Before moving here, I lived mostly in the Federal seat of Bradfield for 20 years where my mother is still a resident, and one of my sisters is a resident in the Federal seat of Warringah, and has been for over 25 years so I am a regular to those locations and hear about local issues and community etc.

I initially chose to live in this North Sydney Federal electorate due to the proximity to the Sydney CBD and natural bushlands and harbour proximity for the trade-off of higher density and more cosmopolitan living. My family all really enjoy the ability to be able to walk to most conveniences. Bradfield and Warringah are more house based with only pockets of higher density and less walking, more driving and as such reduced local community engagement. I find North Sydney residents are often out and about talking about issues and listening and reflecting, less insular and more worldly be it the local parks, which are more used here and/or sports and local shops. At my daughters local school, North Sydney Dem Public, they flagged they have over 90 languages spoken! This gives you the flavour of the people who live here, which is different to Bradfield and Warringah.

The area is also due to grow rapidly in population, despite how small the electorate may look on a map compared to others. They are very big towers planned around the new Metro train stations at Crows Nest and Victoria Cross and the new metro is to open in August 2024. While I would hope you are already aware of these in your population projections, you may not be aware of how numerous Strata Plans buildings in our area are being approached to support the NSW Government Transport Orientated Development (TOD) growth as in our area we are near both existing trains, bit also the new catchment of the metro train stations. The TOD would see 2 storey blocks with 15 units replaced with upto six stories. Similarly, friends in Artarmon are looking at moving from their place and if it can be subdivided from house to higher density. I do not hear this as much in Bradfield or Warringah, but rather people just looking to build bigger houses and complaining about the TOD and a not in my backyard syndrome.

The community here is strong and more connected. There are lots of local small businesses rather than chains of stores and providing an incredible range of speciality and alternative services. Small business needs a voice that would be lost as again very different to Bradfield and Warringah. Additionally, the sports clubs and other groups have a long association and history in the area as does the area itself. Furthermore, the area is doing significant advances to help reflect Aboriginal history and you can feel and see the impact of reflecting Country for the Aboriginals as traditional owners much more in this electorate. North Sydney was also one of the original federation divisions and not enough has changed for it to no longer be a division, rather it continues to develop its own entity with the incredibly strong swing away from traditional parties at last election, and a history of strong independent views where shown by the Federal Independents elected, starting with Ted Mack for all of Australia to the recent position of the recent Voice referendum. Combing or abolishing would lose that voice though I do appreciate that the major parties would support abolishing an area that does not subscribe to their views and would probably seek to merge to remove that challenge of a non-aligned voice.

I do appreciate that you need to remove a seat. I would suggest looking at the growing West areas where the growth forecasts are maybe not as well known and would need federal support for say infrastructure or Bennelong as more similar to is Western borders. Maye look to use the traditional boundaries of waterways and physical constraints and divides

Finally, this does not just reflect my views. Friends from our local school, strata, dance and sport etc are away for school holidays and advised they would not be able to make submissions but also did not support.

It is for these reasons, I oppose the abolishment of North Sydney.

David Bennett and family

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