



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 655

Gaynor Spies OAM

2 pages

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - NSW](#)
Subject: Draft plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 redistribution
Date: Friday, 12 July 2024 1:37:22 PM

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To The NSW Redistribution Committee

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to lodge an appeal against the proposed redistribution.

My name is Gaynor Spies. I am a resident of Castlecrag, in the Federal Seat of North Sydney. I have lived here since 1978. Prior to that I lived for about ten years in McMahons Point, also in North Sydney electorate.

1. MY CONNECTION TO NORTH SYDNEY

Since moving here after my marriage, I and my late husband became involved in community affairs and organisations. We were founding members of Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) Inc, which is still an active group campaigning for over forty years for the environment, in particular bushland.

We became members of Castlecrag Conservation Society, Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA) and several advisory committees of Willoughby City Council (WCC). I am currently WEPA Vice President, an executive member of the CPA and a member of two advisory committees of WCC.

I also participated in the Middle Harbour Catchment Management Committee.

From 1985 -2012 WEPA carried out the extensive Sugarloaf Bush Regeneration Project in Castlecrag, some which was funded by federal grants. Bicentennial Grant funded work was opened by then Federal Member for North Sydney, Mr John Spender MP.

WEPA worked extensively with the local communities of the Willoughby LGA and North Sydney LGA to oppose the Beaches Link Tunnel.

WEPA has also held regular electoral forums to enable members and the general public to hear the views of potential candidates. This would be impossible if North Sydney were to be abolished. It would be logistically impossible to hold such forums for three separate and different electorates and as such would lessen the expression of democratic voices.

I attend functions in North Sydney, exercise classes in Lane Cove and use Lane Cove Library, shop in Castlecrag, Northbridge and Chatswood, all of which I access by car as public transport connections are so poor and I have limited mobility. Although I spent my childhood in Killara, I have no connection with Ku-ring-gai or the Federal Seat of Bradfield There is no community of interest or character in common with North Sydney. The same applies to to Bennelong and Warringah to which part of North Sydney is proposed to be redistributed.

2. CONSIDERATION OF KYLEA TINK'S PROPOSAL

I ask that you please consider Kylea Tink MP's proposal to retain the seat of North Sydney with adjusted boundaries to accommodate changes in overall numbers of electors in NSW. I note that both the Liberal and Labor proposals for redistribution were agreed to but not that of the Independent member.

I also ask that the suburb of Castle Cove, on the Castle Cove peninsula, be included in North Sydney because it is one of the significant peninsulas on the western Middle Harbour foreshore and shares natural features and community of interest with the other peninsulas, namely Middle Cove and Castlecrag. It has always seemed illogical that it is excluded from North Sydney.

REASONS FOR MY APPEAL

I do not believe North Sydney should be abolished because:

1. Population

Has the SEC considered developments under construction, DAs being considered or the proposed enormous increase in population being proposed by the NSW State Government under its Transport Oriented Development. This will result in even greater numbers in Crows Nest, St Leonards and Naremburn. It is

illogical to split the already high density areas of Crows Nest and St Leonards between three electorates. Will the increased population result in the need to reverse the current redistribution?

2. Cohesive community

I have mentioned my connections particularly through WEPA and connections within Willoughby and North Sydney LGAs.

I would like to mention the effort of the community, feeling itself unheard federally, to band together to find an independent candidate. This was done via Kitchen Table Conversations across the electorate, eventually resulting in a candidate who the community supported and mounted an effective campaign for. This has resulted in a committed electorate which was one of the first to elect an independent at the 2022 election and one of the few to vote YES in the October referendum. The redistribution breaks this effective community initiative, sense of identity and cohesiveness.

3. History

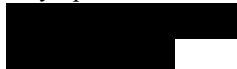
This is a unique electorate. One of the 75 original federal divisions in the first federal election 123 years ago. The home to a former Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, who lived in Northbridge, and two independents, the groundbreaking Ted Mack, who lived in North Sydney, and now Kylea Tink, who lives in Lane Cove, formerly Northbridge. Independents have served this electorate well. Unlike party representatives they have proved responsive to their community.

CONCLUSION

I urge you to reject this redistribution proposal, reinstate the former boundaries of the seat of North Sydney, with an adjustment to include the Castle Cove peninsula and suburb of Castle Cove within it. Please respect the close historical, societal and environmental connections within North Sydney which we do not have with either Warringah, Bennelong or Bradfield.

Yours sincerely,

Gay Spies OAM

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Gay Spies OAM.

Sent from my iPad