



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 660

Aubrey Jarkey

2 pages

12 July 2024

To: The NSW Redistribution Committee

Subject: Objection to the draft plan to abolish the Federal seat of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 NSW redistribution

Dear Committee,

My name is Aubrey Jarkey, and I am a resident of Chatswood in the Federal electorate of North Sydney. My wife and I have lived within the boundaries of the electorate since 1985, moving through the heart of the Lower North Shore locality from Neutral Bay to St Leonards, Artarmon and finally Chatswood, where we now live. During this time our two sons were born, went to school and grew up in this community.

I have two main objections to the Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) plan to abolish the electorate of North Sydney and reallocate areas within it to Bennelong, Bradfield and Warringah. These objections are based on my personal experiences as a long-term resident.

North Sydney as a Community of Interest

My lived experience – in multiple neighbourhoods, school communities, interactions with local shopkeepers and tradespeople, social and recreational activities – is that there *is* a quintessential 'Lower North Shore' community of interest whose locality coincides with the North Sydney electorate. The character of this community arises, among other things, from people who have chosen to live in the area and the influence of the geography of the place.

The general nature of residents is that they have high levels of education, but not necessarily high levels of inherited wealth; they are progressive and inclusive in their attitudes; they are young in their thinking (I do not claim to know actual age demographics of North Sydney); and they come from a wide range of cultures, religions and places of birth. They are very engaged in community activities and have a history of electing independent candidates who represent the values and aspirations of the local communities.

The physical geography of the Lower North Shore area is one of undulating land, created by the many creeks, streams and other inflows into the harbour. It is interspersed with many wooded areas and nature reserves. This has a significant influence on neighbourhoods and on people's social interactions and recreational activities.

In summary, I believe that the North Sydney community is not better than, but distinct and different from the surrounding electorates that the AEC is proposing it be dispersed into. It would effectively be a disenfranchisement of the people of North Sydney if they were to be tacked on to an electorate that is served by someone whose prime consideration is some other community of interest.

The projected reduction in North Sydney's population

In my immediate neighbourhood, the NSW Government has just completed a multi-year expansion of two schools: Chatswood Public School (primary) and Chatswood High School. They have also announced the building of a totally new public primary school a few blocks away on Mowbray Rd.

In the Chatswood area (the main transport, business and shopping centre of the City of Willoughby), there continues to be new construction of medium- and high-density residential buildings. Similarly, along the main rail and road corridor from Chatswood to North Sydney,

there has been and continues to be major construction of high-density residential accommodation – particularly at the locations of the Metro rail stations on the new commuter line extension from Chatswood to the City of Sydney.

The above reality seems to be counter to the AEC's projections of a reduction in the population of the North Sydney electorate.

I would like to finish with a (totally non-scientific) personal, local observation. The street on which we have lived for the last 19 years had many families with children similar in age to ours. As the children all moved on, we had begun to think that ours would be neighbourhood of retirees. However, we are delighted to see that this has not been the case as many young families continue to move in.

I strongly oppose the draft AEC proposal and ask that you please consider Kylea Tink MP's proposal to retain a North Sydney with adjusted boundaries to accommodate changes in overall numbers of electors in NSW.

Yours faithfully,

Aubrey Jarkey