



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Comment on objections 158

Ross Sydney Fairburn

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Opposing the AEC's proposal to abolish the seat of North Sydney

I write to object to the proposal to abolish our current seat of North Sydney.

I have lived in the Division for 40+ years and believe the Commission needs to consider how our community functions today with contemporary patterns of work, commerce and recreation which have formed around deep and strong civic, cultural, sporting, educational and commercial communities of interest that are connected with the North Sydney and Willoughby LGAs in which our suburb of Lane Cove/Longueville is located.

As a resident in the division of North Sydney I strongly identify with the geographic area of the lower North Shore – not the upper North Shore, nor Ryde nor the Northern Beaches. The proposed boundary redistribution runs contrary to preserving this sense of geographic identity, attempting as it does to move the core of North Sydney to a Division with its centre of gravity on the Northern Beaches, and its western third to a Division with a Ryde-based centre of gravity.

The historical significance of the federal division of North Sydney is part of our community's identity. North Sydney is one of the 75 original Federation divisions contested in Australia's first Federal election 123 years ago. Many families have lived in the area for several generations and are proud to have been represented by a Prime Minister, a Treasurer and independent trailblazer Ted Mack.

The election of Independent MP Kylie Tink at the 2022 General Election marked the second time in 25 years the electors of North Sydney returned a representative from outside the major parties - The Hon. Ted Mack being the first independent member for North Sydney. It is a unique and specific characteristic of North Sydney that it has within its fabric a connected and activated civic constituency that is networked from Chatswood to Cremorne, from Lane Cove to Lavender Bay and Castlecrag to Crows Nest. This community has worked together to create their own unique community of interest that exists within the current boundaries of North Sydney and that will, by definition, disappear if the North Sydney Division is abolished.

Please reconsider the abolition of the seat of North Sydney.

Your faithfully,
Ross Fairburn



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