



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 167

Gareth Evans AM

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30th June 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Proposed Electoral Boundary Changes; North Sydney

I am a long-time resident of Lane Cove and, as such, a member of the North Sydney Electorate. Much as I understand the need for electorate re-distribution, I am dismayed that North Sydney is to disappear under the proposed boundary changes. **This my community.**

This is the community in which I reside, in which I shop and in which the vast majority of my friends and acquaintances reside. I have coached junior football and cricket teams in the area and I generally see numerous people associated with those teams whenever leave the house. I cannot recall a single instance where we crossed the Lane Cove River westwards to play organised sport. I still have little if any reason to venture into our proposed new Bennelong electorate, which stretches westward to Parramatta and to which I feel no connection at all. The Lane Cove River is a great natural geographical and community divide.

But also, I believe in history and tradition. North Sydney is a Federation electorate and has a fine tradition of our representatives making a significant contribution to the nation as a whole and strongly representing our community in particular. Not least of these is our current independent representative. I have no political affiliation and for much of my time in Lane Cove I have felt that my vote counted for nothing as MPs generally toe the party line. For the first time in many years do I now feel that my views, and those of my community, are being represented in Parliament and in governance of the nation. North Sydney is good for democracy.

The worst thing about the current proposal is that the entire cohesive community is to be split into 3 parts. Even minor adjustments or less severe shifts could achieve the same end and retain a sense of community. Ironically, the proposal comes at a time when the NSW government is mandating new building along the rail and public transport corridors which will inevitably see population grow rapidly along the North Shore rail line.

I trust that you will consider alternative proposals which do not destroy our Inner North Shore community.

Yours faithfully,
Gareth Evans AM