



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 168

Richard Roberts

3 pages

Objection

To whom it may concern.

Re: The abolition of the North Sydney Electorate.

I'm raising an objection to the abolition of the North Sydney electorate. The sitting member has raised the following objections which I fully endorse:

1. Population growth

The population right across our electorate is growing rapidly but the AEC's proposal does not account for this growth. For example, the NSW State Government plans to see 5,900 new homes built in the North Sydney LGA alone by 2029. If that growth is replicated across the four LGAs currently contained in the federal seat that would see more than 24,000 new homes built across our community.

In addition to this, North Sydney Council is expecting 19,500 new residents to move into the area by 2036. This is a 27% increase in just one of the four LGAs that currently make up the seat of North Sydney and indicates that it is highly likely that to proceed with abolishing our seat now would be completely counterproductive, as arguably the case to re-establish it come 2029 will be more than obvious.

2. Our business community

As home to the third-largest business centre in the country, we also believe that North Sydney's businesses and industrial zones deserve the focus of a dedicated local member.

North Sydney has a total of 28,000 small to medium size businesses whose needs do not overlap entirely with those of the newly proposed areas of Bradfield, Bennelong or Warringah

3. North Sydney is a cohesive and engaged community

North Sydney is home to several environmental, humanitarian, religious and social groups all working together towards a better Australia.

It is telling that we were one of the first electorates to stand up for independent representation in 2022, and one of the few to vote for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the 2023 referendum.

We respect and value our cultural diversity, with half of our population born overseas and a third speaking a language other than English at home.

And we are home to several active and competitive sports teams, including two of the largest community-based sporting organisations in the state.

4. 123 years of history

The historical significance of the federal seat 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.

On a personal note, my family have lived in the area for more than 100 years. My mother was born in Hampton Rd Artarmon in 1926, and I was born and lived in North Sydney since 1966, until recently moving interstate. I went to school in North Sydney, and I worked in North Sydney. My life revolved around North Sydney and the life it offered.

North Sydney has a rich history of Berry and Wollstonecraft who were given the parcel of land which forms most of the North Sydney electorate. Their contribution is historically significant and shouldn't be lost in an electorate reshuffle. Their contribution to the fledgling colony is still evident today in names, places, and sites throughout the electorate. They went on to develop the Shoalhaven (the town of Berry) and Coolangatta NSW, which later is linked to the naming of Coolangatta Qld.

Later, the history of Milsons Point, Billy Blue, the Prime Ministers residence, the harbour ferry crossing, the termination of the Northern line at Lavender Bay, the whole Harbour Bridge and latter Tunnel, all North Sydney history. In addition North Sydney has been at the centrepiece of some of Australia's most important and historically events, either directly or by affording a view of them, such as the Opera House opening, The Bi Centenary celebrations, rock concerts, and every New Year's Eve fireworks, all witnessed from North Sydney.

To devalue North Sydney by abolishing the electorate and amalgamating it with neighbouring electorates, is to water down and de-value 200 years of history, and the contribution it has made to the making of Sydney and Australia. Few other electorates can make such a claim.

In closing, I would ask that the electorate of North Sydney be retained.

Yours faithfully

Richard Roberts