



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 193

Susan McKendry

2 pages

To the Australian Electoral Commission

1 July 2024

Dear Madam or Sir

Please help us to Save North Sydney!

I am writing to express my strong and passionate objection to the AEC's proposal to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney and redistribute our community into the electorates of Warringah, Bradfield, and Bennelong.

As a proud and heartfelt member of this electorate, I firmly believe that North Sydney is unique in its demographic and community cohesion. To dismantle one of the oldest, most cohesive, and historic federal electorates is simply a travesty. North Sydney's independent representation and rich history exemplify Australian democracy at its finest. I implore you to reconsider this proposal. It is truly heart-breaking.

The AEC's proposal overlooks North Sydney's strong sense of identity and social cohesion. Our community is socially and politically engaged, we are passionate about the environment, humanitarian and social causes, and we are actively working towards a better Australia for all Australians. North Sydney is highly educated and progressive, with our own unique voice that would disappear and is not reflective of the other electorates.

North Sydney has 123 years of history, and the historical significance of the federal seat of North Sydney is part of our community's identity. North Sydney is iconic and one of the 75 original federation divisions contested in Australia's first federal election 123 years ago. We are proud to have been represented by a prime minister, a treasurer, and independent trailblazer Ted Mack. North Sydney continues to move Australia forward on progressive issues and was among the first electorates to support independent representation in 2022.

From a purely practical, numbers perspective, there is no doubt that North Sydney should be retained. North Sydney is the third-largest business centre in the country, housing over 28,000 small- to medium-sized businesses with specific needs that differ significantly from the seaside electorate of Warringah. The proposed redistribution fails to account for these unique economic and commercial requirements. Furthermore, the AEC's proposal appears short-sighted, ignoring the state government's plans to build tens of thousands of new homes in our area. By 2029, 5,900 new homes are slated to be built in just the council area of North Sydney. If this growth is mirrored across all four council areas currently within the North Sydney seat, we could see over 24,000 new homes in the next five years.

Given these factors, I strongly urge the AEC to please reconsider its proposal and retain the federal seat of North Sydney, preserving our community's identity, cohesion, and historic significance.

If you would like to hear more about my views, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you so much for your time and effort in considering this very important decision. Wishing you all the very best.

Sincerely, Susan McKendry

P.S. Just one last appeal - Please, please! I was so heartbroken when I heard of this decision. I couldn't believe that it was being proposed. This is not just politics to us. It is our home and our community, and we are so proud of our history, who we are, and what we represent. We are a strong and engaged political community who have always felt we can really make a difference in the political landscape with honest, caring Australians who still believe that our voices matter and we can make a difference. The North Sydney electorate is like one of those beautiful old historic buildings that developers want to pull down and replace with a high-rise. I beseech you to please reconsider this decision because, once North Sydney is destroyed, just like the beautiful old buildings, it can never be replaced, and it will be lost to all of us forever. Please help us to save North Sydney and allow it to continue to be an important part of shaping Australia's political landscape into the future, and for the next 123 years! I truly believe that in making the decision to retain North Sydney, the AEC will be fulfilling its critical role in making important decisions that impact our democracy and provide critical insight as well as oversight for the people of North Sydney to continue to have our own unique voice.