



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 196

Robyn Pettit

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Objection to AEC plan to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney

I am a resident of Willoughby and an active member of my community in the North Sydney electorate. I am writing to object to the proposed abolition of the historic and cohesive North Sydney electorate.

I previously lived in Lane Cove where I was also an active member of the North Sydney electorate. If I still lived in Lane Cove, the proposed boundary change would mean I'd be moved to Bennelong. The proposed boundary change in Willoughby means I would be moved into the Bradfield electorate. This is very unfortunate to split up our community. Residents of Lane Cove and Willoughby have a deep affinity with North Sydney – the busy hub near and on the north side of the city. We do not have any affinity for the outer reaches of Sydney contained in Bennelong and Bradfield. We strongly wish to remain part of the historic North Sydney electorate.

In 2021 I became a volunteer member of the team working for the election of our amazing Federal MP Kylea Tink, now MP for North Sydney. We are very proud of what we achieved. As part of that volunteer team I also worked incredibly hard for the Yes campaign in the Yes 23 referendum. We are also very proud that North Sydney was one of the few electorates that achieved a majority of Yes in the referendum.

I belong to a number of local organisations. The members of these groups do not want to be moved into a new electorate, and to be detached from our north Sydney based sports facilities, schools and social groups. The AEC's proposal has not taken into account North Sydney's strong sense of identity and social cohesion. We are a socially and politically engaged community with environmental, humanitarian, religious and social groups all working together towards a better Australia.

North Sydney is one of the original 75 divisions of Australia's first federal election in 1901 and so we have a long and meaningful history. Many families have lived in the electorate for generations. Surely it is better to abolish a more recently created electorate and there would be less changes to be made to adjust population in surrounding electorates.

In my view the AEC's proposal hasn't taken into account the NSW state government plans to build tens of thousands of new homes in our area with 5,900 new homes slated to be built in just the council area of North Sydney by 2029. If this growth was replicated across all four council areas currently captured by the North Sydney seat we would have more than 24,000 new homes in just the next 5 years. A different and newer seat in NSW is surely more suitable for abolition.