



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 268

Judith Homewood

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To: The Australian Electoral Commission

RE: Draft plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 NSW redistribution

My name is Judith Homewood. I have lived in the electorate of North Sydney electorate since 1982, first in North Sydney, then in Waverton and now Artarmon. My family feels a strong connection to the North Sydney electorate by virtue of our long period of residence and involvement in community activities. By way of example, we are members of the Artarmon Parkland Community Garden, one in a network of closely connected community gardens in North Sydney, Waverton, Neutral Bay and Willoughby.

I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the seat of North Sydney be abolished and request for it to remain intact, for the following reasons.

1. Its historical significance:
North Sydney is one of the 75 original federation divisions established in Australia's first federal election. The historical importance of the North Sydney electorate is not only in its longevity of 123 years, but in its elected representatives. Three generations of the Spender family have been MPs (two for North Sydney and the current member for Wentworth). Ted Mack, the "father of the independents" represented North Sydney 1990-1996 and is the only person ever to have been elected and re-elected as an independent to local, state, and federal government in Australia. How sad he would be at the draft proposal.
2. Projected population growth:
The AEC proposal does not factor in the very large proposed growth in population as part of the NSW State Government's plans to increase the number of residents living in suburbs in the North Sydney electorate (Artarmon, Chatswood, Willoughby, North Sydney and Crows Nest) with good access to public transport.
3. Our business community needs a dedicated representative in Canberra:
The electorate of North Sydney contains the third-largest business centre in the country, with 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.

I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the seat of North Sydney be abolished and request for it to remain intact.

Yours faithfully

Judith Homewood



4th July 2024