



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 329

Isobel Tyquin

2 pages

7th July 2024

To: The Australian Electoral Commission

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

My name is Isobel Tyquin, I currently live in Artarmon however I have grown up in and lived across the electorate of North Sydney for most of my life. I have attended school in Cammeray, worked at RNSH and volunteered for local organisations such as Lifeline.

I believe that the federal electorate of North Sydney contains a cohesive and connected community across four LGAs and three state electorates. This has been demonstrated in the way the community rallied behind community independent Kylea Tink in the 2022 federal election and how we were one of few federal jurisdictions to vote yes in last year's referendum on the Voice to Parliament. We are a diverse community that respects and values our cultural diversity as well as diversity in other forms including the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ Australians and those with disabilities.

The AEC proposal does not seem to take the projected population growth of North Sydney into account, with the state government planning to build almost 6000 new homes in the LGA of North Sydney alone by 2029. North Sydney Council has also projected a population growth of 27% by 2036, which is significant when considering that this does not even take into account the potential population growth of the three other LGAs in the electorate.

North Sydney is home to one of the biggest business districts in the country, with over 80,000 workers coming to work here every day. There are also nearly 30,000 small to medium-sized businesses in the electorate, these businesses do not see their values and goals aligned with the businesses of the electorates they are set to be merged with.

The parts of our community that are set to be subdivided into three electorates are quite distinct from the electorates they will be absorbed into. For example; the Northern Beaches tunnel is a very contested infrastructure project that has been the subject of many protests. Many residents of North Sydney, especially in areas such as North Sydney, Cammeray, Cremorne and Crows Nest are vehemently opposed to the project. These areas are set to be absorbed into the electorate of Warringah, which extends to parts of the Northern Beaches where the tunnel is very popular. The community of North Sydney has been united on this issue for many years and has seen a lot of grassroots activist campaigns joined by constituents from across the electorate. How will an MP for Warringah represent these communities who are so opposed on this issue?

As a resident of Artarmon, which is set to be absorbed into Bradfield, I cannot help but wonder what impact this may have on the voice of people from these 'new areas' of Bradfield, and the potential for us to be ignored by our elected representative in favour of the original constituents that have made up that person's voter base. Will areas like Artarmon, Willoughby and Chatswood still have an MP who will advocate for our interests? Or will our interests be

overridden by constituents on the upper North Shore who have different interests and needs to us?

The historical importance of this seat also cannot be understated. As a federation seat, North Sydney has existed since the first federal election 123 years ago. In that time we have been represented by a Prime Minister, a treasurer and not one, but two community independents.

As someone who has volunteered with organisations and at events across the electorate including Lifeline stores, Christmas Carols, Clean up Australia Day and more, I have seen how our community, from Hunters Hill to Chatswood to Milsons Point and Cremorne, are aligned in our values and our hopes for a better country and how we have united on different occasions to express this.

I strongly believe that abolishing North Sydney would be incredibly detrimental to the wonderfully diverse cohesive and collaborative communities that have developed across the electorate in the 123 years since it was established and the federal electorate of North Sydney must be remain intact.

Kind Regards,

Isobel Tyquin

