



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES

Objection 349

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William Hyde & Nicholas Hyde

2 pages

4th July 2024

Australian Electoral Commission

Attn: NSW Redistribution Committee

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the abolition of the federal electorate of North Sydney

Your draft proposal is to abolish the federal electorate of North Sydney.

We strongly object.

Yes, North Sydney is one of the original electorates proclaimed in 1900 and **yes**, it has a long and proud history.

But also:

The North Sydney electorate is **my community**. We have lived here almost all my 60 years (the last 30 in Willoughby) and physically operate our business from an office in North Sydney. Our parents lived in Castlecrag (now my mother at 96 is in Northbridge) and Northbridge and our siblings live in Northbridge and Cammeray. I am a member of Northbridge Rotary. We have a connection to this country.

Population

The North Sydney electorate is expected to see **material population growth** over the coming decade, driven around the rail hubs of Chatswood, Crows Nest, St Leonards and North Sydney. Multiple state and local planning policies are designed to ensure this growth will accelerate significantly over the next 5-10 years. This is materially different to your analysis which arguably does not take into consideration these developing planning policies.

Community of interest

The North Sydney electorate is a **strong and geographically tight community**. The original 'father' of independents, Ted Mack held the seat in the 1980's. What a wonderful member of parliament. We have also had a former treasurer in Joe Hockey hold the seat. His family's business is still in the electorate.

We are now privileged to have another independent, Kylea Tink as our member. She connects, discusses, listens and cares. She **brings North Sydney together** to progress critical issues such as housing, climate action, the economy, and brings together the state MPs and local governments of North Sydney, Lane Cove, Willoughby and Hunters Hill to take coordinated action.

These achievements are able to be accomplished because we are a well-connected community. Simply North Sydney also connects, discusses, listens and cares.

Another unique goal is to make North Sydney one of the first net-zero urban zones. North Sydney was also one of the few electorates to record a majority **YES** vote in the recent Voice referendum. This should be no surprise.

Dilution of effective representation

The proposed boundaries pay no attention to the **natural or physical boundaries** and only achieves the North Sydney electorate being carved up and grafted onto three equally distinct electorates each with their own specific identities and affinities.

North Sydney electorate is a **business community**. It is one of the largest CBDs in the country. Our business areas stretch from North Sydney to Crows Nest to Artarmon to Chatswood, around 7km.

It seems to make little sense to add part of this to Warringah or Bradfield or Bennelong. We need a **dedicated local member** to advance the issues of business.

We are concerned that the decision to remove an electorate means the death of such a **robust and connected community**. We should be highlighting the accomplishments of an electorate such as North Sydney to promote greater voter engagement in the political process.

We arguably need **more electorates** like North Sydney not less. We strongly reflect **participatory democracy**.

Please reconsider your decision and save North Sydney.

Yours faithfully,



David Hyde



Alison O'Flynn



William Hyde (22)



Nicholas Hyde (19)