



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 393

Belinda Chambers

1 page

The Australian Electoral Commission
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

By electronic submission

**Re: Draft Plans to Abolish the Federal Seat of North Sydney in
the Proposed 2024 NSW Redistribution**

My name is Belinda Chambers, and I am a resident of North Willoughby in the federal electorate of North Sydney. I have lived here since 1986 and I wish to raise my deep concerns about the proposed abolition of this historic electorate and the adverse impact this will have on the representation of this community.

Cohesive and Engaged Community

I have been active in this community on many issues over the years and I utilise all the services including medical, business (medium and small), retail and recreation that is available in this electorate on a regular basis. I do not utilise these things (or very rarely) in the electorate of Bradfield where I would be hived off to. The nature of the adjacent electorates of Bradfield, Bennelong and Warringah and their concerns do differ and by splitting the very cohesive electorate of North Sydney into three, divides the community and places us in zones whose priorities or their weight are not necessarily with the electorate next door. Thus, our representation is diluted and negated.

Historic Significance and Engagement

This is the reason why the numerical argument alone does not stack up. It is in fact a dilution of effective representation and can serve as a form of disengagement for the voters in North Sydney. An electorate which has had a proud history of some 123 years of community activism in many areas such as historical and natural environments, economic and social issues and matters of political integrity. In addition, this community activism has also resulted in representation from two independents (Ted Mack and Kylea Tink) and recently a resounding Yes vote in The Voice referendum. A fact which shows the distinctive nature of the electorate.

Geography and Population Growth

Further, our own geography which includes trainlines and metrolines, the Pacific Highway and access to the Bridge and Harbour Tunnel and soon to be further transport access points means that it has logical boundaries. The recent Minns housing targets have doubled the housing targets for Willoughby which means that far from the population decreasing there will in fact be significant increases in the population and even more so than predicted by Willoughby Council. It is quite likely that the population issue will need to be readdressed in 2028 because of this increase.

I therefore strongly object to the draft proposal that the seat of North Sydney be abolished. Given the compelling reasons I and others have given, I ask that it remain intact to continue to represent its constituents.

Yours faithfully
Belinda Chambers

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North Willoughby NSW 2068

9 July 2024