



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 493

William Rollo

2 pages

Dear Electoral Commissioner,

As a resident of the North Sydney electoral division, I do not object to the Australian Electoral Commission's proposed electoral boundaries for NSW.

However, I am writing to express my objection to the AEC's decision to retire the electorate name "North Sydney" as part of the redistribution.

The name "North Sydney" should be preserved due to its historical significance and the population demographics of the newly defined boundaries. To support this, I propose that the electorate of Warringah be renamed to North Sydney.

This proposal is in line with recommendations made at various Joint Standing Committees on Electoral Matters, and with the AEC's own naming guidelines. There are several compelling reasons to support this proposal:

- The name "North Sydney" has been in continuous use since Federation in 1901, representing over a century of historical and cultural heritage. It was also represented by a former Prime Minister.
- Prior to the establishment of the Warringah electorate in 1922, the area now known as Warringah was part of the North Sydney electorate. Renaming Warringah to North Sydney would restore this historical connection.
- The proposed new boundaries anchor the electorate around the North Sydney CBD, which is the major population centre and economic hub of the region. It is more fitting to name the electorate after this prominent and recognizable area.
- The current name "Warringah" is derived from an indigenous term for the geographical area of Middle Harbour, which used to be a central feature of the electorate. However, under the new boundaries, the North Sydney CBD has become the focal point, making "North Sydney" a more appropriate name.
- While it is regrettable to lose an indigenous electorate name like Warringah, the new boundaries are not anchored around the area traditionally known as Warringah. The former Warringah Council has also been abolished, further diminishing the relevance of the name to the current electorate. The new electorate takes in the entirety of the North Sydney Council area, making North Sydney a more accurate and representative name.
- Aside from its historical significance as a Federation electorate, it was also represented by several prominent figures in Australian politics. Billy Hughes, a former Nationalist Prime Minister, represented North Sydney from 1922 to 1949. Hughes was a key player in the events of 1922 that led to the creation of the Coalition, which remains one of the defining characteristics of Australian politics to this day.

The Australian Electoral Commission's Naming Guidelines state that *“every effort should be made to retain the names of original federation divisions.”* Given the points mentioned above, there is a much stronger case to retain the name “North Sydney” than to retire it. Indeed, the case to retain the name “Warringah” at the expense of “North Sydney” is quite weak.

I urge the Australian Electoral Commission to consider these points seriously to ensure this electoral boundary name accurately represents the region it serves and upholds the historical legacy of the original federation divisions.

Additionally, I would also like to express my concern regarding a campaign by the current Federal Member for North Sydney, Kylea Tink, against the redistribution. Ms. Tink is encouraging her supporters to lodge objections to the redistribution for reasons outside the scope considered by the AEC.

This campaign appears to be driven by self-interest and potentially undermines the AEC's independence in this matter. In her recent public commentary, Ms. Tink appears either ignorant of the AEC's independence, or holds it in contempt. It is crucial that the AEC's decisions remain free from political influence to ensure fair and impartial representation for all Australians.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

William Rollo