



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES

Objection 501

Gary Edward BELGRE

2 pages

To: The NSW Redistribution Committee

RE: Objection to the AEC's proposal to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney.

Dear Sir/Madam:

North Sydney is a well-established and high functioning community.

North Sydney has been a federal seat since federation. It is telling that we were one of the first electorates to stand up for independent representation in 2022, and one of the few to vote for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the 2023 referendum. This was achieved because we are a tight network of community minded individuals.

But, more importantly, North Sydney is in fact growing!

The AEC's proposal to abolish North Sydney apparently does not consider existing and future population growth numbers inside our electorate. The AEC appears to have failed to consult appropriate sources for future growth numbers, including state and local planning policies, the number of developments under construction and the number of developments in the pipeline for future construction. Had they done so, we would not be on the list of possible electorates to be abolished.

Three examples of what has apparently not been considered:

- 1. The NSW State Government plans to see 5,900 new homes built in the North Sydney LGA alone by 2029.**
- 2. North Sydney Council is expecting 19,500 new residents to move into the area by 2036.**

3. The NSW State Government has reversed its policy of closing primary schools in the area and is re-opening them.

Abolishment will lead to disadvantage

The repercussions of the abolishment will also compromise effective representation by an elected Federal MP, to the disadvantage of the existing constituents of North Sydney. North Sydney has unique socioeconomic characteristics and needs that might not be adequately addressed if its residents are absorbed into neighbouring more suburban electorates. Furthermore, all networks, connections, organisations, social case works, etc are intrinsically linked by being part of this community since 1901. Maintaining the seat ensures continuity in addressing long-term projects and community goals.

I am a proud member of the North Sydney community. I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the federal seat of North Sydney be abolished and request for it to remain intact.

[REDACTED]
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