



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 513

Di Haskell

2 pages

To the NSW Redistribution Committee,

Subject: Abolition of the federal seat of North Sydney - proposed 2024 NSW redistribution

I have been a student, resident and property owner in North Sydney at various times over the past fifty years and I have now been living a heritage-listed 1890's built home in one of the oldest parts of North Sydney for the past decade. Such is the history of the area that Henry Lawson, writer and poet, is known to have lived at various addresses in our street during his adult life.

I love North Sydney, its history, its people, its enterprise and its natural environment. Even so, I was surprised to feel so devastated when the decision to abolish the seat of North Sydney was announced. It was as if my identity, and that of our community, was being obliterated from the pages of Australian history.

I understand the general need for electoral re-alignment but I fail to see why our electorate, the oldest in Australia, should be destroyed and lost to history. The North Sydney electorate is a diverse mix of political persuasion, occupation, culture and age. Warringah, on the other hand, is conservative, white, Anglo-Saxon and middle aged. They also had no problem with electing Tony Abbott in nine elections. Enough said. Our worlds of interest do complement each other.

More practically, North Sydney has been growing in population and will continue to do so, given that it has recently been designated by the NSW Government as an area of priority residential growth. It is an irony that we are being eliminated in order to accommodate population loss in other areas which, no doubt, will continue to decline and generate the need for further redistributions.

While I strongly oppose the abolition of the seat of North Sydney, might I suggest that, if you chose to proceed, the name of the reconfigured seat of **Warringah** is changed to **North Sydney**. This change, although simple, would assuage to some extent, the loss of identity that is being felt by the North Sydney electorate. A major reason why our community is so strongly against this proposal is that we have no connection with Warringah, geographically, historically, economically or socially. The change of name from Warringah to North Sydney, on the other hand, would ensure that the historic name of this Federation seat, and our identification with it, is retained. The retention of the name of North Sydney would still reflect the geographical character of the re-configured seat. Electors in Warringah have less to lose in terms of identity, as they would remain in the geographical north. They would also have much to gain by becoming part of history.

To conclude, I strongly oppose the proposal that the seat of North Sydney be abolished and request that the seat remain intact, with only minimal adjustments to accommodate changes in electoral numbers in NSW.

Yours sincerely,

Di Haskell

