



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 537

John W. Bell

2 pages

To: New South Wales Augmented Electoral Commission
<https://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2023/nsw/objections.html>

Date: 11th July 2024

Re: Draft plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 NSW redistribution.

Dear Sir/Madam:

My name is John Bell and I have lived in the electorate of North Sydney for 35 years, at the same address in Lane Cove.

I wish to protest strongly against the proposal of the AEC to abolish the electorate of North Sydney.

In the first instance, I would like to note the electorate of North Sydney is a strong and connected community. This sense of community has been and continues to be demonstrated in a number of ways:

- In order to have this community's views of and wishes for our country's future expressed in the Federal Parliament, members of the community came together in unprecedented numbers, forming numerous discussion groups to clearly define the policy priorities of our electorate (I joined the Voices of North Sydney group). These groups were united in their rejection of the major party policies, and decided unanimously that the unique views would be best represented by electing an independent member to the Parliament.
- Having made this decision, the electorate mobilised a very large (more than 1,000) number of volunteers to ensure electoral success. An action completed by unifying the resources of the smaller discussion groups.
- The views of the electorate have consistently been communicated to the Parliament, through our elected member using a process of community consultation, demonstrating the continued unity and determination of the constituents to have their unique policy preferences brought before all Australians.

A second demonstration of the unique nature of the North Sydney electorate's sense of community are the Greenwich Games. This four-yearly event is organised and funded entirely by the community of Greenwich and surrounding suburbs. Several thousand participants descend on Bob Campbell oval to compete, commune and celebrate in an event the like of which is seen nowhere else in this country.

I have little in common with the residents of neighbouring Bennelong, the electorate into which I would be thrust. In particular I note that North Sydney voted "yes" in the recent Voice referendum. A view sadly rejected by the voters of Bennelong.

Notwithstanding the above, I believe the AEC's decision is incorrect based on its estimates of population growth. The North Sydney local government area is expecting growth of more than 20,000 in the next decade. The St Leonards South precinct will have more than 2,500 dwellings completed within the next three years.

North Sydney is a Federation seat, and must be preserved. It has a long history of independent thought and action. It is a vibrant community, more diverse than its surrounding

electorates, and on the cusp of significant growth. It leads in terms of sustainability aspirations, tolerance, and acceptance.

I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the seat of North Sydney be abolished and request for it to remain intact, with minimal changes to accommodate changes in overall numbers of electors in NSW.

Yours faithfully

John W. Bell

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