



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 604

Kar Yee Chiu

4 pages

To: The NSW Redistribution Committee

Date: 12 July 2024

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

Dear Sir/Madam:

I live in the federal seat of North Sydney in the suburb of Gladesville. Under the proposed abolition of the seat and redistribution it will mean I end up in Bennelong. I do not believe this is in the interests of the constituents of North Sydney to be split and distributed amongst three different electorates where the communities and their interests are disparate and different.

I have a strong connection to the area and communities I am part of in the seat of North Sydney. Not only do I live in the seat, I also work, travel and shop within the seat. I work in Lane Cove and catch the 252 bus regularly to get to work and to travel to areas that I frequent like St Leonards, Artarmon, Chatswood and North Sydney where I can then connect to train lines if needed. If I wish to I can also walk to work. It is parkland and reserves in my area (Boronia Park and Tarban Creek) where I spend my time exercising and relaxing. Shopping and things like going to cafes are also locally based. Suffice to say where I spend most of my time is in this local area. I will also point out that the LGA I live in is Hunters Hill and it has relationships and partners closely with another LGA in the seat of North Sydney, Lane Cove to deliver essential services like libraries.

There is a proposal that the office I work in will change and another office location is under discussion, there is a strong sentiment that office space in North Sydney is being strongly considered. The reason for this is that it is recognised business centre which is looking towards growth, and the types of industry and business in the area is distinct. It's proximity to Sydney CBD cannot be overlooked and it is these characteristics that differentiate it from the business centres of Bradfield, Bennelong and Warringah. As such it does deserve to be considered separately with focused representation from a local member.

I've lived in the area number of years now and again I stress just how distinct the seat of North Sydney is in terms of the physical features and area. The seat itself is one of the original federation seats and has been in existence for 123 years. As such it also has some of the older areas in terms of buildings and architecture but also in terms of reserves (like Tarban Creek) and riverways (like Lane Cove river) and the many old and established trees in many of the neighbourhoods from Hunters Hill through to Lane Cove and Artarmon.

Which brings us to community. North Sydney has a tight network of community minded individuals as part of a cohesive and engaged community. I have many friends and acquaintances in the area and we all share common interests of furthering the needs of the community and how to ensure we have our say when it comes to things like the environment, fairness, transparency, integrity and a stronger democracy. This is not something that is along any party political lines and it has developed as a result of people in North Sydney thinking we as a country can do better. This is something that is important and binds people in our community. The strongest evidence of this is the fact that many of us in our different interest groups within North Sydney agitated for change, many of us could see on very urgent and important matters like climate change that our ambition and needs were not being met or

represented. We coalesced as a community around the need to have a representative that would listen to the community and represent us. The fact that North Sydney has an independent community representative as the member for Parliament did not happen on its own. Without the resources and backing of a political party it is down to the community to fundraise, raise awareness and to volunteer to letterbox, doorknock, have stalls. This we did as a community in large numbers. The people in the community who put their hands up to volunteer was impressive and it was a very inclusive community where people of all ages and experiences and abilities were welcomed as we worked towards a common goal of getting better representation for ourselves and to try and improve future outcomes.

This level of self determination from the community itself which makes up the federal seat of North Sydney cannot be ignored. It must be taken into account when considering the needs of the redistribution. The fact is that this is a community that identified we needed better federal representation and worked hard to bring that to fruition. This was something that started organically at the grassroots and gained momentum as more different groups across the community found common ground amongst us and people gave their energy, enthusiasm and their time to try and push for an outcome that would work in the community's best interests. It had to be said that on this journey I met a great deal of people who have lived in the community far longer than I have and who all had very fond memories of the last independent that we had and knew him and would see him around. The fact that North Sydney has had two independents in its very long history is something that is also a unique characteristic of the area, which also indicates one where people do care about who it is that represents us. For the people that live here who it is that serves the community and represents them does indeed matter and people do take their civic responsibility seriously in this seat.

It must also be noted that North Sydney was one of the few seats that did vote for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Again, this was only possible because of many dedicated members of the community who would put up signage, would hand out leaflets, would doorknock and would take the time to talk to others about the Voice and the reasons to vote for one.

Now I understand the need for redistribution is because of changes in population. It must be noted that data from the ABS does not take into account future population growth and North Sydney is slated to grow. The current proposed seat redistribution has the area being sectioned off into the three adjacent seats near St Leonards station, given the new metro stations with St Leonards and Crows Nest being earmarked as state recognised priority growth areas and precincts there will be more dwellings in these areas.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/plans-for-your-area/priority-growth-areas-and-precincts/st-leonards-and-crows-nest>

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/plans-for-your-area/priority-growth-areas-and-precincts/st-leonards-and-crows-nest/the-2036-plan>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/planning-changes-begin-today-to-deliver-homes-nsw-needs>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/dec/05/nsw-government-housing-crisis-plan-leaks-rezoning-land-train-stations>

From <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/transport-oriented-development-program.pdf>

*It indicates ‘Part 1 of the program will focus on 8 accelerated precincts to create infrastructure and capacity for 47,800 new homes over 15 years. Land within 1,200 metres of 8 rail and metro stations will be rezoned by the NSW Government to allow for more new and affordable homes. These 8 stations are: Bankstown, Bays West, Bella Vista, **Crows Nest**, Homebush Hornsby, Kellyville and Macquarie Park.’*

The new metro line is slated to start operating from August 2024, so the increased business activity and development is in the works now and there is new office buildings and apartments under construction now and more in the pipeline.

We must factor in this as well <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/may/29/nsw-government-housing-targets-councils-extra-funding-grant-program>

NSW housing targets: where 377,000 new homes will be built

Region	LGAs	Target
Eastern LGAs	Bayside, Burwood, Canada Bay, Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Inner West, Kur-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney, Northern Beaches, Randwick, Ryde, Strathfield, Sutherland, Sydney, Waverley, Willoughby, Woollahra	107,100
Central LGAs	Blacktown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Georges River, Parramatta	97,200
Western LGAs	Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Penrith, Wollondilly	59,100
Central Coast LGAs	Central Coast	9,400
Illawarra-Shoalhaven LGAs	Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wollongong	18,800
Greater Newcastle LGAs	Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle, Port Stephens	30,400
Outer Regional NSW		55,000
NSW total		377,000

The article lays it out very well and that is the states housing targets indicate that all four of the LGA’s in the federal seat of North Sydney: Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, North Sydney and Willoughby will be targeted to increase the number of new homes built. Indeed it is these LGA’s that are targeted to deliver 41% of the city’s overall target.

All up it indicates that the seat of North Sydney will see increased growth due to new transport networks, rezoning for high and medium density in more areas, new integrated business/retail developments around metro stations, new housing targets for all councils that exist in the seat. This will mean a greater demand for services and amenities and require

solutions that are in keeping with the well-established communities that make up this seat. It also requires the focus and the voice of a representative who will take on board community input and expert advice to deliver good outcomes.

All up I think abolishing the seat will mean less effective representation by an elected Federal MP, which will see us be disadvantaged. North Sydney has unique socioeconomic characteristics and needs that might not be adequately addressed if its residents are split and absorbed into neighbouring 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 given all the points I have outlined above.

Kar Yee Chiu,

Gladesville 2111

12 July 2024