



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 702

Zoë Baker

2 pages

[REDACTED]
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060

12 July 2024

The Australian Electoral Commission
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 260

Attn: NSW Redistribution Secretariat

Email: FedRedistribution-NSW@aec.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Draft plans to abolish the Federal seat of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 NSW redistribution

I write as a long-time resident of the Federal seat of North Sydney. I was born and educated in the North Sydney local government area.

Indeed, most of my family now live in North Sydney including my teenage daughter who was born at Royal North Shore Hospital and has lived and been educated here since then.

I ask that you consider and give significant weight to Kylea Tink MP's proposal to retain a Federal seat of North Sydney with adjusted boundaries to accommodate changes in overall numbers of electors in NSW.

I urge you to reconsider the draft proposal to abolish this historic Federation seat for the following reasons:

"I do not believe that the seat of North Sydney should be abolished because:

1. **Historical significance of the Federation seat:** North Sydney is one of the 75 original Federation Divisions contested in Australia's first Federal election. The historic nature of the seat is a source of community pride and identity.
2. **Population growth:** The population growth figures relied upon in the draft determination do not take into account significant and rapid population growth across the four local government areas (LGA) within the boundary of the seat. For example, North Sydney Council's existing Local Strategic Planning Statement and Housing Strategy plan for 19,500 new residents by 2036 – a 27% increase on existing population. Those plans pre-date NSW State Government housing targets of 5,900 **new homes** by 2029 (notably not a population target, a housing target which does not posit population numbers to occupy that housing). Willoughby, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove Councils are subject to new housing targets requiring additional population by 2029 above that already planned. More than 24,000 new homes are planned for the four LGAs within the existing seat of North Sydney.

In addition, the State Government is about to exhibit a draft masterplan as part of its Accelerated Transport Oriented Development program to significantly increase housing around the Crows Nest Metro site. This is likely to see a more than 30% increase over the already planned 6,683 new population under the St Leonards/Crows Nest 2036 plan. In short, existing planned population increases are significant and the State Government housing policy reforms will further increase these numbers again.

Abolition of the existing Federal seat of North Sydney would be counterproductive, as new additional residents will be living here from at least 2029, if not before.

3. **Eastern Economic Corridor:** The Federal seat of North Sydney is part of the Eastern Economic Corridor – home to the businesses that are amongst the largest contributors to State and national GDP. It is essential that those businesses and the significant strategic economic importance of the Eastern Economic Corridor within the seat is represented by a dedicated Federal member with an understanding of and connection to the corridor. IN addition, the existing seat of North Sydney has 28,000 small to medium size enterprises - their do not overlap entirely with those of the newly proposed areas of Bradfield, Bennelong or Warringah.
4. **Community of interest:** There is a strong and distinct community of interest that lies along the North Shore Train line and new Metro line. It is distinct and different to those of the newly proposed areas of Bradfield, Bennelong or Warringah.

North Sydney is a cohesive and engaged community, home to many environmental, humanitarian, religious and social groups all working together to improve our community. 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. We respect and value our cultural diversity, with half of our population born overseas and a third speaking a language other than English at home. And we are home to several active and competitive sports teams, including two of the largest community-based sporting organisations in the state.

I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the Federation seat of North Sydney be abolished and urge you to amend the draft proposal to retain the seat with minimal changes to accommodate changes in overall numbers of electors in NSW.

Yours faithfully

Zoë Baker