



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 717

Sara Dowse

1 page

Dear Redistribution Committee

As a long-time resident of Manly in the division of Warringah, I'm writing in concern over your proposed redistribution, which as I understand it would include excising the northern areas from the Warringah division and abolishing the North Sydney division. Warringah and North Sydney are both represented by extremely capable women independents, who have obtained through hard work and listening to their constituents such outstanding support within their electorates. Known for their engaged and politically active communities, these two divisions have significantly changed the public's expectations of parliament. Our communities have been critical in furthering reasoned, informed political discourse towards the betterment of our democracy overall.

In accordance with these objectives, and the principles of gender equality and diversity, I do believe that the composition of the House of Representatives should reflect that of the Australian population as a whole. The current AEC proposal, however, which suggests the abolition of two electorates represented by women, to my mind fails to align with the diverse composition of modern Australia.

I would be grateful, then, if the North Sydney division was retained by moving its boundaries northwards and allowing the surrounding electorates to absorb the required voter numbers from the Bradfield division. This could be attained by moving the boundaries of the Mackellar Division westward into St Ives, and that of Berowra eastward to take in the area around Hornsby.

The above adjustments would also accommodate Warringah by retaining the areas around Killarney Heights and Forestville, Dee Why and North Curl Curl in order to continue the strong community links they share. Warringah would also extend into the North Sydney local government area just to the eastern side of the Warringah Freeway, including all of Kirribilli, those parts of Neutral Bay not already in the division, together with North Cremorne and Cammeray.

Therefore I support wholeheartedly option A as set out in Suggestion 42 by Zali Steggall MP to retain Warringah's northern boundaries and minimise the impact on North Sydney by pushing the southwestern boundaries of Warringah to the Warringah Freeway only.

I consider a much better arrangement for North Sydney would be moving the electorate boundary northwest to Chatswood, as set out in the Suggestion 22 from Kylea Tink MP, and that an outer metropolitan division be abolished instead, with its electors shared among surrounding electorates.

Together these arrangements deliver a better boundary redistribution, accommodating the changing demographics in the state, while keeping intact existing communities of interest, using strong and readily identifiable features as electoral boundaries. I sincerely hope the Commission will give the strongest consideration to adopting them.

Sara Dowse