



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 728

Heather Bentley

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To: New South Wales augmented Electoral Commission

Date: 11 July 2024

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

Dear Sir/Madam:

After 3 addresses over North Sydney over 45 years, all I can say is, I love this area. I feel it is redolent of all the wonderful and powerful things that bind someone to their home.

For me, having come from Oatley, the home of Milo Dunphy and other native landscape enthusiasts, I immediately felt strongly the pull of the dry sclerofyll forest, the unique bays, and spent many years doing bush regeneration.

I feel that North Sydney has a strong culture of caring for its vulnerable: I did Meals on Wheels, and elder Linen Service for 5 years. I felt so strongly that I helped Ted Mack campaign as an Independent and also manned the electoral office of Robyn Read his successor.

I now have lived for the last 30 years, alone, on Eastern Valley Way, a site echoing every day with the unique haunting presence of the Cammeraygal people who must have lived here, with its distinctive connection to the estuary below me. The mangroves, the mussels, the swamp wallabies, the basalt cap on the boulders above, the permanent water, the beautiful and spacious caves.

These bays and estuaries and coves and the respect these must be paid, make me passionate about petitioning the AEC to preserve North Sydney as an entity.

It is more than a political boundary.

It is a culture, a society, a bond, an identity, from Billy Blue's punt to the small basalt indigenous skin-scraping flints that I find in my garden, to the world-identified Luna Park and world-first and world-stunning Warringah Expressway and the people-equal Bradfield Park.

This is my submission.

Please keep North Sydney as an entity and a unique place that must, must not be lost.

Heather Bentley.

