



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 729

Nerissa Levy

2 pages

Proposed 2024 NSW redistribution – Objection to the abolition of North Sydney

Dear Electoral Commission for NSW,

I write in objection to the recent draft 2023-2024 NSW federal redistribution prepared by the NSW Redistribution Committee, in particular reference to the abolition of North Sydney.

I am a resident of the suburb of Crows Nest, NSW and believe my suburb and community will be subject to significant detrimental impacts from the proposed draft redistribution.

I understand the requirement for the number of electors to be as consistent as possible across all electorates. It is clear that the region of northern Sydney that includes the 8 electorates of Warringah, North Sydney, Bennelong, Mackellar, Bradfield, Berowra, Parramatta and Mitchell cannot exist with their current boundaries - the number of electors is too small in some and too large in others. Boundaries must be adjusted to create 7 electorates within this region with the correct balance of number of electors, as well as maintaining, or ideally increasing, the connection of communities of interest.

I believe the status of North Sydney as a Federation seat should be considered as an important factor in any decision, as electorates such as mine are part of the history of our parliamentary system, and should be kept wherever possible.

The projected number of electors in 2028 is also an important consideration, and relies on accurate population and development projections to estimate the number of electors in 5 years' time. To achieve the most accurate projections, all factors must be considered – ageing of the population, migration and population movement, and future development plans.

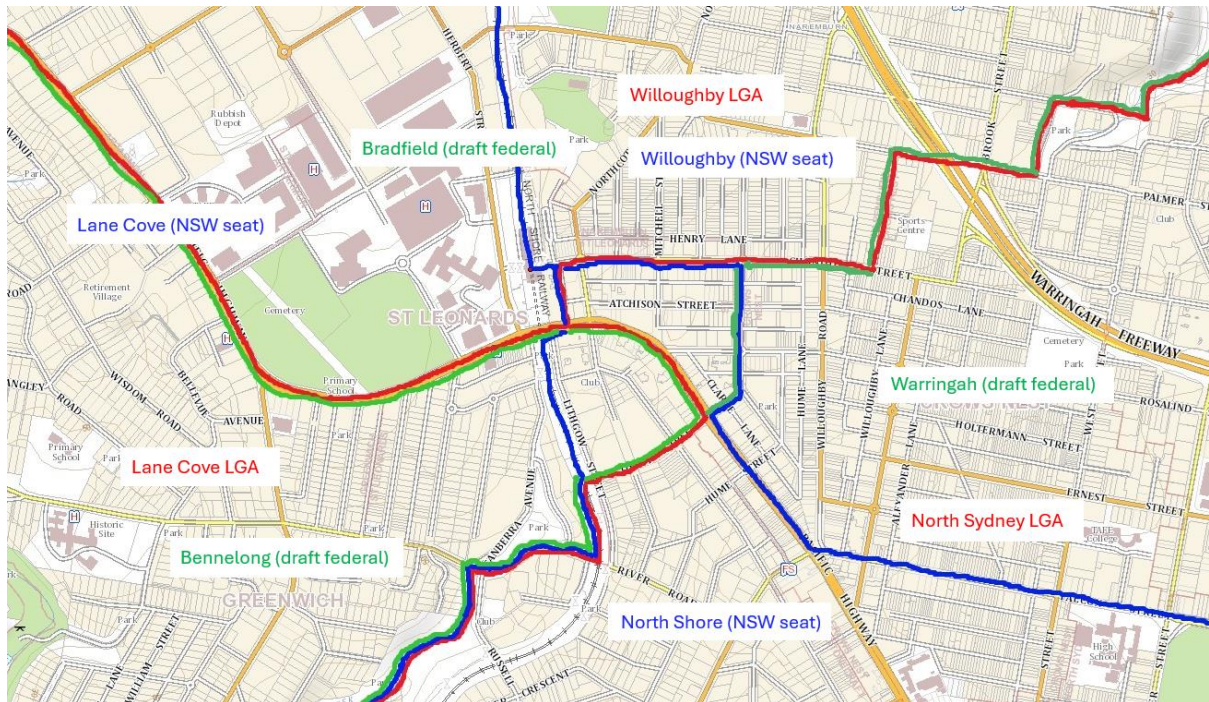
I note that the number of electors in the current North Sydney electorate are projected to reduce by 64 electors from 2023 enrolments to 2028 projections. This would seem to be inaccurate, with planning in NSW requiring 5,900 new dwellings in the North Sydney LGA, and 3,400 new dwellings in each Willoughby and Lane Cove LGAs which are almost all within the current North Sydney electorate. My suburb of Crows Nest has been named as one of the fastest developing areas under the NSW Transport-Orientated Development program (TOD) which will create thousands of new homes before 2029.

These developments have not been considered in the current draft redistribution's projections. To be most accurate, projections should be made utilising all information available, and not restricted to past development history.

The Crows Nest - St Leonards area has high density of population, a large CBD business district, one of the largest hospitals in NSW (Royal North Shore Hospital), 2 train stations (St Leonards heavy rail and soon to be opened Crows Nest Metro), major bus routes along Pacific Highway, and is next door to the largest freeway in Australia (Warringah Freeway) with under construction Western Harbour Tunnel. The area has one of the highest number of schools per square km, taking in students from the wider Sydney region.

The current draft redistribution proposes splitting the community of interest in the Crows Nest area into 3 – with parts moving into Warringah, Bennelong and Bradfield. My suburb is already split into 3 at local government and state government levels, and the North Sydney federal electorate is currently the only level of government that has the same representative for the whole community.

The map below demonstrates the boundaries for local, state and draft proposed federal representation in Crows Nest - St Leonards.



My community is fractured by these different borders, with poorer outcomes for planning because no council or state representatives have power or responsibility to serve the community as a whole. I am reminded of the adage 'when something is everyone's responsibility, it ends up being no-one's'.

Currently, our federal representative is the only person with the oversight for wholistic planning of transport, schools, hospitals and other public infrastructure and funding – and it is essential to remain this way with a large amount of development in the near future, and to retain our community of interest.

There is opportunity to redraw boundaries in the northern Sydney region that enhance communities of interest, not just in Crows Nest, but also in other communities of interest in Chatswood, Hornsby, Eastwood and Epping.

I support the proposal of new boundaries and electorates put forward by my current representative, Kylea Tink MP. They show that the number of electors quotas can be achieved with different boundaries, that actually improves communities of interest in other areas of northern Sydney, not just my own.

I trust the Commission will take into account the submissions from all participants in this process, as we in the community highly value the impartiality and transparency of the Australian Electoral Commission.

With these points I strongly oppose the current draft NSW redistribution in its abolition of the electorate of North Sydney.

With Regards,

Nerissa Levy