



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Comment on Objections 220

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2 pages

To: New South Wales augmented Electoral Commission

Date: 26 July 2024

RE: Comments and further objection to the AEC's proposal to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney.

I have read many of the objection letters lodged with the AEC regarding the proposed abolition of the seat of North Sydney and concur fully with the points that have been made so far. I lend my support to these objections and make the following further points :

1. I don't believe the AEC has made a compelling case to abolish North Sydney, in preference to other options. The document "Proposed redistribution of New South Wales into electoral divisions MAY 2024 Report of the Redistribution Committee for New South Wales", doesn't appear to discuss why this was considered the best option, beyond a few dot points under "Redistribution Committee's approach to identifying the electoral division proposed to be abolished". The preference for abolition of North Sydney needs much greater discussion and elucidation. In order to better understand the process (and especially to ensure that those unused to reading such documents can understand what is proposed), it would be appreciated if a "plain english" explanation could be made available, in preference to the rather legalistic language of the initial document.
2. The special nature of my community has not been adequately considered. In the lead up to the last Federal election, I spent literally every moment I wasn't working or carrying out life's basic requirements (sleeping, eating etc) volunteering in order to get a community independent candidate elected in North Sydney. I did this because I passionately believe that engaging our community in decision making and ensuring they make their voices heard is the only way to fix the broken political system we currently face in Australia. It greatly distresses me to discover that what we have built in this electorate is now to be destroyed. I suspect that there are other electorates whose members would be less concerned about such a move to abolish. So why choose one that genuinely feels that we have come together to achieve something special for our democracy? One only has to look at North Sydney's results in the recent referendum and the engagement of the community in coming together for the positive result we achieved, to see that ours is not like other electorates. I firmly believe the experiment in democracy that we are carrying out here will be pointed to in the future as the dawn of a new age of participation and engagement, leading to vastly improved decision making in this country – but only if it is allowed to continue.

A decision that abolishes a seat that has stood since federation is not something to be taken lightly. There needs to be public examination of the various options, with pros and cons of each, to ensure (and assure us) that the right choice is being made.

Susan Kitchener



North Sydney