



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 165

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Objections to the proposed redistribution of North Sydney Division

I live in Artarmon in the North Sydney Federal electorate

I am objecting to the proposed abolition of the North Sydney electorate because:

From a community of interests point of view there are strong social communities within the North Sydney electorate. Being a migrant family without extended family in Australia, the North Sydney community has been very important to my family. As a family with 2 children we have enjoyed being part of sporting groups including North Sydney Netball based in Willoughby, one of the largest community-based sporting organisations in NSW, and North Sydney Basketball based in Crows Nest. We volunteer in the Primary Ethics program in local schools in North Sydney.

Lack of community / isolation / loneliness have been identified as key issues in mental health and community wellbeing.

From a historical perspective I was proud to have Ted Mack as my Independent Federal MP when I moved here in 1995. North Sydney was one of the original Federal seats created in 1901. Enough history / identity is being lost without further abolishing a long-established electorate with a strong sense of identity.

From a demographic perspective I have seen poor decisions made in the past in relation to demographics and feel we should not go down the same path again. Schools have been closed including but not limited to Naremburn Primary and Crows Nest Boys High School. Now as demographics have changed there is significant overcrowding in local public schools and new schools have to be built.

The same poor decision making has resulted in a proposal to abolish the North Sydney seat. The AEC website states that the number of electors enrolled in each federal electoral division in NSW must be between 108,910 and 133,112. North Sydney already has more than 110,000 electors and there is significant housing / population growth expected. The AEC's proposal does not appear to account for this growth.

Specifically proximity to the North Sydney CBD, Sydney City CBD and public transport routes means that medium / high density is already being undertaken along the train and bus lines. Current unit block development sites include St Leonards, around the new Crows Nest metro station, the old site of Channel 9 in Artarmon, Willoughby Grounds etc.

Indeed it looks highly likely that there would be a case to re-establish the North Sydney seat within a decade.

For all the reasons above, I believe North Sydney's interests are best served by retaining our federal seat's independent existence and not being absorbed into the three surrounding seats.