



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 213

Robert Booy

1 page

Dear Members of the Australian Electoral Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the draft recommendation to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney and redistribute its areas into the electorates of Warringah, Bradfield, and Bennelong.

North Sydney has a profound and distinguished history, having been established since federation. It has been represented by notable figures, including Prime Minister Billy Hughes and Treasurer Joe Hockey. Furthermore, North Sydney has a tradition of supporting principled independents, such as Ted Mack, who famously resigned from Federal Parliament after two terms to avoid receiving a parliamentary pension. This history is more than just a series of events; it is the embodiment of a community with a unique political and cultural identity.

To understand the significance of North Sydney as a distinct electorate, one must appreciate the concept of a "community of interest." North Sydney's identity is characterized by its inner-city vibrancy, diverse community activities, and unique local concerns that differ significantly from those of the Northern Beaches or Frenchs Forest. The proposed redistribution would dilute this identity and undermine the representation of our community's specific needs and interests.

Our community thrives on a shared sense of place and belonging. Residents of North Sydney are deeply involved in local community groups, religious organizations, sporting clubs, and other associations that are integral to our area's identity. Our daily lives are centered around local amenities, public transport, shopping, and recreational activities that are distinctively North Sydney. This inner-city vibe fosters a unique sense of community that would be disrupted if our electorate were to be divided.

Furthermore, a precedent exists for changing the AEC's draft recommendations. The successful appeal for the seat of Mayo in South Australia demonstrates that it is possible to preserve electorates that have strong community support and historical significance. I urge the AEC to consider the compelling reasons for maintaining North Sydney as a separate electorate.

In conclusion, abolishing the federal seat of North Sydney would not only erase a significant part of Australia's political history but also disrupt a vibrant and cohesive community. I hope the AEC will recognize the importance of preserving North Sydney's identity and reconsider the draft recommendation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Booy