



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 280

Heidi Ruettinger

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3 July, 2024

The Redistribution Committee
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 9867

Dear Redistribution Committee,

I am writing to formally object to the proposal to remove northern areas from the division of Warringah, specifically North Curl Curl, and the proposal to abolish the seat of North Sydney in the NSW federal redistribution.

I strongly believe in the importance of maintaining our current communities within Warringah and minimizing the impact on North Sydney while still achieving the required voter numbers within the electorate. The AEC's proposal appears to give disproportionate consideration to politically motivated suggestions from political parties over community-driven suggestions. This concern is heightened by the fact that the divisions proposed for abolition in both NSW and Victoria are currently represented by female MPs, potentially undermining gender diversity in parliament.

I support the following adjustments instead:

Keeping the divisions of Warringah and North Sydney intact.

Adjusting the boundaries of the division of North Sydney northward, allowing neighbouring electorates to take the required number of voters from Bradfield.

Shifting the boundaries of the division of Mackellar westward into St Ives, and having Berowra extend east to include the area around Hornsby. This will allow areas such as Killarney Heights, Forestville, Dee Why, and North Curl Curl to remain within the division of Warringah, preserving their strong community ties.

Expanding Warringah into the North Sydney LGA up to the eastern side of the Warringah Freeway, including the whole of Kirribilli, areas of Neutral Bay not already part of the division, North Cremorne, and Cammeray.

I support Option A as outlined in Suggestion 42 by Zali Steggall MP, which maintains the northern boundaries of the Warringah electorate and minimizes the impact on North Sydney by pushing the south/western boundaries of the division of Warringah to the Warringah Freeway only.

As a community member residing in Curl Curl, I am deeply concerned that the suggestions to abolish either Warringah or North Sydney are politically motivated rather than focused on accommodating growth, maintaining or improving representation of existing communities of interest, and utilizing readily identifiable features for electoral boundaries.

Both the divisions of North Sydney and Warringah are engaged and politically active communities that have significantly influenced the political landscape in recent elections.

Preserving these communities is crucial for fostering continued political engagement and representation.

It is imperative that the House of Representatives composition accurately reflects Australia's population and upholds principles of gender equality and diversity. The current AEC proposal, which includes abolishing two electorates represented by women, does not align with these principles. Thus, I do not support the abolition of either Warringah or North Sydney.

For North Sydney, I consider an improved solution would be adjusting the electorate boundary north-west towards Chatswood as outlined in Suggestion 22 by Kylea Tink MP, and abolishing an outer metropolitan division instead, redistributing its electors among surrounding electorates.

I respectfully submit that this alternative proposal offers a more effective boundary redistribution, accommodates varying growth rates across New South Wales, maintains or improves representation of existing communities of interest, and uses strong, readily identifiable features as electoral boundaries.

Kind regards,
Heidi Ruettinger