



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 292

Anonymous 18

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2/7/24

Objection to AEC NSW redistribution – specifically to the deletion of North Sydney electorate

I am opposed to the proposed redistribution of NSW federal electorates, specifically to the redistribution of North Sydney into 3 neighbouring electorates. I hope you give due consideration to the following reasons for my objection:

- North Sydney electorate (“the current electorate”) includes NSW’s 3rd largest CBD area and multiple train stations, drawing a large daily influx of workers. It has very different composition to the three neighbouring electorates, particularly Warringah.
- I live in St Leonards and feel that the issues I face in this suburb are more in line with the issues that face North Sydney suburb than for Manly or Dee Why. We have a growing business area and high rise apartments for residents, and we are struggling to get the infrastructure to cope with this growth.
- Redistribution will not help us get better infrastructure and support. St Leonards straddles three LGAs – North Sydney, Lane Cove and Willoughby. Each LGA has chosen to support an ever-increasing density of development in this area, particularly in the form of high rise apartments. This is being pushed as well by the State Government who are trying to promote more density around train lines.
- St Leonards already has little voice, given the point mentioned above (split across 3 councils). To split us up again at Federal level means even less agency for us because we will have 3 electorates who have us at their margins. At least as part of the current electorate, our entire suburb can look to one MP.
- It is hard to imagine how your population projections have concluded that the current electorate will have insufficient population in future. In St Leonards South, 220 homes are currently being replaced by 2000 apartments. That’s something like 3-4000 new residents being added in one development area in 1-2 years’ time. There are more areas planned for similar uplift in St Leonards, meaning within a couple of years, those population projections seem vastly underestimated, unless there is some assumption our new residents won’t be citizens?
- I think it would make more sense to abolish Bradfield and absorb it into surrounding electorates. There is a more natural fit in doing this, as it would keep more similar suburbs together. North Sydney, St Leonards and Chatswood share much in common and should be kept together. There does not seem to be any reason given as to why Bradfield was not a better candidate for dissolving than North Sydney. Your distribution proposal talks about being better for Chatswood, but you are splitting up St Leonards with little regard as I can find no commentary considering this in your report.
- I am assured that the AEC does not select which seats to remove for “political” reasons, but taking away an Independently held seat at the current time is questionable. With our political arena dominated by the two major parties, the independent MPs have provided a viable choice to allow the voices of the community to actually be heard in parliament.
- Historically North Sydney is significant being one of the original federation divisions. It has been held by independents before very successfully, and I am concerned about losing this in the redistribution.

Multiple other areas are under the projected enrolment quotas (including Bradfield) so there appears to be no logic that North Sydney is targeted over Bradfield. I strongly believe deleting our electorate will have negative impacts for all existing and soon to be residents of St Leonards and strongly urge you to reconsider.

Thank you.