



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 295

Dr Barbara Briggs AM

2 pages

To: The NSW Redistribution Committee
Australian Electoral Commission

Objection to the redistribution of electoral boundaries abolishing the Federal Electorate of North Sydney

Dear Committee,

I am writing to object to the recommendation of the Redistribution Committee which has the effect of abolishing the Federal Electorate of North Sydney. This proposal must be reconsidered since it is based on inadequate demographic projections and would divide an area that has strong community spirit and unity.

The Committee's projections for population density indicate, in some places, a decline in population, whereas there are developments planned or in construction that will produce growing numbers. For example, around the Crows Nest Metro Station will be a development hub and St Leonards is already a major transport and development centre. The Mayor of North Sydney has stated (quoted SMH 4/07/2024) that she is confident that North Sydney will achieve the NSW Government target of 5900 new homes by 2029.

Concerning the Crows Nest The NSW Department of Planning website says: *"The 2036 Plan leverages the existing public transport infrastructure and the future Crows Nest Metro Station to support the growing St Leonards and Crows Nest community with the provision of new infrastructure, open spaces, upgraded cycle lanes and planning for health and education.*

*The plan will **deliver 6,680 new homes**, planning capacity for an extra 119,979 sqm employment floor space and 16,500 new jobs in health, education, professional services and the knowledge sector."*

Please note that the Department deals with the 'St Leonards Crows Nest Planning Package'; it would be most unfortunate for this growth area to be divided into three, as in the Committee's recommendation.

The electorate of North Sydney has an impressive community spirit with activities throughout its area. Sporting activities, schools, library and shopping areas form cohesive networks. There is some cohesion to the north, between North Sydney, Northbridge and Chatswood based on transport routes, but not on the limits as now proposed. Dividing the present cohesive community three ways would be most unfortunate. The present plan does not use geographic boundaries that would appropriately define the electoral limits.

North Sydney has been an electorate since Federation, 123 years ago, and its historical significance should be recognised. Much has changed since then, but it should not be deleted without absolutely overwhelming reasons that do not appear to exist.

Yours sincerely

Dr Barbara Briggs AM

