



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 369

Denise Bell

2 pages

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Willoughby 2068

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To:

The NSW Redistribution Committee
Australian Electoral Commission

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

Dear Committee,

I am writing in objection to the Redistribution Committee's recommendation to abolish the Federal Division of North Sydney.

I have lived in this part of Sydney since 2008 when I moved here, from the inner west, to access some specific post-school services for my daughter who has a disability. We are well and truly settled here. I became very involved in the broader community when I campaigned for Kylea Tink at the last election. This experience clearly demonstrated to me the strong community spirit that exists across this electorate.

I live in Willoughby and find it hard to comprehend that, if this proposal goes ahead, I will be part of the Bradfield electorate with such suburbs as Wahroonga, St Ives and Killara and not my established community including suburbs such as Lane Cove, Crows Nest, Cammeray, Cremorne and North Sydney itself where I shop, and go to the library, restaurants, markets etc.

To the west, parts of this electorate would be aligned with suburbs as far afield and as different as Denistone and North Epping. And to the east with the Northern Beaches – again a very different environment.

North Sydney electorate has an inner city feel to it. Something that the majority of residents seem to value. There is a huge, connected community within North Sydney that is different in character from surrounding areas "up the line" of the north shore and also different from the northern beaches.

The suburbs of North Sydney make up a vibrant, diverse and engaged community of people. Together they make up the other half of "Sydney". According to 2023 data from the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman (ASBFEO), 50% of the 74,583 small businesses in Sydney inner city were in North Sydney.

I am also concerned that the population data the AEC has relied on may not be reliable.

I understand rapid population growth is expected in this electorate. North Sydney Council alone is predicting 20,000 new residents by 2036. Further, the NSW State government has plans for increased housing, around 6,000 new homes, in the North Sydney LGA alone by 2029.

I have witnessed the changing demographic of the area myself. I live in a large complex where, 16 years ago, the grassed area had a sign: "No Ball Games". This area is now covered with artificial grass to allow for the cricket/soccer/dance practice and just general running around that the hugely increased population of young children engage in.

In addition, my complex "Castlevale" (built in the 1970s with 160 apartments) now has two very large new complexes on its boundaries. On the western boundary is "Nine" – the recently completed redevelopment of the old Channel 9 site - with 442 apartments. To the south is the partially constructed "Willoughby Grounds" with 164 apartments.

This electorate also has historical significance. It was one of the 75 original divisions that were part of the first Federal election in 1901. We are also an electorate with a significant independent candidate heritage. North Sydney was privileged to have Ted Mack "father of the independents", and one of the National Trust of Australia's 1997 original 100 National Living Treasures, as its representative. He was twice elected to the Federal seat of North Sydney until he resigned to follow his principle of avoiding a parliamentary pension.

I believe that to disperse the people of this electorate into three disparate electorates which have their own distinct identities will be seen in history as a definite error of judgement.

I ask you to please reconsider this decision.

Yours sincerely

Denise Bell