



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Objection 387

Heidi Key

2 pages

To: The NSW Redistribution Committee

I am 74 years old and have lived in the North Sydney electorate for most of my life, including both primary and secondary schooling. I have lived in Naremburn for the last 40 years and I am an active member of the community doing bushcare in Willoughby, volunteering as a JP at the North Sydney library, as well as being a member of an advisory committee to Willoughby Council. I am the secretary of the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) which has been advocating for environmental and community concerns for over 40 years and which works cohesively with other local community groups across the electorate. Historically WEPA has run well attended "meet the candidates" sessions for local, state and federal elections. Over the years, these activities have impressed on me how well-established this lower north shore community is.

### **History of North Sydney**

North Sydney has been a federal seat since federation and has 123 Years of history. The historical significance of the federal seat of North Sydney is part of our community's identity.

This was shown by the fact that we were one of the oldest but also one of the first electorates to stand up for independent representation in 2022, and had one of the highest Yes vote count for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the 2023 referendum. This was achieved because there is such engaged involvement and collaboration of community minded individuals and groups for the common purpose of supporting the views and values of the constituents.

### **Are the population predictions for North Sydney accurate?**

I understand that the rules covering redistribution are influenced mainly by population growth/reduction and on this basis North Sydney is to be abolished. However, it would appear that the AEC's proposal to abolish North Sydney does not consider existing and future population growth numbers inside the electorate and that the population right across our electorate is growing rapidly.

The federal seat of North Sydney covers three LGAs – North Sydney, Willoughby and Lane Cove. The AEC has failed to consult appropriate sources for future growth numbers, including state and local planning policies, the number of developments under construction and the number of developments in the pipeline for future construction. And this is without the zoning changes being proposed by the NSW government. Had this been done, North Sydney would not be on the list of possible electorates to be abolished.

Three examples of what has not been considered:

1. The NSW State Government plans to see 5,900 new homes built in the North Sydney LGA alone by 2029.
2. North Sydney Council is expecting 19,500 new residents to move into the area by 2036.
3. Willoughby Council has recently created capacity for growth through its new Local Environmental Plan

### **Abolishment will affect business within North Sydney**

North Sydney is home to the third-largest business centre in the country, including large and small business and industrial zones. These deserve the focus of a dedicated local member. North Sydney has a total of 28,000 small to medium size businesses whose needs do not necessarily overlap with those of the newly proposed areas of Bradfield, Bennelong or Warringah. Existing businesses in those electorates would already have established lines of communication to each other and their Federal representatives.

### **Abolishment will lead to a fragmentation and breakdown of the communities within North Sydney**

The repercussions of the abolishment will also compromise effective representation by an elected Federal MP, to the disadvantage of the existing members of North Sydney. North Sydney has distinctive socioeconomic characteristics which include environmental, humanitarian, religious and social groups all working together towards a better Australia. There are also many sporting groups who identify with the area. The needs of these established groups and residents are in danger of not being recognised and addressed if they are absorbed into neighbouring electorates. The networks, connections, organisations, social and community work within the electorate are intrinsically linked by being part of this community since 1901. People of a community are not just numbers to be moved around especially when there is ample evidence of their worth and commitment to their long-term projects and community goals.

I belong to the North Sydney community. I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the federal seat of North Sydney be abolished and request for it to remain intact.

Heidi Key



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