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Objection 484

Dr Wendy Pryor

2 pages

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - NSW](#)
Subject: Draft plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 NSW redistribution
Date: Wednesday, 10 July 2024 9:59:12 AM

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Dear members of the NSW Redistribution Committee

The following submission is an objection to the proposed North Sydney electoral boundary changes.

My name is Wendy Pryor and along with family members I have lived continuously within the Federal seat of North Sydney for fifty years in the suburbs of Chatswood, McMahon's Point, and currently Waverton. I feel a strong connection to the communities and various organisations here. Together we pay our respect to the traditional custodianship of the Cammeraygal people of this land.

I am the Coordinator of the Lower North Shore group of Permaculture Sydney North, taking in the LGAs of Lane Cove, North Sydney and Willoughby, largely overlapping the North Sydney electorate. My co-members, friends and I support a range of environmental, charitable, advocacy and community garden initiatives across these three LGAs. I am a volunteer for the Sydney Library of Things in Waverton and Lane Cove. These facilities represent strong collaborations between Permaculture Sydney North and the local councils of Lane Cove and North Sydney. As a community member of North Sydney Council's Environment Reference Group, I am keenly aware of the strong connections and shared concerns across the North Sydney electorate in terms of protecting our unique natural and cultural heritage, our tree canopy, and the foreshores of Sydney Harbour, Middle Harbour and the Lane Cove River. In the context of Australia's broader interests, Kylea Tink and previous Members for North Sydney have represented us well in relation to our environmental, cultural, and community concerns.

I do not believe that the seat of North Sydney should be abolished because:

- The population right across our electorate is growing rapidly but the AEC's proposal does not account for this growth. For example, the NSW State Government plans to see 5,900 new homes built in the North Sydney LGA alone by 2029. If that growth is replicated across the four LGAs currently contained in the federal seat that would see more than 24,000 new homes built across our community.
- North Sydney Council expects 19,500 new residents to move into the area by 2036. This is a 27% increase in just one of the four LGAs that currently make up the seat of North Sydney and indicates that it is highly likely that to proceed with abolishing our seat now would be completely counterproductive, as arguably the case to re-establish it come 2029 will be more than obvious.
- As home to the third-largest business centre in the country, we also believe that North Sydney's businesses and industrial zones 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 overlap entirely with those of the newly proposed areas of Bradfield, Bennelong or Warringah.
- North Sydney is a cohesive and engaged community: North Sydney is home to many

environmental, humanitarian, religious and social groups all working together to improve our community. It is telling that we were one of the first electorates to stand up for independent representation in 2022, and one of the few to vote for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the 2023 referendum. We respect and value our cultural diversity, with half of our population born overseas and a third speaking a language other than English at home. And we are home to several active and competitive sports teams, including two of the largest community-based sporting organisations in the state.

- The historical significance of the federal seat of North Sydney is part of our community's identity. North Sydney is one of the 75 original federation divisions contested in Australia's first federal election 123 years ago.

I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the seat of North Sydney be abolished and request for it to remain intact, with minimal changes to accommodate changes in overall numbers of electors in NSW.

Yours faithfully

Dr Wendy Pryor

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Dr Wendy Pryor.

9 July 2024