



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 568

Edwina Lyons

2 pages

To: The NSW Redistribution Committee

Date: 11 July 2024

Re: Objection to the AEC proposal to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the AEC proposal to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney & to include the area where I live, in Hunters Hill, in the seat of Bennelong. I have lived with my husband and our family at our current address for 26 years. The seat of North Sydney represents a community of engagement and connection and I oppose the current proposal.

I base my objection on the following main issues.

1. Historical & shared values

North Sydney has been a federal seat since federation. The population of the seat clearly hold shared values – they again voted for independent federal representation in 2022, following in the tradition of Ted Mack, often called the "father of independents" who was elected to the seat in 1990.

The federal seat of North Sydney voted a resounding yes for same sex marriage in 2017, where as the seat of Bennelong, into which it is proposed part of the North Sydney electorate would be absorbed, voted no. North Sydney voted yes for the Voice referendum in 2023, one of the few federal electorates to do so, while again less than half of Bennelong voted yes.

The results in the 2017 plebescite & 2023 referendum represent examples of issues that are important to the community of the North Sydney electorate that may not be recognized by absorption of the seat into existing surrounding electorates less aligned with the values of the people of North Sydney.

2. Projected growth

North Sydney CBD is the 3rd biggest CBD in Australia. The proposal to abolish the seat of North Sydney by the AEC does not take into consideration future population growth inside the electorate. The NSW State Government plans to see 5900 homes built in the North Sydney LGA by 2029 and North Sydney Council alone expects 19500 new residents to move into the area by 2036.

With the expectation of more housing and transport hubs around the North Sydney CBD and extending to Crows Nest (a new Sydney Metro station is to open there this year) & St Leonards, there will undoubtedly be a rapid growth in the population.

It would seem self defeating to abolish the seat just as it comes under pressure of population growth, only to need to reinstate it in a few years.

3. Previous unsuccessful effort to force LGA amalgamation to the west

The previous effort of the NSW State Government to force the amalgamation of my own Hunters Hill LGA with the Ryde LGA was vigorously & ultimately successfully opposed by the local community based on the lack of shared values and issues with communities further west.

As Sydney continues to grow and come under substantial & increasing population pressure with all the challenges that brings, it is important for members of the North Sydney electorate to be able to live a more local and connected life within this cohesive community with its well established organisations and networks.

Through independent representation in Canberra, the electorate of North Sydney has found the voice that was silenced for too long by the two party political system. Just as we have found it, the AEC is proposing what would effectively mean the loss of this voice again. I am a proud member of the North Sydney community and I strongly oppose the draft proposal that the federal seat of North Sydney be abolished. I request that the seat remain intact.

Yours faithfully

Edwina Lyons

