



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Objection 738

Greta Thomas

1 page

12 July 2024

Dear Redistribution Committee,

I write to object to the draft plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 NSW redistribution and instead I support:

1. Keeping the divisions of both Warringah and North Sydney, and
2. Zali Steggall and Kylea Tink's objections submissions to the proposed redistribution

I have been a resident of Manly in the Federal seat of Warringah for around 8 years and have developed deep connections to this community.

A well-functioning democratic political system must be our first priority as a society. It relies on active community engagement and effective representation. The proposed dissolution of the North Sydney electorate would significantly disrupt a highly engaged community, undermining both democratic participation and community cohesion. Preserving engaged electoral communities is crucial for maintaining the strength and integrity of our democratic system.

I recognize that with 24 NSW seats under quota, a significant redistribution affecting numerous seats is necessary. Given the complexity of this issue, I appreciate that the committee has considered various options for seat abolition. However, I respectfully urge the committee to re-examine alternative solutions that preserve both the North Sydney and Warringah seats. These electorates have demonstrated exceptional civic engagement and community cohesion, which are valuable assets to our democratic process.

Since 2018, I have witnessed and participated in a remarkable revival of civic engagement in Warringah involving thousands of residents from diverse backgrounds and age groups. Many, like myself, are first-time participants in democratic processes. These communities have united, volunteering countless hours to support independent MPs who prioritize local interests and represent their communities.

This engagement has also directly led to the growth of local humanitarian, environmental, community and social initiatives. Such as the strong Yes 23 campaigns run by local volunteers in both electorates in support of the Voice to Parliament in the 2023 referendum.

Lastly, I am concerned that the current proposal would eliminate two electorates, Higgins and North Sydney, represented by women. Maintaining diverse representation that reflects the Australian population is crucial for a truly representative democracy.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to preserve both the Warringah and North Sydney divisions, recognizing their thriving democratically engaged communities.

Regards

Greta Thomas

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