



## Objection 258

Lisa Tierney

2 pages

## **Australian Electoral Commission**

Looked Bay 4007 Canberra ACT 2601

4th July 2024

## Re: Draft plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney in the proposed 2024 NSW redistribution

My name is Lisa Tierney and I am a North Sydney Resident from Cammeray for the past 21 years. My family and I have lived here since 2003, and we feel a very strong connection to the communities, clubs and schools here. My three children attended primary and secondary school in North Sydney, I've worked in North Sydney CBD and my children have played for North Sydney sporting clubs including Brothers JRLFC, North Sydney Pirates, North Sydney Bears Junior Baseball Club and North Sydney Junior Netball Club.

With the proposed redistribution and plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney, I am very concerned that many important facts have not been adequately taken into account, as follows:

- 1. Population growth: 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. In addition to this, North Sydney Council is expecting 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.
- **2. Place of Business:** As home to the third-largest business centre in the country, which is only set to grow with the opening of the new metro and light rail stations, I 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

- **3. North Sydney is a cohesive and engaged community**: North Sydney is home to several environmental, humanitarian, religious and social groups all working together towards a better Australia. 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.
- **4. 123 years of history**: The federal seat of North Sydney is historically significant and this rich history 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 urge you to reconsider the proposed abolition of the federal electorate of North Sydney by taking into consideration not only the very strong identity of the electorate, but the fact that it is an electorate set to grow in the very near future. The federal electorate of North Sydney should be maintained.

Yours faithfully,

Lisa Cammeray 2062 4 July, 2024