



# Comment on objections 23

John Patsikatheodorou

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**From:** John Patsikatheodorou  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Subject:** Response to Objections- Calwell CED  
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**Attachments:** [JP1.pdf](#)

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Please find my response attached.

John Patsikatheodorou.

15 May 2018

Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria,  
Australian Electoral Commission  
GPO Box 768  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear members of the Augmented Electoral Commission

Comments on Objections made to Victorian Redistribution Proposal – Calwell CED

I write to support the initial proposals made by the Committee and make the following points in response to the objections raised against the proposed new boundaries.

Craigieburn should be unified into one commonwealth electoral division, and as demonstrated below, this should be in Calwell because of the similar interests of the communities and because of the physical connections to them. Further, Craigieburn was in Calwell for around 10 years from 2003 to the 2013 election.

A number of objectors claimed that Craigieburn represented a significantly different community of interest compared to other suburbs of Calwell (specifically the suburbs to the south of Craigieburn such as Roxburgh Park, Meadow Heights, Dallas, Broadmeadows, Westmeadows and others). And conversely, Sunbury has better similarity to these suburbs than Craigieburn.

I do not believe that these assertions are true. According to data from the 2016 Census many social, economic and regional factors show that Craigieburn is quite similar to the communities below it, and Sunbury is very much distinct from these communities.

One such social factor that demonstrates the connection between Craigieburn and the suburbs below it is found in the cultural backgrounds of the communities in the area. Twenty-five per cent of respondents in Sunbury identified as Australian, but only 12 percent in Craigieburn, 8 per cent in Roxburgh Park, and 10 per cent in Broadmeadows. The difference can also be seen in the Iraqi and Turkish populations of these communities. 2.6 per cent of respondents in Craigieburn identified as Iraqi, similarly 3 per cent identified as Iraqi in Broadmeadows and Dallas but 0 per cent in Sunbury. Turkish respondents were 4.4 per cent in Craigieburn, 3.7 in Jacana and 0.14 in Sunbury.

The same disparity can be seen in the languages spoken at home by the respondents in these areas. Eighty-seven per cent of respondents in Sunbury reported that they spoke English at home. Conversely only 44 per cent of respondents in Craigieburn, 45 per cent in Jacana and 38 per cent in Coolaroo said that they spoke English at home. Significantly, 11 per cent of respondents in Craigieburn and 10 per cent in Gladstone Park said they spoke a Middle Eastern Semitic Language (such as Arabic, Hebrew, Assyrian or Chaldean). However this figure was only 0.3 per cent in Sunbury.

Economic factors showed similar differences. The rate of unemployed people looking for full time work was 2.4 per cent in Craigieburn, 2.3 per cent in Roxburgh Park, 2.7 in Meadow Heights and only 1.8 per cent in Sunbury.

Further, Sunbury is a semi-rural town whereas the other suburbs in the current division of Calwell are outer suburban areas and with similarity to Craigieburn. While Craigieburn is a growing community, it contains an established community which has an historical connection with people from Roxburgh Park through to Broadmeadows. Reflecting the continuity between the two communities, many families are downsizing from the homes in lower Calwell and are moving to places within Craigieburn and further north.

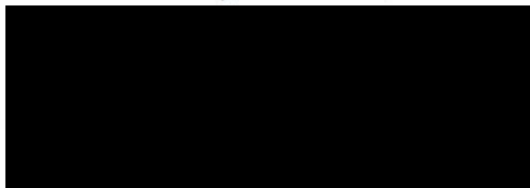
There are also significant options for communication and travel between Craigieburn and the eastern part of Calwell. There is a clear transport corridor from south to north of Calwell, from Broadmeadows to Craigieburn. There is not similar traffic travelling across Calwell from east to west to Sunbury. In most cases individuals using public transport going to Sunbury need to travel into the City of Melbourne first and then travel back out.

The areas of Craigieburn south of Craigieburn Rd are well established and have an enduring connection to the rest of Calwell below. Contrary to some of the arguments that were raised in the objections there are many routes from Roxburgh Park and below towards Craigieburn. In addition to Bridgewater Rd there is Mickleham Rd, Aitkin Ave, Hothlyn Dr, and the Hume Hwy.

Strengthening the connection between the two communities, Craigieburn is physically closer to Roxburgh Park than the other suburbs of Calwell are to Sunbury. The two areas, Craigieburn and the east of Calwell, flow organically from one to the other. The two are connected by built areas from south to north, but from east to west Sunbury is separated by large swaths of land.

In closing, I reiterate my support for the Commission's proposed new boundaries for Calwell which extends the electorate vertically rather than horizontally as is the best fit for the communities affected.

Yours sincerely,



*John Paterson*