



# Objection 325

Flemington Association Inc.

4 pages

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Subject:** [VIC REDISTRIBUTION OBJECTIONS] Hamish Taylor \*WWW\* [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Date:** Friday, 4 May 2018 11:36:33 AM  
**Attachments:** [vic-Hamish Taylor-.pdf](#)

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Victorian Redistribution objections uploaded from the AEC website.

Name: Hamish Taylor

Organisation: Flemington Association Inc.

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Additional information: Please see our submission as attached. Thank you for your consideration.



## **FLEMINGTON ASSOCIATION**

**INCORPORATED**

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4 May 2018

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

Dear Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria

### **OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION FOR VICTORIA - FLEMINGTON**

On behalf of the Flemington Association, it is submitted that the proposed transfer of Flemington and Travancore into the federal electorate of Maribyrnong from Melbourne is not justified for the following reasons.

1. Flemington and Travancore have formed part of the federal electorate of Melbourne since 1922 – almost a century – and have been home to at least two of the long serving members of parliament for the seat of Melbourne: Rt Hon Arthur Calwell and Dr Adam Bandt.
2. Flemington and Travancore have shared a strong and demonstrable community of interest with the suburb of Kensington since 1861. Flemington and Kensington part of the Borough of Essendon, and then together formed their own local municipality between 1882 and 1905 when they joined the City of Melbourne. The area known as Travancore today was part of Flemington when it was sub-divided in the 1920s. Newmarket, to the west of the Craigieburn train line is also part of Flemington.
3. Flemington and Kensington share the same historic town hall, RSL club, bowling club, community newspaper, library, shops, legal service, community health service and other local services. The Flemington Library is located in Kensington. The former Kensington Fire Station is located in Flemington. Flemington Primary School is in Travancore.
3. Flemington differs substantially from its northern suburban neighbours. Flemington/Travancore is an inner city suburb with a diverse mix of residents, businesses and services. The urban environment contrasts starkly with suburbs in the electorate of Maribyrnong, where homes are larger and more likely to have back yards and garages. Flemington is home to more recent migrants and families from refugee backgrounds.

Home and car ownership rates are different in Flemington and Travancore to those in the electorate of Maribyrnong.

4. On the other hand, Flemington shares the same features in terms of its physical environment and diverse mix of residents as Kensington and North Melbourne. These are the suburbs with which Flemington has long been historically linked and where Flemington retains a strong community of interest.
5. The transfer of Flemington and Travancore to the City of Moonee Valley from the City of Melbourne in 1993 does not properly reflect the ongoing demographic, social and community connections between Flemington and its inner city neighbours. The inclusion of Flemington and Travancore in Moonee Valley rather than Melbourne raises substantial challenges for Flemington as a community in that it divides Flemington from Kensington, ignores traditional ties to Melbourne and separates Flemington and Travancore from its community of interest, leaving it demographically and culturally isolated in Moonee Valley.
6. The Association encourages the retention of the historic boundaries of Flemington and Kensington to remain within the one electorate, extending to Baroda Street in Travancore.
7. No basis has been provided for the transfer other than a need for Melbourne to shed some voters if previously removed areas of Fitzroy North and Clifton Hill are put back into Melbourne. It is unnecessary for the Commission to reverse previous changes and remove Flemington purely to even the numbers in Wills and Batman. There are other ways of achieving numerical equity across Melbourne, Batman, Wills and Maribyrnong without disrupting the electoral boundaries of Fitzroy North, Clifton Hill and Flemington. If all of these areas remained in their current electorates, some adjustments could be made at the northern boundaries of Wills and Batman. Further voters could be moved to Maribyrnong from Wills, or fewer voters could be moved to Fraser. The population equations can be solved in ways other than the separation of Flemington and Travancore from Melbourne.
8. The assumption that Flemington and Travancore share a community of interest with other parts of Moonee Valley because most of Flemington (the part with the residents) is in the City of Moonee Valley is not justified.
9. The transfer is not justified in that Flemington, including Travancore, has traditionally identified with and continues to identify more strongly with Kensington and our neighbour North Melbourne than with Ascot Vale and Moonee Ponds to the north. Flemington looks to Melbourne rather than Moonee Ponds or Maribyrnong

## **History of the Flemington Association**

The Flemington Association works to care for and enhance the special character and amenity of Flemington, including Newmarket and Travancore, for the benefit of all residents.

The Flemington Association has existed for almost 50 years. It stems from the Flemington Ratepayers Association formed in the 1870s primarily by ratepayers who were disgruntled that they part of the Borough of Essendon and Flemington, when the two communities were too distinct.

By 1882, Flemington and Kensington had finally separated from Essendon and in 1905 locals elected to join with North Melbourne in becoming part of the City of Melbourne. Since then, our focus has clearly been on Flem/Ken, and inner Melbourne.

The inaugural president of the Flemington Association was Bill Gardner. He was passionate about the Flem/Ken community. He went on to become a councillor in the City of Melbourne and the Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

Since Flemington and part of Kensington were transferred into the City of Moonee Valley, by the stroke of a pen by the then Kennett government, there has been an ongoing struggle within the Flemington and Kensington community to reunite our community of interest in an appropriate municipal council.

More information on the Association, including our purposes, can be found at [www.flemingtonassociation.org.au](http://www.flemingtonassociation.org.au)

Please direct any queries to the Association via our email address of [info@flemingtonassociation.org.au](mailto:info@flemingtonassociation.org.au) or to me directly on the number provided.

Regards

Hamish Taylor  
President, Flemington Association Inc.

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