



# Comment on objections 18

John Safran

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## JOHN SAFRAN

To the Redistribution Committee,

I offer this comment on objections to your proposed redistribution of Macnamara and Higgins.

I look to your directive that "in relation to each proposed electoral division, give due consideration to community of interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests."

I am a long-term resident of St Kilda East, living with my grandparents here when I was younger, attending the Jewish high school Yeshivah College, and owning an apartment here for most of my adult life. I'm also an author and filmmaker, who has focused on the intricacies of the Melbourne Jewish community in my work.

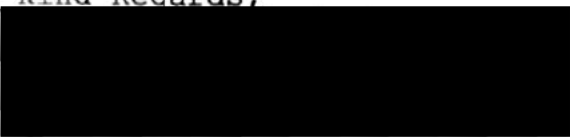
This area is its own little ecosystem of Melbourne Jewish life and choosing Hotham Street as a dividing line severs this ecosystem.

For instance, the Chabad community runs a synagogue close to the corner of Hotham Street (I can see them praying out my window when washing dishes). They also run a school a one-minute walk from this synagogue, on the other side of Hotham Street. Chabad families are scattered on both sides of Hotham Street. So this proposed division will cut through Chabadniks, not only from the same community, but the same families.

The Chabad are but one Jewish group. This arbitrary Hotham Street boundary between electorates, would mean that friends, families and fellow community members are split between electorates, and disconnected from the places they eat, shop and socialise, whereas most of them have been within the boundaries of Macnamara/Melbourne Ports continuously for the last few decades. So I echo the sentiments of the Adass Israel Community (OB38); Adjunct Associate Professor Mark Baker (OB42); Zionism Victoria (OB54); Jennifer Huppert (OB53) and St Kilda Hebrew Congregation (OB58).

The Jewish community is a clear community of interest that this proposed redistribution should take into consideration. Please do not split us down Hotham Street, but rather stick to established boundaries on Dandenong Road and Punt Road.

Kind Regards,



John Safran