



Objection 39

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2 pages

I object to the usage of Whitehorse Road as the boundary between Menzies, Deakin, and Chisholm. Initially, I agree with the commission that Box Hill and Blackburn align with Doncaster/Doncaster East more than they do with Ringwood/Croydon hence these suburbs should be in Menzies rather than Deakin. However, I, like many others, object to using Whitehorse Road as the Chisholm/Menzies boundary and Blackburn Road as the Chisholm/Deakin boundary. It splits the heart of the Box Hill shopping precinct into 2 electoral divisions and the main Blackburn shopping precinct into 3 electoral divisions, splitting up communities of interest.

I suggest Menzies and Deakin should be reorientated from east-west divisions to north-south divisions. This means that Menzies would take in Doncaster, Templestowe, Box Hill, and Blackburn whilst Deakin would take in Ringwood, Croydon, and Warrandyte. This allows the Maroondah City Council to be united in the Division of Deakin, which is something that the Maroondah City Council has expressed desire for, as well as for the unification of Doncaster/Doncaster East with Box Hill/Blackburn which is a community of interest as desired by many such as the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse. The green-wedge area in the East has strong community links with the Ringwood/Croydon area, allowing them to be united in one division, demonstrating a community of interest. The Mullum Mullum Creek should act as a boundary between Menzies and Deakin, separating the urban built-up areas in Doncaster East and Templestowe with the green-wedge areas in Park Orchards and Warrandyte. There are many options for the boundary between Deakin and Menzies below the Eastern Freeway. I would prefer a boundary along Dunlavin Road and Rooks Road since it demarks the Nunawading/Mitcham boundary, but I acknowledge that there are other possible ways to draw the boundary for this section that I would not mind. Canterbury Road acts as a very strong and ideal southern boundary for Menzies since it is essentially a clear existing boundary. Some may argue that this proposal splits the Manningham Council in two however the Manningham Council is essentially already split in two, consisting of the built-up suburban area in the west and the green-wedge area in the east. This divide is demarked by the Mullum Mullum Creek, which is why I find it suitable as the boundary between Menzies and Deakin.

I also object to the proposed boundary for Chisholm and Hotham. Although I agree with the commission including Wheelers Hill in the division as it has strong community links with the suburbs already in Chisholm, the draft boundaries include areas from vastly different communities with little common interest, making the electorate very bits and pieces. It does not make sense to include parts of Oakleigh and Clayton with Burwood, Glen Waverley, and Wheelers Hill. The Monash City Council consists of two very distinct communities of interest, separated by the Monash Freeway. It makes much more sense that the Chisholm/Hotham boundary should be the Monash Freeway since it is a clear and distinct geographic and social boundary. The parts of Oakleigh and Clayton in the draft Chisholm would be better off in Hotham, united with similar suburbs in the division like Clayton South, Springvale, and Oakleigh South.

To balance the enrolment numbers better, I suggest to additionally include Vermont South and the eastern section of Mulgrave (often referred to as Waverley Park/Gladeswood) into Chisholm. Vermont South is very closely aligned with neighbouring Glen Waverley and Burwood East (sharing social, transport, shopping, and community links) rather than the Ringwood/Warrandyte/Croydon area which Deakin is based on. Vermont South is already

separated geographically by a reserve from the suburbs to the north, making the Vermont South border with Forest Hill and Vermont ideal for the Chisholm/Deakin boundary.

The area of Mulgrave east to the Monash Freeway can be added to Chisholm to help balance the numbers since it is essentially cut off from the rest of Mulgrave west of the Monash Freeway. Additionally, it is worth mentioning that the eastern part of Mulgrave is considered so different from the rest of Mulgrave west of the M1 that there was a campaign in 2004 by residents to change the area of Mulgrave east of the M1 to Waverley Park. This reflects the distinct areas and divide produced by the Monash Freeway, which is why I strongly believe that the communities on different sides of the Monash Freeway should not be put together into a single electoral division. Hence, the southern boundary for Chisholm should be along the Monash Freeway and Police Road.

Advantages of my solutions include:

1. Better communities of interest with the distinct communities of Warrandyte-Croydon-Ringwood, Templestowe-Doncaster-Box Hill-Blackburn, Burwood-Mount Waverley-Glen Waverley-Wheelers Hill and Oakleigh-Clayton-Springvale all in their own electoral divisions.
2. Allows for the Maroondah City Council to be united under one division, along with similar communities in Warrandyte/Park Orchards (Deakin)
3. Does not divide the Box Hill and Blackburn central shopping precincts along Whitehorse Road, rather unites the entirety of both suburbs into one electoral division
4. Allows for the significant Asian communities in Box Hill/Blackburn to be united with the similar communities in Doncaster/Doncaster East/Templestowe in one electoral division, establishing a key community of interest (Menzies)
5. Likewise, allows for the similar communities in Burwood, Vermont South, Mount Waverley, Glen Waverley, and Wheelers Hill to be united in a single electoral division (Chisholm)
6. Separating the two halves of the Monash City Council that are distinct in character and divided by the Monash Freeway which already acts as a clear and distinct geographic and social boundary.
7. Allows the uniting of the similar communities, namely Oakleigh and Clayton, in the southern part of the Monash City in a single electoral division (Hotham)
8. Makes the boundaries for all the mentioned divisions more cohesive and less bits and pieces than the draft boundaries by the commission

One final thing I would like to suggest to the commission would be to transfer Baxter from Flinders to Dunkley to provide a more equitable balance of numbers between the two divisions.

I thank the commission for reading my objections and solutions. I sincerely hope that the commission considers my objections and my solutions which I think best solves the issues of the Menzies/Deakin/Chisholm boundary and the Chisholm/Hotham boundary.