



Comment on objections 36

Ruixing Zhang

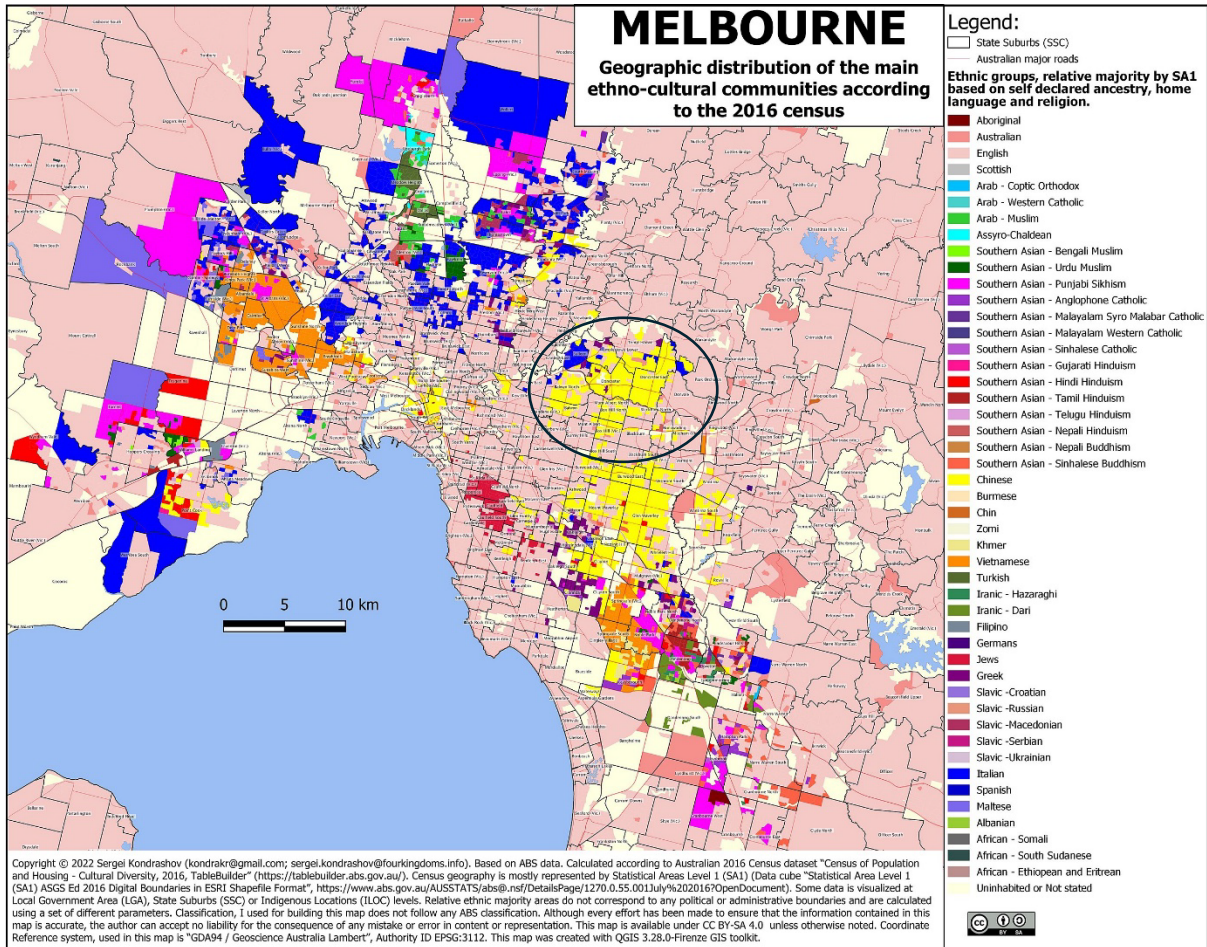
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Dear Victorian Redistribution Committee,

I am writing express my support for objections to the redistribution as well as the general direction of the Redistribution Committee in orientating the electorate of Menzies along the Doncaster-Box Hill axis. I am supporting objections 53, 94, 95, 152, 174, 365, 376, 416, 453, 469, 476, 481, 493, 503 and 504 in reinforcing this notion and reiterate the need not to change this. Doncaster and Box Hill are linked very well with communications and transport flowing north-south here. Residents in Box Hill and surrounds often do their shopping, work etc. north in Doncaster and surrounds and vice versa. Box Hill Central and Westfield Doncaster are major shopping centres that draw the same community regardless of whether one lives north or south of the Eastern Freeway. Box Hill and Doncaster are both suburbs with a large Chinese community, with Doncaster developing into a satellite area of Box Hill which itself is becoming Melbourne's 2nd CBD. This is one of the few areas where freeways don't form a major barrier unlike the Monash Freeway or Eastlink for example.

I strongly oppose objections for a change to this orientation namely objections 440, 456 and 462. In this part of Melbourne, an east-west orientation does not work, particularly since Manningham LGA itself is not big enough to be contiguous to an electorate meaning that it will have to stretch eastwards to include areas like Ringwood, Chirnside Park and Croydon that have nothing in common whatsoever with the core in Bulleen and Doncaster.

I am also supportive of proposals to including the balance of Balwyn and Balwyn North into Menzies which I urge the committee to consider looking at very closely. Many objections support this such as objections 53, 54, 94, 95, 108, 288, 448, and 504. The proposed boundaries already include parts of Balwyn and Balwyn North but goes through many side streets which could be tidied up more neatly. In particular, I think objections 53, 94, 95 and 504 propose very good boundaries on how to include this area. Balwyn is demographically very similar to Doncaster and Box Hill, and it unites the entirety of the Chinese community in Melbourne's north-east. The Balwyn High School Zone and proximity to Box Hill and Doncaster resulted in Balwyn and Balwyn North having large Chinese populations approximately the size of Doncaster and slightly below that of Box Hill. Just like Box Hill and Doncaster orientate towards each other, residents of Balwyn and Balwyn North orientate towards the two areas equally for shopping, work, leisure etc.



This map based on 2016 ABS data indicates the strong Chinese community of Balwyn-Box Hill-Doncaster which can be very clearly seen with yellow. The 2021 ABS data suggests an even more larger and stronger Chinese community in this area.

I thank the AEC for the opportunity to make the comments which I urge the AEC to consider and support.

Kind regards,

Ruixing Zhang