



Comment on suggestions 59

John Ryan

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To the Australian Electoral Commission

Good afternoon.

Firstly, I must thank you for all the good works you undertake for us Australians in the fair and democratic country we live in.

In saying that I would like to take the opportunity to raise some concerns that I have with regards to the federal electorate borders in my local area.

I have lived in the North Ringwood/Park Orchards area for nearly 25 years and have been a keen observer of demographic and border changes in this community for over a quarter of a century.

In that time, I have always been baffled that Park Orchards is separated from Ringwood, the main hub we are connected to.

In this respect, I agree with the extensive number of submissions that suggest Park Orchards join Ringwood in the federal electorate of Deakin.

At present, Park Orchards sits within the seat of Menzies. My view is that the Menzies is presently made up of two very discrete halves: one half west of Springvale Rd/Mullum Mullum Creek containing the suburbs of Doncaster, Templestowe, Bulleen and Box Hill; and the other half being the suburbs west of Springvale Rd/Mullum Mullum Creek that include Park Orchards.

Park Orchards centres on Ringwood for a range of reasons.

Firstly, the only major road into and out of Park Orchards is the Ringwood-Warrandyte Road (via Park Road and Milne Road), which runs straight to the centre of Ringwood.

This directly connects us to Eastland and Ringwood Station, not to mention all of the other shopping and services available in Ringwood. Most commuters travelling into the CBD from Park Orchards all gravitate to the Ringwood hub to board a train.

Park Orchards doesn't have a supermarket or major shopping precinct, so my family does most of our weekly shopping in Ringwood. For example, we would ordinarily shop at Eastland twice a week and occasionally at Ringwood Square or the Arndale shops in Croydon. Meanwhile I probably wouldn't have shopped in

Doncaster for at least 5 years.

We access most other services in and around Ringwood, including our GP located in North Ringwood and Maroondah Hospital in Ringwood East (when we've needed it from time to time over the years).

On the other hand, we have very little to do with the rest of the Menzies electorate. And while our local council is Manningham, we are much more strongly connected to Ringwood than either Doncaster or Bulleen in the Menzies electorate. This is partly due to the terrible road linkages between Park Orchards and these areas, but also due to the physical boundary of Springvale Rd and the Mullum Mullum Creek.

I appreciate the AEC has to balance many considerations with electorate boundaries, but I can say that purely from a community perspective, our area is closely linked to Ringwood in the Deakin electorate.

Based on my review, it seems a majority of submissions that discuss our local area have also suggested Park Orchards move into the Deakin electorate. I support these suggestions and recommend the AEC use this opportunity to better align our boundaries with the everyday reality of its residents.

Yours sincerely

John Ryan