



Objection 283

John Kostoulis

2 pages

Australian Electoral Commission
Victorian Redistribution Secretariat
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

VIA: FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au

Dear Committee,

As the immediate past president of the Federation of Greek Elderly Citizens Clubs of Melbourne and Victoria, and current president of the Pensioners Association Bulleen-Templestowe, I wish to give some feedback to the AEC on their proposed redistribution boundaries. I do this with the intention of promoting the interests of the Greek community.

I believe that the time has come for the AEC to seriously consider placing Balwyn North in Menzies. This has been a key request for a very long time, but has only now become possible, due to the abolition of Higgins and the subsequent requirement that both Menzies and Kooyong undergo significant changes.

Balwyn North has a significant Greek community, as the attached map makes clear. It formed around the Greek community of Bulleen, Doncaster, and Templestowe, as did other communities of Southern Europeans, primarily Italians.

The Greek community of Balwyn North is deeply connected to the Greek communities of Manningham, in Bulleen, Doncaster, and Templestowe. While Balwyn North may be on the other side the Eastern Freeway, it is easy to cross at either Bulleen Road or Doncaster Road.

Bulleen and Doncaster have a much more developed and diverse range of amenities, including public transport infrastructure, shopping centres, schools, parks, community facilities and community organisations.

Many residents of Balwyn North rely on these amenities and organisations. I strongly believe our Greek community of Balwyn North would benefit from sharing a representative with the suburbs of Bulleen, Doncaster, and Templestowe. This is for the simple reason that representation is easier and more effective when the place you live and the places your amenities are located are both represented by the same member of parliament.

Regards,



John Kostoulis

Immediate Past President, Federation of Greek Elderly Citizens Clubs of Melbourne and Victoria

Current President, Pensioners Association Bulleen-Templestowe

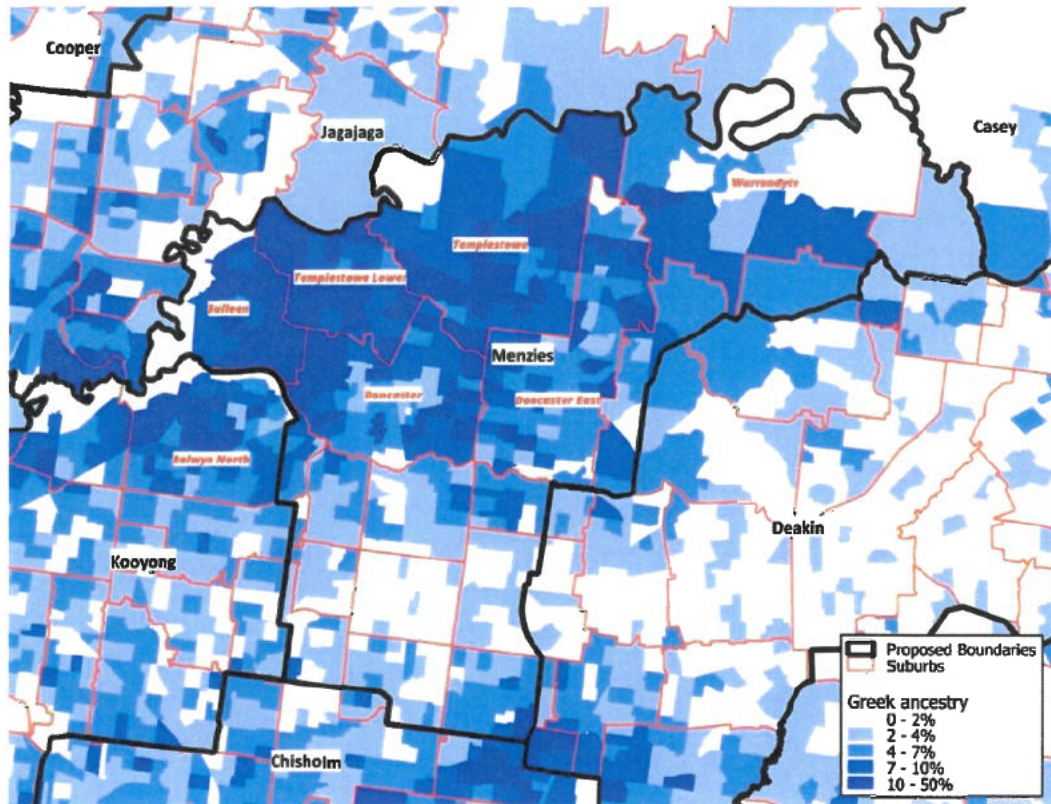


Fig 1: Greek population by SA1, AEC boundaries and suburb boundaries overlaid.