



Objection 317

David Harper

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Section 66 of the Electoral Act also provides that the Redistribution Committee:

'give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division, to:

- (i) community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests.*

Heathmont is a community. It happens to be one through which Canterbury Road passes. To designate that major road as the border between two federal electoral divisions (Deakin and Ashton) would be to ignore the community of interests which exists in Heathmont. It is vital that Heathmont be governed (whether at the local, State or Federal level) as a single entity. It would clearly be highly undesirable were incompatible or even inconsistent decisions be made because an MP of one party represents that segment of Heathmont which is on one side of Canterbury Road while an MP of another party represents that part of Heathmont which is on the other.

The point may be illustrated by an obvious example. Community groups (the Heathmont History Group is but one example) ought not to be required to have their interests split, or split their important advocacy activities, between two parliamentary representatives from the same level of government.

There may be many alternative, and far more appropriate, boundaries between Ashton and Deakin. The Dandenong Creek is an obvious example. None could be worse than Canterbury Road.