



# Objection 475

Graeme and Lynette Tonkin

2 pages

Dear Committee members,

We are writing to you in opposition to the proposed redistribution of Deakin and Aston.

We write this objection in our capacity as long-time local residents of Heathmont in the city of Maroondah. We have lived at the same address in Heathmont for almost 47 years. We are long-standing members of the Heathmont Uniting Church, on the north side of Canterbury Rd. We also shop locally on both sides of Canterbury Rd, Heathmont. When travelling by train to the city we use Heathmont station. When travelling by car, we use either Canterbury Rd or Whitehorse Rd, whichever best suits our destination.

The AEC's plan cuts through the very heart of the community – it divides residents in Heathmont and Ringwood from many of its leading schools, associations, and businesses that together lay down the social, economic, and cultural foundations of the community.

For Heathmont, with shops on both sides of Canterbury Road, it places those on the northern side in the electorate of Deakin and the southern side in Aston.

Similarly, Heathmont station will be in Deakin, a different electorate from Heathmont residents south of Canterbury Road.

It is our view that the proposal to divide the electorates along Canterbury Road rather than Dandenong Creek and move parts of Heathmont and Ringwood into Aston is particularly problematic against the 'communities of interest' and 'means of travel and communication' considerations. We believe the AEC should consider having all of Heathmont and Ringwood (in the City of Maroondah) in the one electorate of Deakin.

Heathmont and Ringwood are separated from the City of Knox by Dandenong Creek. While you can catch a train into Bayswater, there are no roads in Heathmont that cross the creek. You have to drive out of the suburb on Canterbury Road and then take Bayswater Road or Wantirna Road to go south into Bayswater – a process that is very inconvenient and does not reflect the regular means of travel of a Heathmont resident.

The parts of Heathmont and Ringwood south of Canterbury Road share far more in the form of 'communities of interest' and 'means of travel and communication' with the rest of Heathmont and Ringwood and the suburb of Ringwood East than the people who live in Rowville and Scoresby in Aston. A major part of that identity is centred around the City of Maroondah, which runs all the way to Dandenong Creek.

We have spent a lot of time walking in the suburb of Heathmont, and have accessed all the parks in the local area. We meet up with friends at the various local cafes, on either side of Canterbury Rd, or further from home in other parts of Deakin.

In my experience as a resident and small business owner, it makes no sense to split the suburbs of Heathmont and Ringwood in this way.

This proposed redistribution does not provide for more contiguous and coherent electorates that accurately represent communities of interest with clear and distinct borders and boundaries and means of travel and communication.

For these reasons we request that the Committee re-examines its proposed redistribution of Deakin and Aston, and implements a different redistribution that collects in one electorate as far as possible the suburbs of the City of Maroondah: Ringwood, Ringwood East, Heathmont, and Croydon.

This, rather than the proposal, will have due regard to the 'community of interest' consideration and accurately reflect the 'means of travel and communication' in these areas.

Thank you for considering our objection.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Tonkin

Lynette Tonkin

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Heathmont, [REDACTED]

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