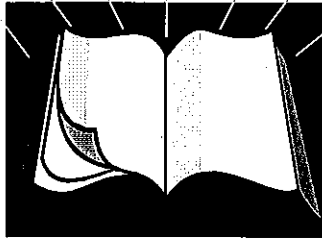




Objection Number 96

Abdalla Ahmed, President Australian – Somali Society Inc

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AUTRALIAN-SOMALI SOCIETY Inc.

President
Abdalla Ahmed

Secretary
Mahad Ahmed

26th August 2010

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Proposed Redistribution of Jaga Jaga & Batman electorates

I write in regards to the proposed redistribution of the Jaga Jaga and Batman electorates. My name is Abdalla Ahmed, and I am a Somali Community Leader, the current Chair of the Australian – Somali Society Inc. I have been an Australian resident for 30 years and lived in West Heidelberg for the past 20 years. I have been informed of the proposed changes to the boundaries of Jagajaga which impacts directly on the West Heidelberg community where many Somali families live. As a community leader I have consulted with many local people, including our elders who have helped me develop this response.

The Australian Somali Society Inc. believes that:

- The Somali community of West Heidelberg and Heidelberg Heights should not be split across two electorates. This will impact on our capacity to develop a relationship with our local members into the future.
- The Somali community are new arrivals who suffer many barriers and are significantly disadvantaged. Having our voices heard is important and we are concerned that the splitting of our community will reduce the impact. These two suburbs were historically one suburb and still share the same postcode (3081).
- Moving West Heidelberg to another electoral area would impact on the many strong community links that have been established between local Somali community groups and Jaga Jaga Members of Parliament.
- Keeping electoral boundaries consistent (local, state & federal) is important for the Somali community who are still coming to grips with new models of government.
- Somali community will be better represented by maintaining links to the electorate of Jaga jaga

I respectfully make this submission on behalf of the Somali community of West Heidelberg and Heidelberg Heights.

Yours sincerely,

Abdalla Ahmed

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