



Objection 198

Anwar Soma 1 page Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to give my objection to you about the proposal to cut Craigieburn out of the McEwen electorate. As a resident of Wallan with family in both Craigieburn and Donnybrook, I have found that over recent years, there have been more and more reasons to head south to Craigieburn than ever before. I am sure that as a member of my community I am not alone in that connection.

Craigieburn, like Wallan is becoming increasingly multicultural. Our communities celebrate our diversity and are welcoming people from all over the world – be they refugees or migrants simply wanting to make a better life in Melbourne. We support these newcomers, welcoming them and supporting them to make their lives here. This will be an increasingly important aspect of our community and that links our common interests.

There are many children in our areas that now play sport and compete in the many relatively new facilities that Craigieburn; there are the tennis courts, athletic tracks and I believe more to come. There is the major new shopping centre at Craigieburn Central and a movie theatre, which gives retail and entertainment opportunities my family have previously had to travel much further to access.

Craigieburn has health services and can be easily accessed by car on the Hume Freeway and by rail on the Craigieburn line, complemented by bus services that make getting around so much easier.

It is therefore important to Wallan, Kilmore and the surrounding district that, as population growth affects us all coming north along the freeway, the new services and infrastructure new communities we will need are provided in an integrated way that takes all priorities into consideration. Having federal representation for Craigieburn and another for Wallan, Kilmore & beyond will result in a fragmented approach to advocating for our community.

The future of Craigieburn is very much tied to the future of our areas – as a growth area with lots of young families needing more health services, educational facilities, employment opportunities, sporting and recreational facilities and more. We have shared needs and common goals and so it makes sense to retain these areas in the seat of McEwen.

Thank you for the opportunity to have my say.

Yours sincerely

Anwar