



Objection 278

Kevin Balaam

5 pages

Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria,
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 768
Melbourne VIC 3001

Submitted online

3 May, 2018

This is an objection to the proposed joint boundary of two electoral divisions in Victoria, specifically Calwell and Scullin.

Both existing and proposed boundaries largely align with Merri Creek between the Metropolitan Ring Road and Craigieburn Rd East. However, this section of Merri Creek is also the boundary between state electoral divisions as well as local government areas. That is, all three levels of Australian government share the same electoral boundary alignment for lower houses of parliament.

One side of Merri Creek is the local government municipality of Hume. The other side is the municipality of Whittlesea. For state electorates, Broadmeadows and Yuroke share the boundary along the creek with Thomastown. Federally, the existing and proposed electorates of Calwell and Scullin share the creek boundary.

There are very few routes for walking or cycling from the residential areas west of the Craigieburn and Upfield railway tracks, across to the residential areas east of the Hume Fwy (Craigieburn Bypass). This is a large area of nearly 40 km², with distances of approximately 10km north - south and approximately 5km maximum east - west. Within this area, there is approximately only 1.3km² of residential area (two pockets in Campbellfield and a third small section of Fawkner). This whole area has not received the priority it requires to provide infrastructure for local active transport.

There may be several reasons for the lack of accessibility and difficulty of non-motorised east-west travel across this large area. Although the sharing of one demarcation line may not directly be the cause of this accessibility, it may have contributed to the issue not being resolved as yet. There could be many other possible reasons, including: a car-centric culture; and/or mono-centrism with emphasis on travel towards a single central business district. Alternatively, it might just be a coincidence, with no causal relationship, that an area with a demarcation line shared amongst several levels of government has very limited accessibility.

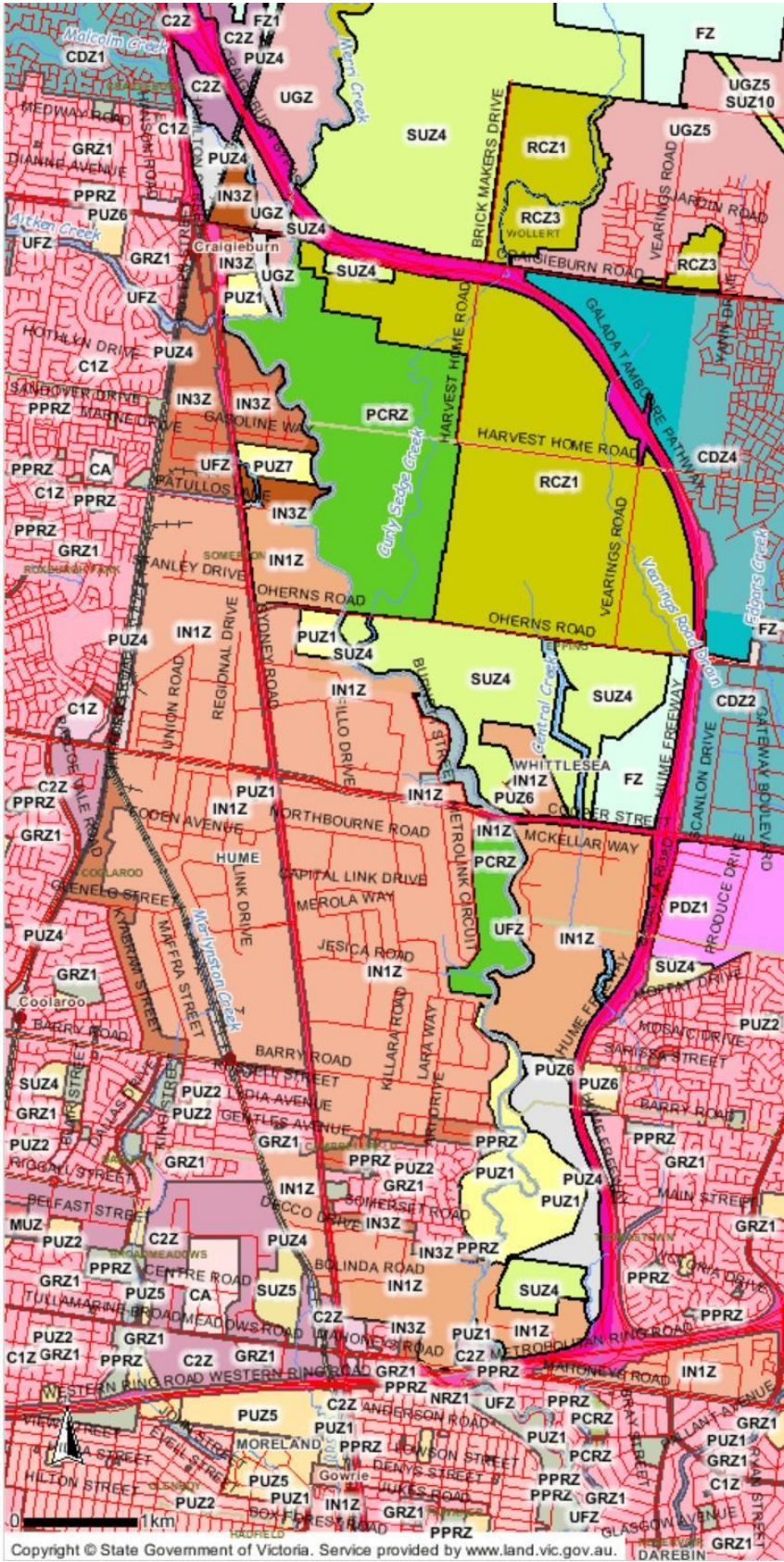
The features previously mentioned (ie railways and freeways) could be electoral boundaries as well as the creek. The possibility exists to vary the boundaries of the three levels of government amongst these features to ensure government responsibility and accountability of any area can overlap with each level of government.

A similar concern of shared boundaries could exist along Merri Creek north of Craigieburn Rd. However, any problem of accessibility across the creek is not yet apparent due to the area on both sides of the creek not yet having been developed as much, though that is quickly changing.

Kevin Balaam

Sources of information in this submission include:

<http://services.land.vic.gov.au/landchannel/jsp/map/PlanningMapsIntro.jsp>



Screenshots of electoral boundaries maps:

<https://intmap.vec.vic.gov.au/#/ElectorateLookup>

