



# Objection 310

Adam Bandt MP

9 pages

**From:** Garbutt, Emma (A. Bandt, MP)  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to redistribution  
**Date:** Friday, 4 May 2018 9:39:33 AM  
**Attachments:** [180504AdamBandtMP.pdf](#)

---

Please find attached Mr Bandt's objection to the redistribution proposal for Victoria.

Could you please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Regards,

Adam Bandt MP

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**ADAM BANDT MP**  
**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE**

Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria  
Australian Electoral Commission  
By email: [FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au)

3 April 2018

**Objection to redistribution proposal for Federal Electorate of Melbourne**

The Commission is proposing to make a massive and unnecessary change to the electorate of Melbourne and has not provided any rationale for doing so.

For the first time in almost a century, it is proposed that Flemington be removed from the electorate of Melbourne. No justification has been given for so doing and the many reasons for not doing it have not been properly addressed. Further, two new areas are proposed to be added into Melbourne along the northern boundary, but if Flemington was retained in Melbourne instead of adding in these new areas, all relevant statutory requirements for Melbourne and its adjoining seats could be easily accommodated, suggesting the Flemington change is not just disruptive but unnecessary.

Flemington

Since 1922, Flemington has been included in the Melbourne electorate. This is reflective of its inner-city status as well as its strong connections with the neighbouring suburb of Kensington.

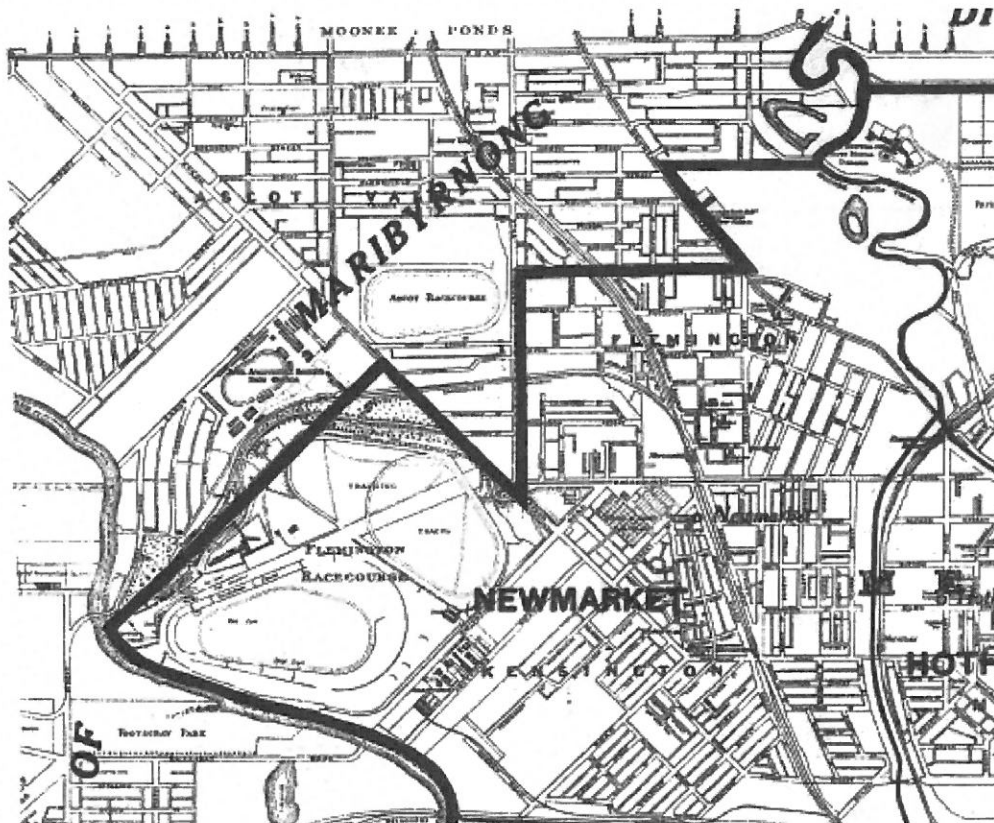
In its draft boundaries, the Commission has rightly rejected the radical proposal to remove Kensington from the federal electorate of Melbourne. Kensington is located in the City of Melbourne and is clearly an inner-city suburb.

However, if the Commission is to take the radical step of removing another suburb that has been in the electorate for almost 100 years, namely Flemington, it should provide strong and clear reasons for doing so. No such rationale has been provided.

There are strong reasons for retaining Flemington in the electorate.

Since 1922, a number of suburbs have formed the core of the electorate of Melbourne, never having been outside it: Kensington, Flemington, North Melbourne, Parkville, CBD, West Melbourne, East Melbourne and Carlton. Whilst other suburbs have come and gone as boundaries and the number of Victorian seats have changed, these suburbs have been the centre of gravity for this Federation seat. The electoral commission has long understood the strong community of interest that binds these inner-suburbs together and gives Melbourne its distinct identity. Whilst history isn't determinative of new boundaries, I submit there would have to be a strong case for such a radical break-up of an established community of interest.

The north-western border of the seat was as follows from 1922 to 1955 and from 1968 to 1977:



and during the intervening and succeeding years (1955-1968, 1977-current) the border expanded outwards to include Ascot Vale.

Flemington and Kensington (historically 'Newmarket') are joined at the hip and have been for many years. Flemington and Kensington were historically joined together in their own borough (until being subsumed into the City of Melbourne for most of the twentieth century). Together, Flemington and Kensington share and comprise the postcode 3031. The two suburbs share a great deal of history, including their connection with the racecourse and stock trade (hence 'Newmarket'). The common boundary along Racecourse Road is a hub of shops, services and community facilities that both Kensington and Flemington residents regularly use. The Flemington Library on the south side of Racecourse Road, for example, is within walking distance for many residents in both suburbs and is the weekly location for educational and interactive events for nearby parents and their children.

The Flemington/Kensington community – which often goes under the shorthand 'Flem/Ken' – is well known to locals and has bound together historical communities of interest for many years, as exhibited by the following:

- The Flemington/Kensington News, a local community newspaper of four decades' standing that is very popular amongst residents who share common communities;



**Kensington Supports Asylum Seekers**

**COMMUNITY**  
 The Kensington Neighbourhood House, Anglican Ladies League, and the organisation that produced the documentary 'Personal Files'...

This was followed on 18th November with an another significant activity through the Kensington Community Players. Under the title of 'A Celebration of Song' the organisation...

The film was followed by discussion and a brief presentation from Kensington Neighbourhood House director, Catherine Wilton. Friends for the night were offered...



**INSIDE THIS EDITION** 2 Other news on a local level... 8 Long for assisted to assist... 11 What you may... 12 100th Anniversary... 13 The Queen of... 14 The... 15 The... 16 The... 17 The... 18 The... 19 The... 20 The...



While Kensington Street continues to catch buses East West Link's road is off ramps, even a base reinforced public transport features had a different structure when construction was completed for the road.

Motorists wait for a train at Flemington station.



**Warm hearts on a Cold Night!**

**Shelley Boyd**  
 More than \$1,000 was raised by the recent concert for the Kensington Community Players at Christchurch...  
 The program included a fundraising presentation from the Kensington Community Players...

**Flemington library is on the go!**

**Penelope Collins**  
 The much needed re-opening of Flemington Library after reconstruction...  
 Flemington Library is a very busy branch of the library system, and the upgrade was regarded as an urgent and necessary matter for Council.



The multi-faceted Flemington community centre library which is open 24 hours...  
 The newly installed Alan Brown from the Flemington Community Branch of the Bowls Club...  
 The growth of the library has inspired...  
 Kensington resident...  
 Photo: Stephen Davies

- o The Flemington/Kensington Legal Centre



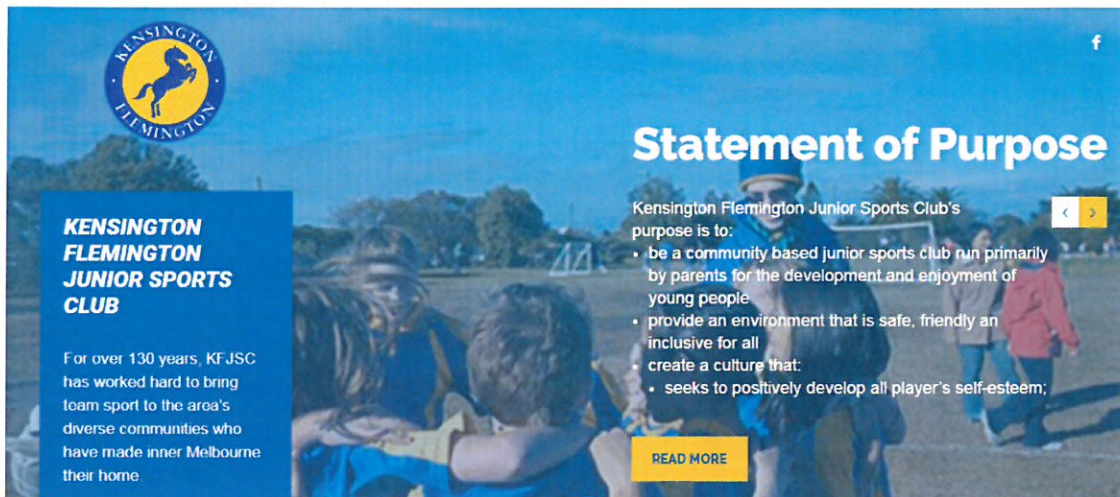
- o The Flemington & Kensington Bowling Club



- The Flemington/Kensington RSL



- The Kensington/Flemington Junior Sports Club



- The Flemington/Kensington Older Adults Community Centre
- The high school zoned for Kensington, Mount Alexander college, is in Flemington
- The closest supermarket for most Kensington residents is located in Flemington ('Newmarket shops')

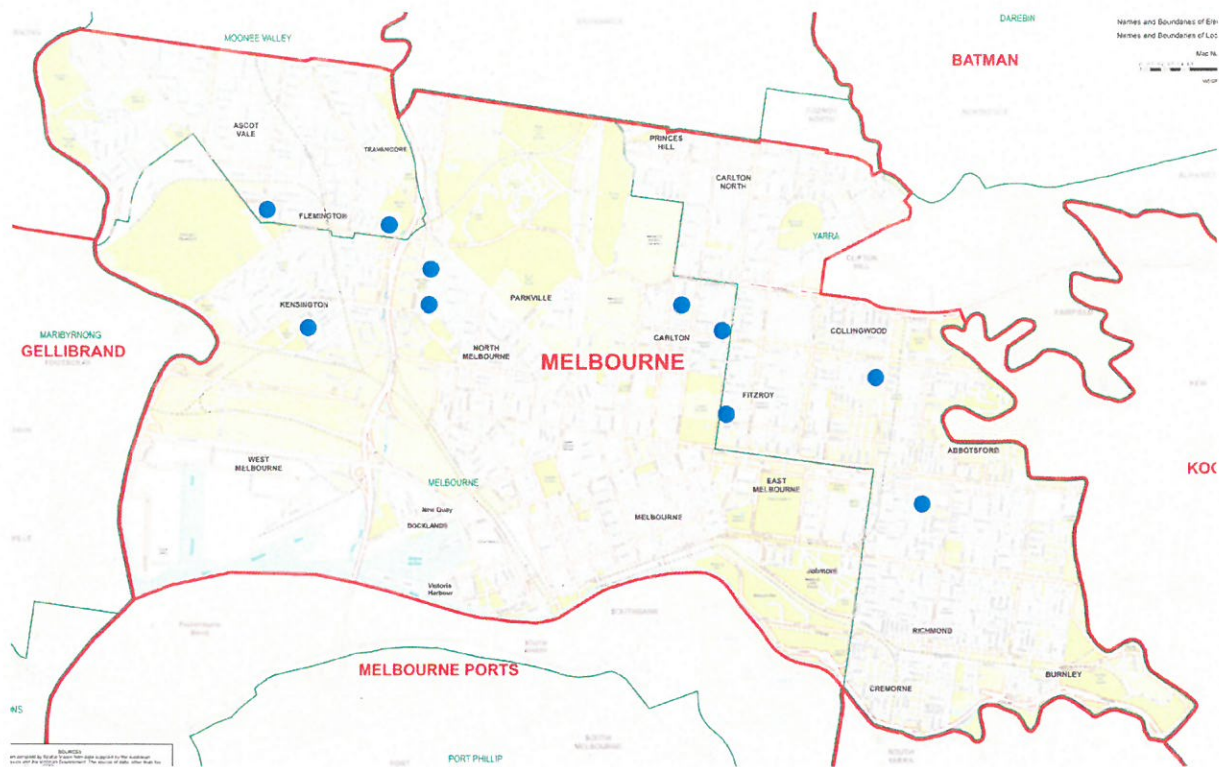
Flemington's 'urban and residential aesthetics' are also of a piece with inner-city suburbs like Kensington, Richmond and Fitzroy, with a mix of Victorian and Edwardian freestanding homes combined with modern, medium density housing developments.

Because it is an inner-city suburb, Flemington clearly has much more in common with the other suburbs of Melbourne than it does with, say Airport West, with which it is proposed to share the new electorate of Maribyrnong.

One final point is worth stressing. Melbourne is currently home to many public housing residents. The housing commission tower blocks that dot the inner-Melbourne skyline in Richmond, Carlton, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Flemington and Kensington contribute to Melbourne having the highest number of public housing dwellings of any electorate. About 10% of dwellings in the electorate are public housing. Many extended families live across estates, as government policies have seen groups from similar ethnic backgrounds co-located within close suburbs. Families from many Horn of African countries, and to a lesser extent Vietnam and China, are connected across the estates. There is also a very strong community of interest between public housing residents based on common need and experience.

By definition, public housing tenants are low-income and often have significant common need with respect to the Federal government, in areas such as welfare, immigration and housing support. It has been our experience that a significant amount of Federal electorate staff time has been devoted to supporting the needs of public housing tenants, but also in strengthening connections between estates. There is a very strong argument of community of interest for keeping the 'public housing high rise' suburbs within the one electorate.

Location of public housing high-rises in the current electorate of Melbourne:



With respect to the Commission, the proposed boundaries seem to demonstrate no understanding of the suburb of Flemington. Absolutely no case has been made for its removal.

### It is unnecessary to remove Flemington

What's more, Flemington's removal appears to be largely unnecessary.

What follows is based on the numbers set out at Appendix L of the Commission's proposed boundaries, which appears to correctly include Travancore within Flemington (Flemington Primary School is physically located in Travancore but has a Flemington postal address, for example) based on SA2 groupings. Melbourne could retain Flemington & Flemington Racecourse (6178 voters in 2017; 6334 in 2019) and still remain comfortably within the relevant numerical limits if voters from other electorates (4180 in 2017; 4238 in 2019) were not added in to Melbourne as proposed (the numbers in Melbourne would be 106,980 in 2017, almost exactly on the enrolment quota of 106,954 and well below the maximum 117,649; in 2019 the figure would be 113,230, still well under the maximum of 114,235).

The consequences for proposed neighbouring electorates would be nil or minimal. The proposed Divisions of Batman and Wills would still remain within statutory limits by keeping the voters proposed for transfer to Melbourne. The proposed division of Maribyrnong would be within acceptable limits in 2017 if it didn't include Flemington, but in 2019 would be at 105,431, a mere 1,078 below the statutory limit of 106,509. This 1,078 could easily be addressed by adjusting the boundaries with the newly created seat of Fraser, which is far



less disruptive given that the electorate doesn't yet exist. This is an especially sensible alternative given that Fraser is projected to be ABOVE quota in both 2017 and 2019, so it could easily 'lose' a small number of voters without consequence. One option reflected in the table below is to shift the southwestern boundary between Fraser and Maribyrnong to Melon St, instead of Ashley St, amounting to a transfer of 1,195 voters (1,233 in 2019) in 4 SA1s (134735,134710, 134711,134701). (This is offered as a suggestion, and the Commission could use different boundaries and/or transfer a greater number of voters between the proposed electorates. (Alternatively, the Commission could simply accept under 66(3)(a) of the Electoral Act that adjustments have been made 'as far as practicable' to ensure compliance with that section of the Act, if that is how the Act can be interpreted.)

**Table 1:** AEC proposed boundaries accepted, save that Flemington remains in Melbourne, northern boundary of Melbourne otherwise unchanged (ie no transfer from Batman & Wills) and slight adjustment to Fraser/Maribyrnong boundary

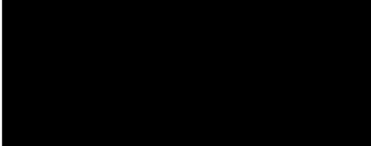
	<b>2017 enrolment</b>	<b>2017 quota and permissible range</b>	<b>2019 enrolment</b>	<b>2019 quota and permissible range</b>
<b>Melbourne</b>	104,982 + 6,138 + 40 – 2,988 – 1,192 = <b>106,980</b>	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	111,134 + 6,293 + 41 - 3,027 - 1,211 = <b>113,230</b>	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)
<b>Batman</b>	109,048 + 1,192 = <b>110,240</b>	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	112,299 + 1,211 = <b>113,510</b>	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)
<b>Wills</b>	107,306 + 2,988 = <b>110,294</b>	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	110,841 + 3,027 = <b>113,868</b>	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)
<b>Maribyrnong</b>	108,119 - 6,138 - 40 = 101,941  (But after gaining 1,195 from Fraser = <b>103,136</b> )	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	111,765 - 6,293 - 41 = 105,431  (But after gaining 1,233 from Fraser = <b>106,664</b> )	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)
<b>Fraser</b>	109,317  (But after losing 1,195 to Maribyrnong = <b>108,122</b> )	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	111,482  (But after losing 1,233 to Maribyrnong = <b>110,249</b> )	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)

In other words, Flemington could be kept in the electorate of Melbourne and Melbourne's existing northern boundaries retained with absolutely no consequence for proposals for the neighbouring electorates of Wills and Batman, and no adjustment or only a minor adjustment to Maribyrnong, an adjustment which can easily be accommodated with far less disruption to everyone by a making

slight change to the proposed new boundaries of Fraser. This is obviously a far better solution than making a radical and unnecessary change to an existing electorate.

Lastly, I make the point that the changes outlined in this submission will not provide an electoral advantage. Indeed, all available assessments of the proposed new Melbourne boundaries (excluding Flemington) suggest that the proposed new seat notionally *increases* the Greens vote.

If there are to be any public hearings prior to the further determination of boundaries, I request that I be given an opportunity to appear.



Adam Bandt MP

Federal Member for Melbourne