



# Comment on objections 40

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To the Redistribution Committee

I submit this to you as a comment on the objections that concern Macnamara and Higgins.

I am and have been for many years a resident of public housing in Albert Park.

I was very surprised when I heard about the AEC's proposal to move the boundaries of the electorate of Macnamara, but I was stunned when I heard of the reasoning behind the committee's proposal.

In paragraph 335 of its report the AEC has stated that "The Redistribution Committee proposes the Division of Macnamara gains further territory in the Stonnington City Council from the Division of Higgins, gaining all territory west of Williams Road (South Yarra and part of Prahran). In making this change the Redistribution Committee is able to accommodate these suggestions and comments on suggestions, seeing value in this alteration acknowledging the community of interest surrounding public housing and in the strong eastern boundary of Williams Road and Hotham Street providing a strong north south transport link."

This reasoning might sound informed and smart, but it simply does not align with the reality of life for public housing residents.

In fact, it is quite insulting. We try to get people to understand that we are living in apartment buildings. We are individuals, not a community. We have a community within our own buildings no different to that of any apartment building, but to suggest that every public housing tenant south of the Yarra is one community that must be within one electorate is demeaning. We are more than just public housing tenants. We are individuals and families. We are part of the local communities we live in - we belong to local sporting clubs, recreational groups, study and activist groups and so much more. To say that we live as a 'community' not only in our own buildings, but across all the buildings that are in Higgins and Macnamara, is to battle reality.

My community is in Albert Park. My community is Port Phillip. My community is not "public housing".

It is patronising to say that all public housing tenants should be clustered in one electorate.

We really don't have any connections with the public housing towers in the South Melbourne side of town. We really have none at all with the ones in Stonnington. We have nothing in common with the residents of public housing towers in Stonnington. We don't see them. We live different lives. And there really are no means of transport between my building in Albert Park and Prahran.

It looks like the AEC has made an assumption that there is value in the proposed alteration to acknowledge 'the community of interest surrounding public housing', and that on this assumption it has put forward its proposal for new borders. This

assumption is nothing but an assumption. It should not motivate the AEC in making any redistribution, because it is invented.

Yours faithfully

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