



Further Objection Number 214

**Liz Beattie MLA, State Member for Yuroke
Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Premier on Multicultural
and Veterans Affairs**

20 pages

From: Elizabeth.Beattie@parliament.vic.gov.au on behalf of liz.beattie@minstaff.vic.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 1 November 2010 3:08 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Subject: Objection to the Augmented Electoral Commissions Proposal
Attachments: Liz Beattie Objection.pdf

Please find attached my objection to the Augmented Electoral Commission's Proposed Redistribution.

A hardcopy has also been sent in the mail.

Thanks.

Liz Beattie
Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Premier on Multicultural and Veterans' Affairs
Member for Yuroke

(See attached file: Liz Beattie Objection.pdf)

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Parliament of Victoria

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Redistribution Secretariat
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 9867
Melbourne Victoria 8060

Monday, 1 November 2010

Objection to the Augmented Electoral Commission's Proposal

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed augmented Electoral Commission's redistribution proposal. In lodging my objection to your proposal I acknowledge the Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) difficult task in ensuring Victoria's 37 electoral seats meet quota parameters and community of interest tests as outlined in Section 66(3)a of the Act.

Having said this, I write to strongly object to the proposed redistribution. In particular, I wish to object to the splitting of the suburb of Craigieburn into two federal electorates. Under the boundaries proposed by the augmented Electoral Commission, residents living on the north side of Craigieburn Road will be in the federal electorate of McEwen and residents on the south side of Craigieburn Road in the federal electorate of Calwell. In my view, as the State Member of Parliament for the electorate of Yuroke, which includes Craigieburn in its entirety, this would be disastrous and incredibly detrimental to the suburb, its identity and its residents.





Liz Beattie MP

State Member for Yuroke

Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs

Craigieburn is a suburb on the outer northern fringes of Melbourne. It is located 26km north of the Central Business District (CBD) and is located adjacent to the Hume Highway. From the early 1970's the suburb of Craigieburn began developing at a rapid rate with the residential area expanding outwards from the centre of the town. In the late 1990's the population of Craigieburn and the residential growth of the suburb began to boom again with land both to the north and west of the centre of the town being developed. Craigieburn's current population is estimated to be approximately 42,000. Craigieburn is currently in a designated urban growth corridor and as such will continue to have significant population increases.

Over the years the town of Craigieburn has grown not only into a unique residential suburb but also into its own unique community. Many community groups have been long established and have prospered and grown with the community including the local Country Fire Authority (CFA) Brigade, State Emergency Service (SES) Unit, the Craigieburn Football Club, the Craigieburn Bowling Club and the Inaugural Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Victoria. All of these community groups and many others serve and operate for the entire community of Craigieburn of which their volunteer members are drawn.

I believe the commission may have underestimated the growth that is occurring in Craigieburn. For example, The Hume City Council Economic Update for September 2010 (Hume City Council, 2010a) details that 629 residential lots were released in the City of Hume for the June Quarter 2010, of these 629, a record 519 lots were released in Craigieburn. In addition, a significant portion of land, both on the north (proposed McEwen) side and south (proposed Calwell) side of Craigieburn Road has been brought into the





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Urban Growth Boundary. Recent projections have the population in Craigieburn reaching 62,000 in 2020 and 73,000 in 2031 (Hume City Council, 2006). With such large residential expansion in this area I would envisage that growth in this community may exceed the 3.5% for average divisional enrolment for the State or Territory that is prohibited within the three years and six months date of the completed redistribution.

I believe that the Commission has unnecessarily divided a *community of interest* by proposing to use Craigieburn Road as the electoral boundary. I believe the boundaries you have proposed do not give due consideration to the criteria provided in the Act, that being, "*community of interest within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests, means of communication and travel, physical features and area of the proposed division and the boundaries of the existing Divisions*". I will outline my argument in a twofold manner. The first will demonstrate that Craigieburn is one suburb, one community and that it therefore shares an indistinguishable *community of interest* that cannot and should not be divided. My second argument will then demonstrate that Craigieburn should be associated with suburbs it shares other *community of interest* tests with and I will show that these are suburbs to the south of Craigieburn.

Economic Interests

Some basic analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census data (Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2006) demonstrates key economic differences between suburbs that the Commission's proposal includes in McEwen that is, the northern side of Craigieburn and Seymour (Seymour being a major centre within the current seat of McEwen). I ask the





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Commission to consider how people living north of Craigieburn Road are linked with a common *community of interest* with people living 72 km north of their location in the town of Seymour, and not linked as a common *community of interest* with their fellow Craigieburnians on the south side of the main road – having regard to the criteria set out in the Act.

Economic indicators demonstrate that Craigieburn as a town is more similar to its neighbouring suburbs to the south such as Roxburgh Park, of which it shares a border with. For example, median household income (\$/weekly) is significantly higher in Craigieburn as opposed to Seymour, median rent is also significantly higher in Craigieburn than in Seymour (ABS, 2006).

Tenure type also demonstrates significant economic variance, for example, 59.5% of people living in Craigieburn have a home with a mortgage compared to only 25.7% in Seymour. In addition, only 11.3% of the population in Craigieburn identify as renting where as 34.2% of the population in Seymour identify as renting (ABS, 2006). These dramatic variations in economic interest clearly show that a common economic *community of interest* does not exist between Seymour and the north side of Craigieburn.





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Table 1 Economic Indicators (ABS, 2006)

Economic Indicator	Craigieburn	Roxburgh Park	Seymour
Median household income (\$/weekly)	\$1161	\$1084	\$699
Median family income (\$/weekly)	\$1194	\$1083	\$891
Median housing loan repayment (\$/monthly)	\$1400	\$1430	\$867
Median rent (\$/weekly)	\$210	\$225	\$136
House (under buy scheme)	59.5%	66.8%	25.7%
Rented	11.3%	12.5%	34.2%

Social Interests

Social interests and how the social fabric of a community is developed and maintained clearly demonstrates that the community of Craigieburn is one united *community of interest*. Key social indicators demonstrate the staggering social variations between Craigieburn and Seymour, a town the AEC has proposed to group some of Craigieburn with as a *community of interest*. Only 4.2% of the population in Craigieburn are aged over 65, where as 16.5% are aged over 65 in Seymour. 63.9% of the population in Craigieburn identify as a couple with children compared to 36.5% in Seymour. The average household size in Craigieburn is 3.4 people per residence compared to the smaller 2.4 per residence in Seymour (ABS, 2006). Other key social indicators are included in the table below. These variations





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highlight some key social differences in the composition of the Craigieburn and Seymour communities.

Table 2 Social Indicators (ABS, 2006)

Social Indicator	Craigieburn	Roxburgh Park	Seymour
% of Community aged over 65	4.2%	3.6%	16.5%
Marital Status			
- Married	57.3%	58.9%	43.1%
- Separated or divorced	9.0%	9.5%	14.5%
Number 1 Occupation	Clerical and Administrative Workers	Technicians and trades workers	Labourers
Main industry of Employment	Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Part Manufacturing	Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Part Manufacturing	Defence
Couple families with children	63.9%	64.9%	36.5%
Couple families without children	20.9%	18.3%	37.0%
Average household size	3.4	3.6	2.4

The Craigieburn Community Renewal Projects also demonstrates a social *community of interest* encapsulating Craigieburn as a whole.





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Craigieburn Community Renewal

In 2006, as part of the *A Fairer Victoria* initiative, the Victorian Government funded and initiated community renewal projects in communities that were identified as an area of social and economic disadvantage (Victorian Government, 2005). Craigieburn Community Renewal was one of these original sites. In 2009, this project was extended for an additional three years with a supplementary investment of \$630,000.

Craigieburn Community Renewal brings together local residents, government, organisations and businesses to plan, coordinate and deliver local responses to whole of community issues (Hume City Council, 2010). The rapid growth in development in the past ten years has resulted in the appearance and composition of the established neighbourhoods of Craigieburn contrasting with the newly completed residential estates. As such, Craigieburn Community Renewal focuses on the pre 1980's areas of Craigieburn and has a designated catchment area that is outlined in Appendix 1.

Craigieburn Community Renewal is guided by five working groups made up of volunteer residents from the local community. The five Working Groups are Education, Employment and Training, Identity and Image, Community Infrastructure, Access and Mobility and Community Wellbeing. Each of these working groups has community developed priorities and subsequently community developed outcomes that they wish to achieve. As the State Member of Parliament representing Craigieburn, I have had the pleasure of being the Chair of the Strategic Partnership Group of the Craigieburn Community Renewal Project and I have seen first hand members of this community come together to develop local responses to local issues.





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Craigieburn Community Renewal has completed many Craigieburn community projects including an Education Expo and Booklet that outlines all pre school and school aged educational providers in the 3064 postcode, A Craigieburn Community Christmas Tree (in its third consecutive year and involves carols and a tree lighting event with community groups and members), a Community Safety Expo bringing together Craigieburn emergency services to educate the community and the instillation of five new bus shelters in Craigieburn. Some of the projects that are currently being worked on by the Craigieburn Community Renewal volunteers include the development of a Craigieburn Community Garden and a Craigieburn Skate and BMX Expo.

The proposed boundaries as outlined in the AEC's Augmented Report divides the Craigieburn Community Renewal Catchment Area in half (Appendix 1). I am of the belief that this electoral separation would only work to undermine the work that this project has completed in uniting Craigieburn and allowing the community to come together and articulate both local issues and solutions. The community priorities as outlined in the Community Local Action Plan (Appendix 2) are issues concerning the entire Craigieburn community that residents have identified through community meetings and consultations. In articulating these issues and concerns residents of Craigieburn have demonstrated a clear and united *community of interest* centred on Craigieburn as a whole.

One town, one hub

In Craigieburn, the shopping centre is the hub of the community, the areas of Craigieburn that are divided by the main road and therefore split between McEwen and Calwell include the only post office in Craigieburn and the only





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supermarket in Craigieburn on one side, and the one Craigieburn Police Station and the Craigieburn Leisure Centre. The shared facilities and therefore shared experiences centre on a common *community of interest*.

Regional Interests

Sporting Competitions

Like many other communities, the football club plays a significant role in the identity of the community and serves as a social hub. The Craigieburn Football Club competes in the Essendon and District Football League (EDFL), other football teams that are affiliated with the EDFL are Aberfeldie, Airport West, Avondale Heights, Doutta Stars, East Keilor, Glenroy, Greenvale, Hadfield, Jacana, Keilor, Keilor Park, Maribyrnong Park, Moonee Valley, Northern Saints, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Roxburgh Park, Strathmore, Sydenham Hillside, Taylors Lakes, Tullamarine, West Coburg and Westmeadows. I ask that the commission considers that all of these football teams are located geographically south of Craigieburn and that the Craigieburn Football Club itself is physically located on the north side of the main road and therefore the proposed McEwen side of Craigieburn. If the redistribution proceeds as it is currently outlined then the Craigieburn Football Club would not play against any football teams from the same Federal Electorate. Playing sport against each other demonstrates a key regional *community of interest* between these communities mentioned.

I work with many community groups that service the suburb of Craigieburn, one could only imagine their difficulty if they wished to seek federal representation at an event or are seeking guidance regarding a regional issue facing the Craigieburn community. This community does not have groups that





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serve and are comprised of members drawn from separate ends of the town with a division along the main road as the commission has proposed. These community groups make up the social fabric of this community and should be able to easily have their regional issues addressed by a Federal Member of Parliament that represents the one Craigieburn *community of interest*.

Means of communication and travel

Means of communication clearly demonstrate that one *community of interest* exists centred around the entire Craigieburn community and if anything suburbs south of Craigieburn, such as Roxburgh Park. A key means of communication are the local newspapers which are widely read. The two major local papers that are distributed in Craigieburn are the Hume Leader and the Hume Weekly. Both of these newspapers feature stories relating to Craigieburn but also neighbouring suburbs to the south of the town, for example, Roxburgh Park, Meadow Heights, Greenvale and Broadmeadows. No local newspapers, and therefore a common means of communication exists that can communicate between the north side of Craigieburn proposed for McEwen and the other suburbs proposed for McEwen. The ability to communicate community achievements and news via local newspapers should be taken into account when establishing a *community of interest* based on communication. This example demonstrates that no such community of interest exists with suburbs included in the proposed Federal seat of McEwen.

Means of travel demonstrate that there is a *community of interest* that includes all of Craigieburn and the suburbs geographically to the south of Craigieburn. This is evident when one analyses the buses and their routes that currently exist in Craigieburn.





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Table 3 Bus Routes servicing Craigieburn

Bus Route	Travel
528	Craigieburn to Craigieburn South
529	Craigieburn to Craigieburn West
532	Broadmeadows to Craigieburn
533	Craigieburn to Craigieburn North
535	Craigieburn to Craigieburn West via Aitken Bvd
544	Broadmeadows to Craigieburn via Roxburgh Park

As this table demonstrates travel in Craigieburn is centred on travelling between the entire suburb of Craigieburn, both north to south of Craigieburn and south to west of Craigieburn. Travel is also centred on travelling from Craigieburn south to other geographically close suburbs such as Roxburgh Park and Broadmeadows. A resident living in the proposed McEwen part of Craigieburn can not catch a bus to other suburbs that are proposed to be in McEwen.

In addition, an analysis of the trains in Craigieburn further demonstrates a clear *community of interest* and a regional focus of linking Craigieburn with metropolitan Melbourne. The Craigieburn train services were upgraded to an electrified service in 2007. This means that over 60 services depart from the Craigieburn station heading south to Roxburgh Park station and then onto Metropolitan Melbourne each day.

Another important point that demonstrates a clear *community of interest* is the percentage of people that live in Craigieburn and travel south into





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metropolitan Melbourne for work. This is significantly higher than the numbers that travel north into the McEwen area.

Physical features and area of the proposed division

As stated, the area proposed by the redistribution is separating Craigieburn into two by Craigieburn Road; this is not a strong geographical boundary with community facilities, schools and the local shopping centre servicing and connecting both sides of the road.

The Melbourne Airport acts as large physical feature that I believe the commission have failed to utilise in their redistribution. The Airport provides both a real and implied physical barrier between the area to its east and the area to its west. However, the commission have ignored this and united these two separated communities by bringing parts of Keilor, Keilor North, Keilor Downs, Taylors Lakes and Sydenham (represented by Brimbank Council) into Calwell, while removing parts of Craigieburn (represented by Hume City Council).

The area proposed by the commission to make up McEwen would also result in a difficult mix of urban areas connected to metropolitan Melbourne (north side of Craigieburn) linked together with regional areas (Seymour, Broadford etc).

Boundaries of the existing Divisions

Hume City Council is the local government area that overlaps the entire state electorate of Yuroke and incorporates many similar communities including





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Broadmeadows, Dallas, Coolaroo, Roxburgh Park, Sunbury, Greenvale, Gladstone Park, and all of Craigieburn. Hume City Council and its local government boundaries are considered an effective divide between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. This existing municipal boundary should be considered when looking at the boundaries of existing divisions. As stated, a part of Hume City Council, the north side of Craigieburn, has been removed from Calwell and placed in McEwen, while suburbs represented by Brimbank Council, Keilor North, Keilor and Taylors Lakes have been included in Calwell.

In my position as the State Member of Parliament for Yuroke, I see first hand the confusion, frustration and aggravation that dividing a community into separate electoral boundaries can have, with Roxburgh Park in my electorate split between my State seat of Yuroke and the State seat of Broadmeadows. I have seen first hand on Election Day, the absolute chaos, confusion and anger as individuals believe they are attending their local polling place only to discover that a majority of them are voting absentee. This anger is often directed at the voting officials.

One could only imagine this chaos and confusion being multiplied on a Federal Election Day, where by residents are divided by the main road. For example, at the last Federal Election the Craigieburn Leisure Centre had over 4000 votes cast there. I would estimate that if these new boundaries are adopted approximately half or 2000 of these voters who present at this booth (the most popular booth in Craigieburn due to its central and convenient location) would be required to vote absentee. This would present a massive logistical challenge for AEC staff working at the booth.





Liz Beattie MP

State Member for Yuroke

Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs

In summary, I thank the augmented Electoral Commission for the opportunity to contribute to their proposed redistribution boundaries. I implore the commission to strongly reconsider their decision in light of the evidence presented above and unite all of Craigieburn – either through reinstating the proposed Federal Electorate of Burke or through returning it together with other similar suburbs which with it shares a *community of interest* with, such as suburbs found in Calwell.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz Beattie".

Liz Beattie MLA

State Member for Yuroke

Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Premier on Multicultural and Veterans Affairs





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State Member for Yuroke

Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs

Reference List

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006) 2006 Census Tables. Cat. No. 2068.0.

Hume City Council (2006) Hume City Council Small Area Population Projection 2030.

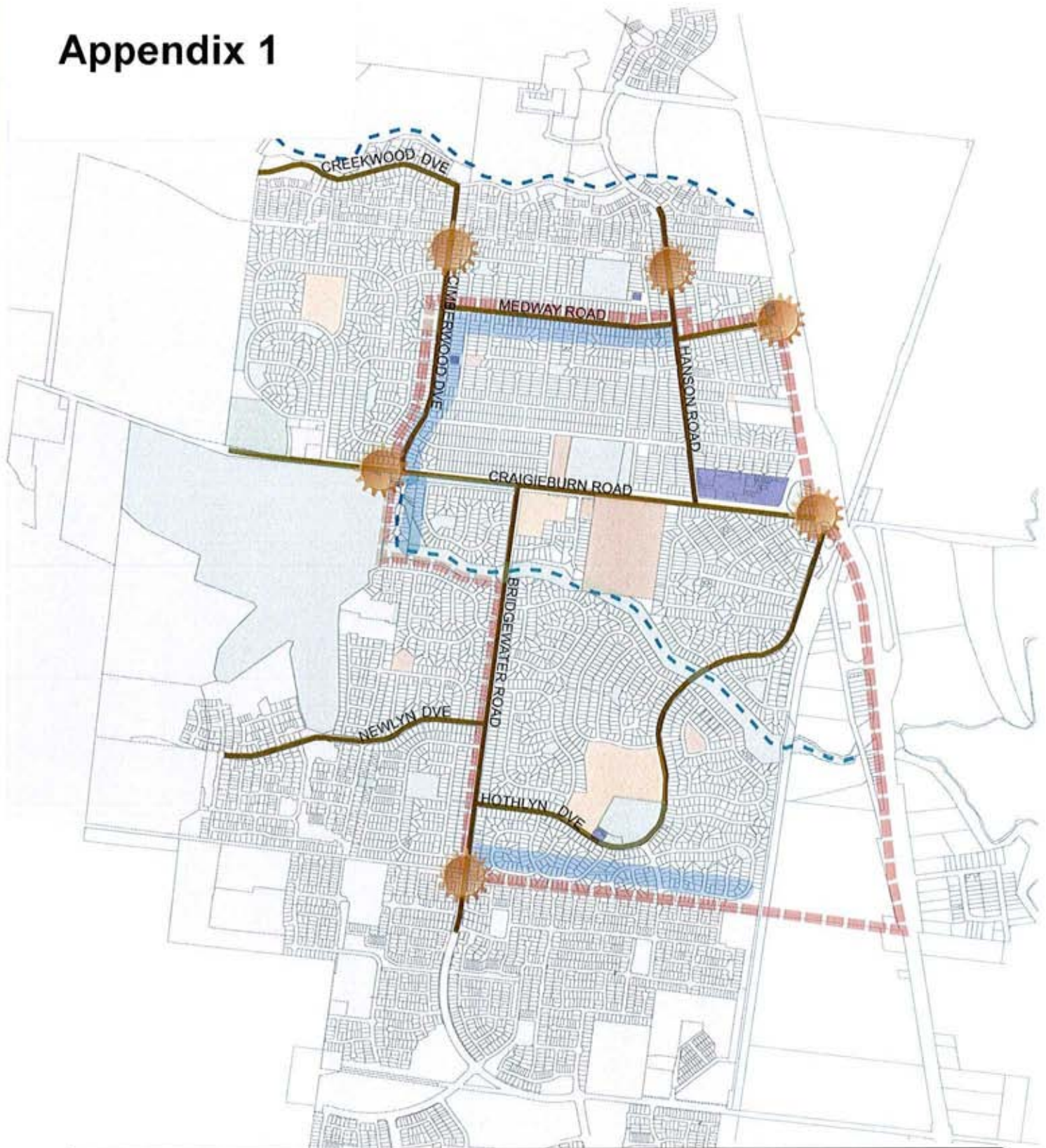
Hume City Council (2010). Craigieburn Community Renewal Revised Local Action Plan, February 2010.

Hume City Council (2010a). Economic Update, Issue 3, September 2010.

Victorian Government (2005) A Fairer Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet 2005.



Appendix 1



LEGEND



Gateway Sites



Major
Thoroughfares



Interface Areas



Craigeiburn Community
Renewal Indicative Site Area



Pathways



Open Space



Activity Centres



Education



N

Community Facilities /
Services

Comprehensive
Development Zone



PREPARED BY THE
STRATEGIC PLANNING DEPARTMENT
JANUARY 2008



Cr Geoff Porter
MAYOR
HUME CITY COUNCIL

Hume City Council is excited to build a progressive, sustainable and vibrant city in partnership with our community. As part of the Craigieburn Learning Cluster we have worked with the people of Craigieburn to identify and put plans in place to address the community's vision for progressing environmental sustainability and education needs. The outcome of this process in 2011 is a result of its vision and achievements and is a direct result to the community's vision for the future.



Liz Beattie MP
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
2008-2010

The Victorian Government is committed to creating strong communities that are active and sustainable. The extension to the Craigieburn Learning Cluster is a major step in this direction and will provide a unique opportunity to work in partnership with government and community organisations to make a real difference in Craigieburn. I would like to thank current volunteers and also encourage more people to participate in the study and share their vision of a better future for Craigieburn.



Carol Whitehead
CHAIR OF THE CRAIGIEBURN LEARNING CLUSTER

As a result of dedicated work from local business, the many groups and organisations of the Craigieburn Learning Cluster have made it the community's vision for the future. Learning Cluster provides a unique opportunity to work in partnership with government and community organisations to make a real difference in Craigieburn. I would like to thank current volunteers and also encourage more people to participate in the study and share their vision of a better future for Craigieburn.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

EDUCATION EXPO AND BOUTIQUE

The Craigieburn Learning Cluster has been successful in securing a unique opportunity to work in partnership with government and community organisations to make a real difference in Craigieburn.

ENGLISH CLASSES AT SELESTON CLUB POOL

The Craigieburn Learning Cluster has been successful in securing a unique opportunity to work in partnership with government and community organisations to make a real difference in Craigieburn.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

The Craigieburn Learning Cluster has been successful in securing a unique opportunity to work in partnership with government and community organisations to make a real difference in Craigieburn.

GRAVITY RIDEZ

The Craigieburn Learning Cluster has been successful in securing a unique opportunity to work in partnership with government and community organisations to make a real difference in Craigieburn.

FUNDING FOR A MEN'S SHED

The Craigieburn Learning Cluster has been successful in securing a unique opportunity to work in partnership with government and community organisations to make a real difference in Craigieburn.

NEW BUS SHED

The Craigieburn Learning Cluster has been successful in securing a unique opportunity to work in partnership with government and community organisations to make a real difference in Craigieburn.

IMPROVEMENTS FOR CYCLISTS

The Craigieburn Learning Cluster has been successful in securing a unique opportunity to work in partnership with government and community organisations to make a real difference in Craigieburn.

CURRENT PROJECTS

CRAIGIEBURN LEARNING CLUSTER

Hume City Council will incorporate the Craigieburn Learning Cluster in 2010 to facilitate greater cooperation between learning institutions in Craigieburn.

EMPLOYMENT MENTORING PROGRAM

Planning to provide assistance and mentoring to help Craigieburn residents achieve their employment and career goals is underway.

GRAVITY TRAILER

A volunteer-run Gravity Trailer is currently operating in Craigieburn.

BEAR PROJECT

In 2010, Council will respond to the findings of the Business Equilibrium and Resilience (BER) Project to make the profile of local businesses in Craigieburn.

SYDNEY ROAD GATEWAY PROJECT

Craigieburn's appearance along Sydney Road will receive a facelift in 2010, including new fencing and landscaping along Hamilton Street.

FRIENDS OF AITKEN CREEK

The Friends of Aitken Creek will be incorporated to facilitate greater community participation in improvements to the Aitken Creek Reserve.

ACTIVE CRAIGIEBURN

Council commenced the Active Craigieburn initiative in 2009, focusing on making exercise more accessible to the residents of Craigieburn.

SKATE AND BIKES EXPO

A demonstration and participation day is planned to be held in Craigieburn to encourage young people to participate.

COMMUNITY SHUTTLE SERVICE

Planning for a Community Shuttle Service targeting residents who have difficulty accessing transport is at an advanced stage.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Planning has commenced for a community garden in Craigieburn, where people of all ages can learn about gardening, exercise and meet new friends.

"I've made lots of new friends and I really feel part of the community."



"It's exciting to see things changing in Craigieburn and it feels great to contribute."



MAKE IT HAPPEN GETTING INVOLVED

There are many ways to get involved in the Craigieburn Learning Cluster. You can join the cluster and help to make a real difference in Craigieburn. You can also help to make a real difference in Craigieburn by joining the cluster and helping to make a real difference in Craigieburn.

For more information, please contact the Craigieburn Learning Cluster. You can also help to make a real difference in Craigieburn by joining the cluster and helping to make a real difference in Craigieburn.

HumeLink

Hume City Council's multilingual telephone information service.

General enquiries: Telephone 0255 2200

For more information, please contact the Craigieburn Learning Cluster.

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HUME CITY COUNCIL AND THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT CRAIGIEBURN COMMUNITY RENEWAL REVISED LOCAL ACTION PLAN

www.hume.vic.gov.au



Liz Beattie MP

State Member for Yuroke

Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs

Appendix 3

A Sample of Craigieburn Community Groups that demonstrate a clear *community of interest* for the entire suburb of Craigieburn as they serve and draw their members from the entire town:

The Craigieburn Football Club
The Craigieburn Junior Football Club
The Craigieburn Cricket Club
The Craigieburn Tennis Club
The Craigieburn Fire Brigade
The Craigieburn State Emergency Service
The Craigieburn Community Emergency Response Team
The Craigieburn Residents Association
The Craigieburn Diabetes Support Group
The Craigieburn Bowling Club
The Craigieburn Golf Club
The Craigieburn Art Group
The Craigieburn Basketball Association
The Craigieburn Netball Association
The Craigieburn Darts Club
The Craigieburn 1st Scout Group.
The Craigieburn Community Toy Library
The Craigieburn Ladies Badminton Club
The Craigieburn Historical Interest Group
Craigieburn Little Athletics
The Craigieburn Education and Community Centre

