



Comment on objections 23

Maroondah Business Group

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Maroondah Business Group (“MBG”) is grateful for the opportunity to make comments on objections to the proposed redistribution of Victoria into electoral divisions.

MBG represents the interests of our local business members from Croydon, Croydon Hills, Croydon North, Croydon South, Ringwood, Ringwood North, Warranwood, Ringwood East, Park Orchards and Heathmont. More detail on the purpose and background of the MBG, and our interest in the electoral boundaries as they relate to our area, are outlined in more detail in our previous Comment on Suggestions (CS26).

1. Support for proposed electoral boundaries

Firstly, we want to congratulate the Redistribution Committee on the proposed electoral divisions, as they relate to Maroondah and surrounding areas.

In particular, we want to acknowledge the Redistribution Committee’s work in ensuring that the communities of interest which cluster around Ringwood and Croydon are cohesively united within a single electorate.

Indeed, we wholeheartedly agree with the following conclusion from the Redistribution Committee (at paragraph 193) that the proposed boundaries are:

“... more suitable for communities of interest in both the Maroondah City Council and Whitehorse City Council”.

For the reasons outlined in our earlier submission (CS26) we strongly believe that the Redistribution Committee has correctly concluded that Ringwood, as a Metropolitan Activity Centre, is optimally situated within the same electorate as Ringwood North, Ringwood East, Warranwood and Heathmont which all cluster around it; and similarly that Croydon, as a Major Activity Centre, is optimally situated within the same electorate as the communities of Croydon North, Croydon Hills and Croydon South which cluster around it.

The decision of the Redistribution Committee to ensure that these communities are united also ensure that the entire municipality of Maroondah is contained within a single federal electorate. This is a significant outcome from a communities of interest perspective.

2. Uniting communities of interest

Ensuring that the communities within the Maroondah area are not split or significantly dislocated is a vitally important outcome of the Redistribution Committee’s proposed electoral divisions. We again congratulate the Redistribution Committee on achieving such a result.

Accordingly, we are writing to voice our strong opposition to Objections OB60 and OB63, which ignore the Redistribution Committee's proposal as it relates to our local community, and which seek to drastically alter the Deakin electorate and split communities of interest throughout the Maroondah area.

Indeed, it appears that Objections OB60 and OB63 simply seek to re-litigate their earlier arguments (of which we specifically objected to in CS26) that would see Maroondah drastically split, so that no cohesive community of interest is maintained throughout the entire area.

Of significant concern to MBG is the fact that OB60 and OB63 both advocate for a Deakin electorate that would dislocate the communities of interest in each of the major centres in Maroondah, being Ringwood and Croydon.

We are pleased that the Redistribution Committee did not accept the arguments put forward in OB60 and OB63 when virtually identical arguments were originally advanced in Public Suggestions S70 and S100. We therefore reiterate our opposition to Objections OB60 and OB63.

We again thank the Redistribution Committee for proposed redistribution of Victoria into electoral divisions and also thank you for considering these further comments.



Chair

Maroondah Business Group