



# Comment on objections 16

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I am writing to comment on the objection by Zionism Victoria (ZV).

I am an active member of the Jewish community, and a former councillor and Deputy Mayor of the City of Glen Eira.

Unfortunately, it appears that officers of the organisation are using their positions in the community for partisan political purposes, and there is no evidence to suggest that the objection reflects the views of ZV's constituents (such as they are), or the wider Jewish community.

While ZV's objection gives the impression that it is the roof body of the Jewish community, that is not the case. As this article in the April 23 *Australian Jewish News* <https://ajn.timesofisrael.com/zionism-victoria-denies-its-playing-politics/> makes clear, ZV represents the "community in respect of Israel matters" only.

It is the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV), which, as the article states, "is traditionally held to be the community's elected, representative roof body, particularly on political matters," and it is important to note that, as also noted in the *Australian Jewish News* article, the JCCV in fact "does not have a particular preference as to the proposed redistributions."

Contrary to the assertions in the ZV objection, there is already a significant Jewish community in the current electorate of Higgins, with synagogues and other Jewish community facilities such as schools in areas such as Malvern, Armadale, Toorak, South Yarra and Carnegie.

It should also be noted that there is significant Jewish population and infrastructure in the electorate of Goldstein, which in fact currently has the third largest Jewish community of any electorate in Australia, and I doubt that anyone would argue that having the community split between Macnamara and Goldstein has impinged its ability to seek political action in relation to its interests.

Under the proposed redistribution, as noted in the ZV objection, there would be significant Jewish communities in Macnamara and Higgins, as well as Goldstein, and it could equally be argued that having a more significant presence across three electorates could enhance the Jewish community's ability to seek political action in relation to its interests.

I also believe that municipal councils are communities of interest. Hotham Street constitutes much of the boundary between the cities of Glen Eira and Port Phillip.

While the municipalities are adjacent, they are very different in many ways, including demographically and culturally.

In fact, Port Phillip Council appears to believe that its interests do not coincide with those of Glen Eira. Glen Eira and Port Phillip had been members of the Inner South Metropolitan Mayoral Forum (ISMMF), together with other neighbouring councils, for some years. However, at its May 20 meeting last year, the City of Port Phillip resolved not to renew its membership of the ISMMF, because, in part, “the project priorities of ISMMF often do not align with those of CoPP.”

It is worth noting that, in the same item, the Council resolved to renew its membership of several other organisations, including the Inner Melbourne Action Plan and the Inner Metropolitan Partnerships.

Thank you for considering my comment.