



Comment on objections 25

Heatherdale Community
Action Group

2 pages

29 April 2021

To whom it may concern

Victorian federal redistribution – Comments on objections

The Heatherdale Community Action Group (**HCAG**) writes to provide comments on objections raised regarding the proposed redistribution of federal electorate boundaries in Victoria.

HCAG was first established in 2003 to represent the interests of residents surrounding Heatherdale Rd, prompted by a range of negative environmental issues caused by a local recycling facility. Since that time HCAG has grown significantly and broadened our remit to represent the broad interests of the Mitcham and Ringwood community surrounding Heatherdale Rd, where we consult with all levels of government on matters of amenity and environment.

The purpose of this submission is to provide our views on the proposed redistribution of boundaries for our local area given a number of objections refer specifically to Mitcham (including OB61, OB60 and OB37).

Most importantly, **we would like to state that we support the Redistribution Committee's proposed boundaries**, including your choice of Whitehorse Rd as the new boundary between Menzies and Deakin.

We understand the numerical constraints faced by the Redistribution Committee and support the proposed boundaries for our local area, which offers a neat solution to these constraints.

There is no doubt that while Mitcham is a local centre (primarily due to Mitcham Railway Station), Whitehorse Rd is a significant and recognisable boundary that offers a suitable boundary between the federal electorates of Deakin and Menzies.

In fact, there are important and distinct differences between the northern and southern parts of Mitcham, separated by Whitehorse Rd.

Mitcham residents north of Whitehorse Rd do significantly orient towards Doncaster East and Donvale via Mitcham and Springvale Roads. This is because Mitcham residents north of Whitehorse Rd have a closer proximity to large shopping and recreational precincts, including those on Doncaster Rd and Tunstall Square Shopping Centre. The areas of Mitcham abutting Yarran Dheran also share recreational and open space with residents of Donvale (in the Menzies electorate), through Hillcrest Reserve.

Meanwhile, Mitcham residents south of Whitehorse Rd orient strongly towards Vermont and Forest Hill via Mitcham and Rooks Roads (including towards Brentford Square Shopping Centre). This includes use of public facilities and open space through the Heatherdale Creek Parklands.

Accordingly, we are satisfied with the Redistribution Committee's proposed boundaries, and would therefore encourage you to maintain these boundaries in your final determination.

Best wishes

Philip Daw

President

Heatherdale Community Action Group Inc

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Mitcham VIC 3132