



Objection 5

Jesse Mansfield

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I am writing to express my objection to the redistribution of Caulfield and the Northern portion of Elsternwick to Higgins, which in my view ignores natural boundaries, unnecessarily divides Melbourne's Jewish community, and results in an electorate with very limited transport links.

1. Dandenong road is a natural point of demarcation, there are very minimal crossing opportunities for people on foot and given the volume of traffic it carries even crossing in a vehicle can be a dicey prospect at peak times. As such, there is a very limited connection between the communities on either side of the road, as illustrated by Caulfield North having a Jewish population of 41%, compared to only 6% in Malvern and Armadale.
2. This brings me to my next point: the Jewish heartland of Melbourne is based in Caulfield and adjacent suburbs to its south. It is bad enough that the significant Jewish community in Caulfield South (33% Jewish) is in the Goldstein electorate and not unified with Caulfield (40%) proper, let alone deciding to also separate the population in Ripponlea (15%) and parts of St Kilda East (25%). As such I believe the proposed redistribution would see communities of interest being further divided rather than unified.
3. Finally, as a local, I can not stress how absurd the idea of having Ashburton and Elsternwick being in the same electorate is. To get to Ashburton I would need to spend about an hour taking the Sandringham line to Richmond station, before swapping to the Lilydale line and taking that to Camberwell station, before swapping over to the Alamein line and following that to Ashburton station. Alternatively, I could spend an hour taking a bus from Elsternwick station to Prahran, a tram from Prahran to Malvern, before swapping to a bus from Malvern to Ashburton. Or my final option of driving and darting around Elsternwick, Caulfield, and Malvern East for a minimum of 30 minutes to get to Ashburton assuming both Dandenong Road and Glen Eira road aren't experiencing heavy traffic.

In conclusion, I do not believe these boundaries accurately reflect the local communities, infrastructure connections, nor geography of the area, and so would advise that northern Elsternwick and Caulfield remain in the electorate of Macnamara.

Sincerely, Jesse Mansfield