



Objection 312

Vincent Liu

3 pages

SUBMISSION to the AEC

Dear committee,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the AEC draft boundaries.

I am the Chairman of the Chinese Community Society of Victoria (CCSV), and a founding member of the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse (ABAW). Both are centred around Box Hill and have deep connections to the local community. CCSV has operated in Victoria for 120 years.

It is my belief that the AEC has attempted under these draft boundaries to unite the Chinese-Australian community by placing Box Hill in one electorate. While I appreciate the attention our community has received, I believe it has been misguided.

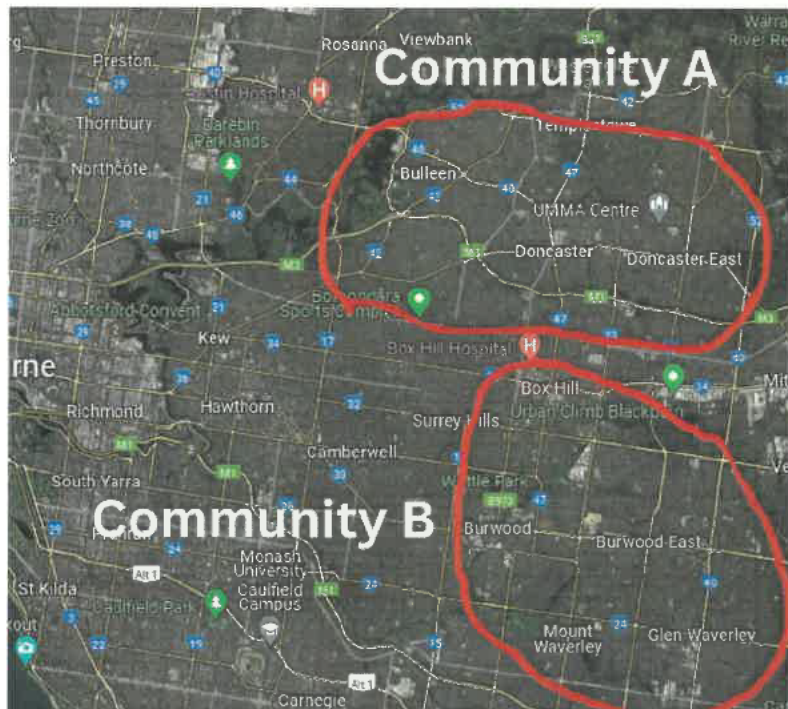
While the census data may show one large Chinese-Australian community, spreading from Balwyn to Doncaster to Box Hill and to Glen Waverley, the reality is far more complex. This reality is not reflected in the current AEC draft.

There are in fact two broadly distinct Chinese diaspora communities in Eastern Melbourne linked by shopping, transport and demography.

Shopping

Community A to the north is oriented East-West, from Balwyn and Balwyn North, and to an extent Deepdene, across to Doncaster and Doncaster East and Box Hill North. This then congregates on Doncaster Shoppingtown.

Community B to the south is oriented North-South, from Box Hill, to Burwood, through to Glen Waverley. This congregates on the Glen and Box Hill central.



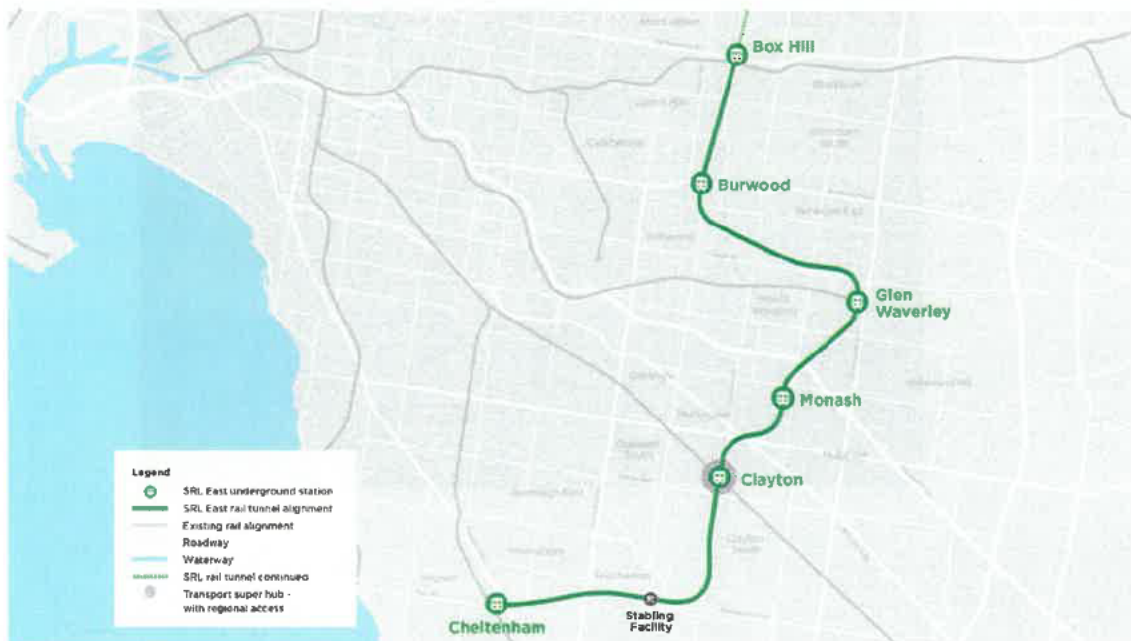
Transport

East-West lines of transport (Balwyn to Doncaster):

- Balwyn North is connected to Doncaster via Doncaster Rd, Bulleen Rd, and the Eastern Freeway.
 - The Eastern Freeway is especially important, as Balwyn North, Bulleen, and Doncaster form a community of interest around the construction of the North-East link, which is a major issue for the Chinese communities in these areas.
- Doncaster is connected to Doncaster East via the Eastern Freeway, Doncaster Rd, George St, and King St.
- Balwyn is connected to Box Hill North via Whitehorse Rd and Balwyn Rd.
 - I strongly believe census data in Balwyn would show a strong drop off in the Chinese-Australian population below Whitehorse Rd, to illustrate the importance of this barrier to the community in Balwyn.

North-South Lines of transport (Box Hill to Burwood and Glen Waverley):

- Station street, Middleborough Rd, Blackburn Rd, Springvale Rd, Huntingdale Rd, Stephenson's Rd.
- The future Suburban Rail Loop
 - The state government has done a huge amount of research and clearly determined a strong community link exists between Box Hill, Burwood, and Glen Waverley. The SRL is a huge project, which brings enormous changes to zoning, activity centres, and transport patterns, it forms a clear community of interest.
- The Suburban Rail Loop Precinct Locations Assessment report clearly lays out the strength of these North-South transport connections (primarily through the seat of Chisholm).
 - [p.20]: "Burwood has quality integrated transport connections [to Glen Waverley and to Box Hill], including notably, four bus routes".



A map of the SRL East, from the State Govt., showing communities deemed connected.

Demography

There are also clear demographic differences between the Balwyn/Doncaster Chinese community, and the Box Hill, Burwood, Glen Waverley Chinese community.

The Chinese-Australian community of Balwyn and Doncaster is far more established than similar communities in Box Hill, Burwood, and to a lesser extent Glen Waverley. This is reflected in several statistics such as:

- Median Age (Doncaster = 40, Doncaster East = 41, Balwyn = 43, Balwyn North = 42) vs (Box Hill = 34, Burwood = 34, Glen Waverly = 40).
- % Who drive a car to work: (Doncaster = 45.3%, Doncaster East = 46.3%, Balwyn = 38.8%, Balwyn North = 42%) vs (Box Hill = 36.3%, Burwood = 24.9%, Glen Waverly, 44.5%)
- % Separate houses: (Doncaster = 53.1%, Doncaster East = 63.1%, Balwyn = 58.5%, Balwyn North = 83%) vs (Box Hill = 37.2%, Burwood = 34.5%, Glen Waverly = 79.1%)
- % Homes owned outright: (Doncaster = 37.5%, Doncaster East = 41.4%, Balwyn = 42.2%, Balwyn North = 45.8%) vs (Box Hill = 24.1%, Burwood = 26.5%, Glen Waverly = 41.0%)

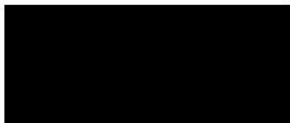
Conclusion

There are two distinct Chinese-Australian communities in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, divided by shopping, transport, and demography.

My proposed solution to this problem would be for the AEC to unite Balwyn North and Balwyn to Menzies, and to return all of Whitehorse to Chisholm, as it was in the most previous redistribution before 2019.

I believe you will find many in the Chinese community will share my thoughts on the issue, and I appreciate your consideration of my thoughts.

Yours sincerely,



Vincent Liu

Chairman

Chinese Community Society of Victoria