



Objection 333

Rod Faulkner

2 pages



Dear members of the committee,

Regarding the Victorian Redistribution

I am writing on behalf of the community of Park Orchards, which is frustrated, confused, and has been completely blindsided by the decision of the committee to place Park Orchards in the Division of Deakin.

Since Menzies was created as an electorate, Park Orchards has been included within it. This was because Park Orchards has a clear connection with Manningham City Council and with the green wedge, which Menzies has become synonymous with.

I am confused as to what has changed about Park Orchards and the surrounding area that has made the AEC decide that now is the time to place the suburb in a different electorate. I know some previous submissions have suggested Park Orchards should go to Deakin as Park Orchards is closer to the Ringwood shops than the Doncaster shops, but this has been the case for decades. I am not sure why it is only now that the AEC has decided to act upon these suggestions.

Besides that, communities don't as a rule orient themselves towards the closest activity centre. I feel confident enough to say that most members of our community have a stronger connection to Doncaster, even if it's a couple minutes further away than Ringwood. Doncaster is after all on the way to work from Park Orchards, you don't have to cross a major highway to get there, and people move east-west in this part of the world. But beyond all that, the most annoying and disruptive thing the AEC has done in their proposal is to split the green wedge. I know this point is overdone, but the green wedge, the "Lungs of Melbourne" has unique interests and is constantly under attack by forces that wish to turn us into dense suburbs like the rest of Melbourne. Our community requires common representation to ensure our voices are heard and our community character is respected. The green wedge has common interests, it requires common representation. When we lose common representation, and our voices are split between several federal members, we lose our right to be heard.

It was frustrating enough when Warranwood was removed from Menzies and placed into Deakin, but placing Park Orchards into Deakin as well is madness. It didn't make sense in previous decades of redistributions, and nothing suggests anything is



different now. Deakin is a suburban electorate with heavy industry, built on old antimony mines, and it has no connection whatsoever to the green wedge.

So, I implore the committee to walk back their decision to break up the green wedge. While they are at it, I suggest they also walk back their earlier decision to place Warranwood in Deakin. It is also a green wedge suburb, at least for now, and it is completely isolated from the rest of the green wedge within Deakin.

Kind Regards

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www.parkorchardsfc.com.au

Go Sharks

