



Comment on objections 14

Rose Iser

5 pages

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Victorian Redistribution comments on objections uploaded from the AEC website.

Name: Rose Iser

Organisation:

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Additional information: Please find my comment attached.

Comment on Objections, Victorian Federal Redistribution 2018

To the Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria, Australian Electoral Commission,

All of the country referred to in this comment is the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people and I wish to acknowledge them as Traditional Owners.

I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on objections to the Victorian federal redistribution. I wish to comment on one element of **Objection 306 from The Australian Greens Victoria (AGV)**.

The AGV present two possible proposals for the retention of Flemington in the federal seat of Melbourne. The second of these, Proposal 2, suggests using Mt Alexander Rd as a boundary to retain Flemington within the federal seat of Melbourne, but not the smaller subsidiary suburb of Flemington known as Travancore.

My comment is directed at Proposal 2 as demonstrating a misunderstanding of the suburb Travancore. Travancore is a tiny suburb that considers itself part of, and has a community of interest with, Flemington and Kensington, not Ascot Vale.

The AGV's proposal does not give due regards to the requirement under paragraph 66(3)(b) of the Electoral Act to give due consideration to:

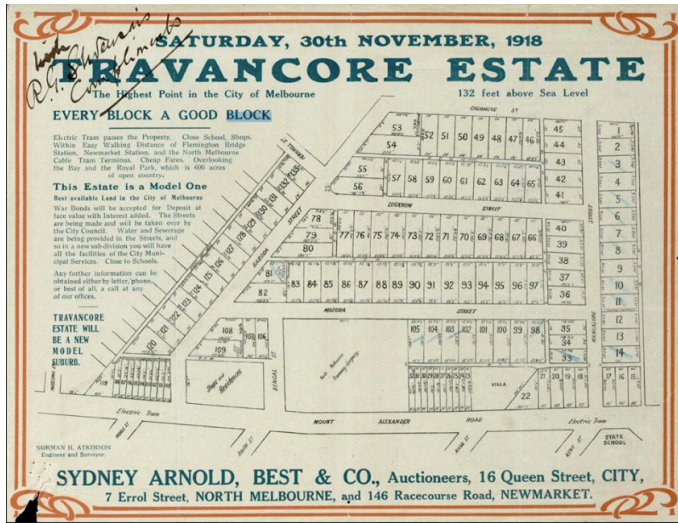
- i. community of interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests,
- ii. means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral division, and
- iv. the physical features and area of the proposed electoral division.

In summary:

- Travancore is located on part of Flemington Hill and is historically part of the suburb of Flemington.
- Travancore shares social, regional and economic interests with Flemington and Kensington.
- Travancore is a tiny suburb in terms of population (1100 voters) and locating it by itself within Maribyrnong would isolate it from its community of interest in Flemington and Kensington.
- Retaining 1100 Travancore voters in Melbourne with Flemington does not affect Melbourne's capacity to meet population requirements.
- CityLink is a more prominent boundary than Mt Alexander Rd, or Racecourse Rd. A subtler northern boundary of the electorate using the suburb boundary of Flemington and Travancore would retain communities of interest.
- The postcode of Travancore is determined by Australia Post's designation, not by the long-standing community of interest of Flemington/Travancore/Kensington.

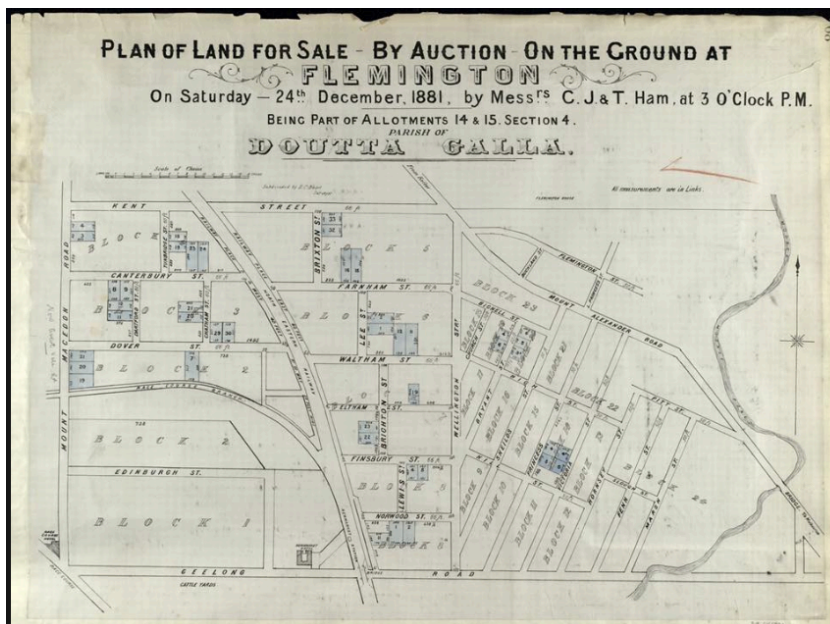
Travancore is part of the suburb of Flemington

Travancore is a small subsidiary component of Flemington comprising land that was sold 100 years ago in 1918 and 1924 as 'the Travancore Estate' on Flemington Hill.



This part of Flemington Hill had been the estate of a large mansion, known as *Flemington House*, owned by Hugh Glass, then by Henry Madden – who named the estate 'Travancore' before progressively selling the land.

The extension of Flemington across Mt Alexander Rd to encompass the land of the estate can be seen in the 1881 sale of land. Flemington Street leads to *Flemington House* and its surrounding estate.



Since its inception, the federal seat of Melbourne has encompassed Flemington – including the Travancore estate and precinct.

The Flemington Primary School, Flemington Street and the northern part of 'Flemington Hill' are located on the Travancore estate land.

The area was given the formal title of 'Travancore' as a suburb in an acknowledgement of its historical connection to the estate that was home to Flemington's finest mansion.

Today, Travancore is described in the Victorian Heritage Database as "situated on Flemington Hill in a wedge of land bounded by the Moonee Ponds Creek, Mt Alexander Road and Baroda Street. The small suburb comprises just 7 streets, the longest being the serpentine Mooltan Street. All have names associated with India and most have rear laneways."

Travancore shares social, regional and economic interests with Flemington and Kensington

For all of the reasons stated in my original objection, Travancore shares social, regional and economic interests with similar inner city suburbs including Kensington, Carlton and Parkville. It does not have a community of interest with Moonee Ponds, Essendon, Strathmore or Keilor.

I note that approximately 40 people from Flemington and Travancore submitted objections to the proposal to remove Flemington and Travancore from Melbourne. The Melbourne and Maribyrnong boundary received the most objections after the more politically contentious Cox and Wannon boundary change.

People objecting to the Melbourne and Maribyrnong boundary have not done so in response to political imperatives, nor in response to a local government position on the boundary change. Objections to the Melbourne and Maribyrnong boundary change have been from individual and independent residents genuinely concerned about the further separation of Flemington and Travancore from our community of interest in Kensington.

Travancore's postcode

It is not clear why the postcode was altered to 3032. I believe it was in response to a decision by Australia Post, in consultation with the Moonee Valley City Council, to service the area from the Ascot Vale Post Office (3032) as opposed to the Flemington Post Office (3031) – which is in fact closer to much of Travancore. I note that undelivered parcels are taken to both post offices for residents of Travancore to collect.

Boundaries

CityLink to the east of Flemington and Travancore is a clear boundary. The Maribyrnong River to the west is also an uncontroversial boundary.

Neither Racecourse Rd nor Mt Alexander Rd is an ideal boundary as they both split communities of interest and shopping precincts. Drawing a boundary along Mt

Alexander Rd would split Flemington from its primary school and childcare centre, and Mount Alexander College from its feeder primary school – with childcare and education both being concerns for federal representatives – as well as state and local governments.

A subtler northern boundary of the electorate using the suburb boundary of Flemington and Travancore would retain communities of interest of Flem/Ken and Travancore within the seat of Melbourne.

While the northern boundary would not be drawn along a major geographic feature, it is noted that this consideration does not dictate all boundary decisions. Electoral boundaries occasionally fall along subtler suburb divisions where rivers, train-lines or freeways are not available as natural boundaries (e.g. Jagajaga and surrounding electorates).

Finally, the small number of voters in Travancore (1100) would not affect Melbourne meeting the population quotas.

Conclusion

The AGV is correct in its assertion that Flemington and Travancore share a community of interest with Kensington.

For the reasons above, the AGV incorrect in suggesting that a boundary between Flemington and Travancore would be appropriate, and that Travancore is connected with Ascot Vale on the basis that it shares a postcode.

This demonstrates a misunderstanding about the way Australia Post determines postcodes, and into the 150year bond between Travancore and Flemington.

Rose Iser

The images in this comment are from the Flemington Heritage Facebook page.

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