



Comment on objections 24

Ray Gorman

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Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria,
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 768
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear members of the Augmented Electoral Commission,

Comments on Objections to the Proposed Redistribution of Victoria

I am pleased to take the opportunity to provide comments on the objections that were raised in response to the proposals to redistribute the Federal Electoral Divisions of Victoria. I support the initial proposals made by the Augmented Commission in relation to Calwell, of which I am resident, and wish to make a few comments in response to some objections made.

I support the proposal to unify Craigieburn electoral division and believe that this should be done in the division of Calwell. The Craigieburn community shares much with the areas below it, and was historically within Calwell for a number of years before the redistribution made in 2010.

Craigieburn and other suburbs of Calwell are communities of interest. They share many social, economic and regional factors that demonstrate this. The 2016 Census data for Craigieburn shows how much in common it has with the existing communities of Calwell especially when compared to Sunbury.

For instance there are clear disparities in religious affiliation. 3.8% of respondents in Craigieburn reported to follow the Buddhist faith. This number was 3.5 in Jacana, and 3.2 in Roxburgh Park, whereas it was only 0.9 in Sunbury. Similarly, 16% of Craigieburn residents identified as having Secular Beliefs, Other Spiritual Beliefs or No Religious Affiliation. Nineteen percent of residents in Gladstone Park and Jacana identified within these categories, whereas this figure was 33% in Sunbury.

The responses given to ancestry are also revealing. Thirty-nine percent of respondents in Sunbury identified as English however less than half this rate was found in Craigieburn, Jacana, and Coolaroo (17%, 16%, and 15% respectively).

There is also a difference in the median age of the populations in these areas. According to the 2016 Census, the median age was 30 for Craigieburn, 29 for Roxburgh Park, 31 for Meadow Heights, and 37 for Sunbury.

I support Craigieburn being placed within the redistributed division of Calwell because it shares these connections and because it also more closely aligns with the local government boundaries. The south-west of Calwell represented in the Brimbank City Council will be moved to the new electoral division Fraser, which will reduce the number of enrolled electors in Calwell. This number should be compensated by including Craigieburn rather than Sunbury because it better represents communities of interest, recognises existing transport connections, and conforms to the physical features of the area.

Yours sincerely,

