



Comment on objections 34

Mark Mackenzie

2 pages

I write today to support the objections outlined in OB107, OB185, OB198 and OB208 about moving Craigieburn and surrounds out of McEwen and into Calwell.

Craigieburn have more in common with other areas of McEwen than it does with Calwell.

Craigieburn is also the central hub of the McEwen electorate, particularly for Wallan, Kilmore and Mernda. As described in OB107 "Craigieburn has been a connector suburb for the Hume and Mitchell Shires for many years, providing many towns across McEwen a central shopping and activities hub. Craigieburn is the centre of this region and has easy access by road and rail from North to South and by road from East to West." This makes it the ideal spot to build services, such as health and education for the electorate.

If Craigieburn was taken out of the McEwen Electorate the major suburb of McEwen would become Sunbury. OB208 is correct in saying that Wallan, "... Kilmore and the nearby towns have nothing in common with Sunbury. There is no reason for us to travel to Sunbury – it is not on the way to anything. In fact, it is well out of the way for everyone in the electorate." This would mean any services built for the McEwen Electorate in Sunbury would be hard to access for a large amount of the electorate as opposed to if they were built in Craigieburn. This would be unfair to those in the major growth area of the electorate, and the 30,000+ people in Wallan, Mernda and Kilmore, that need these services.

Craigieburn has an expanding population of similar demographics to that of Wallan, Kilmore and surrounds. As OB198 notes that "The future of Craigieburn is very much tied to the future of our areas – as a growth area with lots of young families needing more health services, educational facilities, employment opportunities, sporting and recreational facilities and more". The need for these services is also true for Wallan and surrounds. Therefore it makes sense that these areas continue to be in the one federal electorate. If the areas are divided, you will have a risk of a divided approach that could harm Craigieburn and surrounds.

As outlined in OB185 "The subcontinental community has significant representation across Mernda, Doreen, Wallan and Craigieburn. At the last census we had a representation of over 7,100 people in Craigieburn and over 2,000 people in Mernda, Doreen and Wallan". Calwell does not have such a substantial subcontinental community and dividing the community in half would weaken the community and the representation it would receive. Broadmeadow's has 3.7% of its population born in India compared to 11.3% of Craigieburn.

If Craigieburn was to become a part of the Calwell electorate it would have less in common with its neighbours than it does in McEwen. OB185 explains that "... Craigieburn has far more in common with the suburbs to the north and east in the division of McEwen." Two of the closest suburbs currently in Calwell to Craigieburn are Broadmeadows and Meadow heights. Broadmeadow and Meadow Heights population's is on average older than Craigieburn's.

Thank You

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