



Comment on suggestions 14

Yaron Gottlieb

29 pages

While I sent in a submission for consideration several days before the deadline, for some reason it did not come through to the AEC inbox. For that reason I will be sending through most of my original proposal, while editing it to address some of the submissions put through.

I would like to thank the committee for this opportunity to express my view on the new maps, and I hope my insights assist you in your deliberations.

The Jewish community as a community of interest

This is a particularly difficult proposition. A lot of submissions have noted, as the redistribution panel did in 2020, the problematic boundaries of Macnamara. And yet because of the Jewish community of interest redrawing the boundaries have proven difficult.

Various efforts in this round have tried to put these suburbs into Goldstein, Higgins or leave them in Macnamara, but wherever these borders are drawn, it cannot be done without first understanding the Jewish community structure. In too many submissions people have looked only at the population data and not understood how the community works.

I have lived and been actively involved with the Melbourne Jewish community my whole life across a number of different communities. I have also been employed as a communal rabbi and at various time I have sat on the boards of several communal institutions.

It is only once we have defined an area that is optimal for this community of interest that it can then be slotted into an appropriate division.

As has been noted, there is a highly concentrated Jewish community in East St Kilda and Caulfield with significant communities stretching into Elsternwick, Bentleigh, Carnegie, Malvern and Toorak. The large communities that historically existed in St Kilda and Elwood have dwindled and are now not very significant.

It is obviously not possible to draw a line around these suburbs and build a division exclusively to the benefit of the Jewish community, so the question becomes what are the boundaries that best serves this community of interest.

Reasonable boundaries for the community of interest

The Jewish community is not just about the population, but also the network of community centres, museums, shops and schools all servicing various sub-groups within the community, and it is these centralised communal hubs that must be given strong weight when dealing with the community.

The first step is the western boundary, and while initially it would appear on population data that Hotham St is an appropriate boundary, it ignores the significance of the Carlisle St shopping precinct. This is in many ways the beating heart of the community with many kosher restaurants, gift shops and bakeries, such that it is a significant portion of the community. There is also a second significant shopping strip in Ripponlea that is also heavily frequented by the Caulfield community.

A Hotham St boundary would also divide the Adass Yisroel community. This community mostly lives on the eastern side of Hotham St, either side of Glen Eira Rd, although their community centre and a significant portion of their community is in Ripponlea. As can be seen from their submission in 2020 they are a strong community of interest that wish to remain united.

The third major section that would be cut off with poor boundaries is the main community centre for the Progressive movement, Temple Beth Israel. This would be similar to the St Kilda Hebrew

Congregation submission from 2020, as they both sit between Chapel St and St Kilda Rd and in many of the submissions they have been divided from their communities in Caulfield.

Due to this, and additionally the presence of a Jewish school on Chapel St, the western boundary for the community of interest should be St Kilda Rd.

On the eastern side Beth Weizmann, the largest community centre is on Hawthorn Rd, although further to the north is Caulfield Park which acts as an important hub for community sports. Also because Orthodox Jews not using cars on Saturday any park within walking distance becomes an important hub, and so this should also be included in the broader communal geography and the eastern boundary should be at least at Booran Rd.

To the north Dandenong Rd is the obvious boundary. This is not to say that the electoral boundaries cannot cross Dandenong Rd, just that this is the borders for the community of interest. There is King David College that is in Armadale, that could be included if possible, but since this school is aligned with Temple Beth Israel, I would not see this as a necessity, and I imagine there would not be many objections if this was not in the same division.

The southern boundary presents the greatest challenge. Currently at Glen Huntly Rd, it leaves out the Jewish population of South Caulfield. However if we look at the communal structure, this boundary offers a strong border for this community of interest.

To the north of Glen Huntly Rd in Elsternwick and Caulfield there are 2 schools, several synagogues, 2 community centres (including Beth Weizmann), the meeting houses for 2 youth groups, the Holocaust Museum and a number of early learning centres.

To the south of Glen Huntly Rd up to North Rd there is almost no communal infrastructure, and what does exist is there to service the South Caulfield Jewish community. The one exception, Leibler Yavneh College in Elsternwick, is affiliated with a synagogue in North Caulfield and as such would be similar to the situation with King David above.

Another sign that Glen Huntly Rd is a reasonable boundary is the presence of the Glick's bakery. This bakery is an institution in community and their challahs are one key item on the bucket list of members of the community when returning to Melbourne from overseas. The main store for Glick's is in Carlisle St, and this shop services the Caulfield/North Caulfield communities. However they have a second shop that is specifically for the South Caulfield community on Hawthorn Rd South Caulfield.

As can be seen, while it may appear that the Jewish presence runs through all the Caulfields, a strong argument can be made that they are to some extent two communities with a boundary at Glen Huntly Rd and a boundary there would not divide a community of interest.

Association

Now that the minimal geographic area of the community of interest has been established the next determination is which division it is most appropriate to put it in.

As many people have noted in both this and previous redistributions, the Caulfield rump is an odd addition to Macnamara, and many arguments have been made as to where its natural partner is.

Is it with Malvern and Toorak to the north (Higgins), St Kilda to the west (Macnamara) or with Bayside to the south (Goldstein).

Anecdotally as someone who has lived and associated with the community in the area my entire life, it is definitely to the north. Malvern Central and Glenferrie Rd are regularly frequented by members

of the Caulfield community. There are also some kosher shops in that shopping strip and the Cabrini Hospital is where we go for anyone who is unfortunate enough to require medical attention.

Also anecdotally a lot of the Jews who live south of Glen Huntly Rd frequent synagogues and kosher shops that are in Goldstein rather than frequenting the shopping strips in Macnamara.

The Jewish numbers in the communities of Malvern and Toorak are steady as the communities to the west are in decline.

The submissions in 2020 also referenced the eruv, a concept in Jewish law that broadly demarcates the Orthodox community. For many years this did not cross Dandenong Rd. In the years since the last redistribution it has crossed Dandenong Rd and now is almost at the freeway. Therefore this argument against uniting Caulfield with Malvern is no longer relevant.

This can be clearly seen by the numbers of people who vote in early voting centres. There are no early voting centres in the Caulfield area, with the only centres in Higgins to the north (Malvern, South Yarra), Macnamara to the west (St Kilda) and Goldstein to the South (Brighton, Hampton)

The current suburbs that are part of Macnamara all travel to the north (North Caulfield overwhelmingly so), rather than stay in their own division. Even in East St Kilda a plurality travel into Higgins rather than vote in Macnamara. Yet the suburbs to the south that are in Goldstein also tended to vote in Goldstein.

Suburb	Early voting centre				
	Brighton	Malvern	St Kilda	Hampton	South Yarra
South Caulfield	1462	410		123	
Elsternwick (south)	893	79		58	
North Caulfield	371	3132	298		185
Caulfield	324	560	29		23
East St Kilda-Balaclava	416	515	923		671
Elsternwick (north)	484	219	80		46

Converting these numbers into percentages:

Suburb	Results as a %				
	Brighton	Malvern	St Kilda	Hampton	South Yarra
South Caulfield	73.3	20.6		6.2	
Elsternwick (south)	86.7	7.7		5.6	
North Caulfield	9.3	78.6	7.5		4.6
Caulfield	34.6	59.8	3.1		2.5
East St Kilda-Balaclava	16.5	20.4	36.6		26.6
Elsternwick (north)	58.4	26.4	9.7		5.5

What is clear from these numbers is that the attachment of Caulfield to St Kilda and the rest of Macnamara is almost non-existent, and it is far more appropriate to have the Caulfield/Elsternwick part of Macnamara to be moved into Higgins.

Based on these issues, there are clear borders of what should be considered the main community of interest. Many of the submissions that either try to remove South Caulfield from Goldstein or bring only part of Caulfield/North Caulfield into Goldstein and by doing this they cut important parts of the community out.

It is also significant that a lot of the advocacy for which keeping the community of interest is important comes from the institutions rather than the membership. As such by cutting communal buildings out of the electorate it is effectively dividing the community of interest far more than by cutting out areas where the community lives.

As such the submissions S62, S8, S63, S32, S53, S41, S16, S25, S60 should not be considered because of their failure to appropriately consider this community of interest.

Jewish schools in Kooyong/Chisholm

Jewish schools have unique challenges relative to other schools. It is well reported that there are significant security concerns, with all schools requiring more robust fencing than usual and armed guards. There are also unique funding and educational challenges that are unique to these schools.

As mentioned above there are some schools that are attached to community centres where the advocacy can be done for both arms of the community through the central office, and then there are some schools that draw broadly across multiple sub-groups and stand alone as a community of interest.

Two schools that are not attached to a community and form their own community are Bialik College in Kooyong and Mount Scopus College in Chisholm, but very close to the boundary with Kooyong. It would therefore seem logical, as I have presented in my submission below to unite these two schools into Kooyong. This would be only a minor shift in the boundaries and would unite this significant community of interest.

General comments on boundaries

The loss of a seat in Victoria will require some significant movement in the boundaries of some of the electorates. However this will be the third redistribution of Victoria's boundaries in three electoral cycles. Some are suggesting that there will be a fourth following the 2024/25 election.

This presents difficulties with regards to some voters who will be moved back and forth between seats from one election to the next and create confusion. One such example is the suburb of Windsor that was in Higgins in 2016, was placed in Macnamara for the 2019 election before being returned to Higgins in 2022. Therefore moving seats as little as possible is preferred.

In this proposal I will address two scenarios:

1. Looking at the state as a whole and putting in place the major changes near the CBD, and will only impact other seats minimally.
2. Focusing on the seats of Macnamara, Higgins, Kooyong and Goldstein if the Yarra is not crossed at the CBD.

When the first of these scenarios is played out 90% of the voters in Victoria will be casting their ballots in the same seat as they would have in 2022. In this scenario the boundaries of Higgins and Macnamara are sorted out such that the Jewish community of interest remains intact but the neater boundaries that the AEC attempted to institute three years ago, and that so many submissions attempt to implement is solved.

Seats with minimal movement required

There are several seats around the state that do not require any adjustment to fit within both the current and 5 year projected quotas. These seats should remain as they are. In addition where a simple land swap is possible to balance two or more seats in isolation from all the seats around them that opportunity should be taken.

As such Mallee, Nicholls, Corangamite, Indi, Gippsland, Wannon, Monash, Lalor, Fraser, Gellibrand, Gorton and Lalor should not change.

Hotham and Isaacs can be balanced out by transferring land from Keysborough (west of Corrigan Rd) from Hotham into Isaacs. This will boost the numbers in Isaacs and allow the transfer of the area between Nepean Hwy and the trainlines into Goldstein as was mentioned in Zoe Daniel's submission (and the unpublished Liberal submission). This area is a clear community of interest even if it is in a different LGA, and the removal of the boom gates will only heighten this unity. I am personally leaning towards the Liberal view of uniting all of Southland into Goldstein, but either solution works well.

With Hotham and Isaacs remaining more or less as they are, that restricts the movement in Goldstein from moving to the east except for the abovementioned section of Highett. Since it would not be possible to take in the whole of the Jewish community of interest, there remains only 3 possibilities. Either absorbing Highett which gets over the 3.5% tolerance as the Liberals propose, moving into Carnegie or expanding into Elwood as Zoe Daniel suggests.

Because of this most of the rural seats will remain unchanged, and the divisions to the north and west of the Yarra will be about half a quota short and the seats to the south of the Yarra will be similarly about half a quota short there is a need for at least one seat to have a significant population on both banks of the Yarra.

Crossing the Yarra

Seats in Melbourne have recently avoided crossing the Yarra, and in this instance there are three broad possibilities:

1. Going around the Yarra by significantly changing the rural seats and going around the long way. This is not the preferred option since these seats are within the projected population tolerance levels and so should be left alone. This would create a greater upheaval than is strictly necessary.
2. Manipulate the seats as they are on either bank of the Yarra and squeeze them into the quotas. It is theoretically possible to complete this puzzle without crossing the river, but it would create an unbalanced map with the seats to the south being between -2.0% and -3.5% of the projected population with the reverse being true to the north. The unfairness of this situation should eliminate this as a viable solution.
3. Crossing the Yarra.

There is precedent for crossing the Yarra. As recently as 1990 the seat of Melbourne Ports crossed the Yarra into Richmond, and significant portions of Menzies lay to the north of the river in the 2018 redistribution.

Additionally, as I will demonstrate, crossing the river is a simple solution and will only dramatically affect a small number of seats with 90% of voters to remain in their current electorates.

This raises the question of where to cross the river, with the means of communication and travel an important consideration. This is not just a matter of looking at one or two roads that cross the river in a car-centric solution. Consideration must be given to all modes of transportation that can be reasonably be expected to be used including cycling and foot traffic.

For example, Kooyong borders Cooper, however crossing the river at that point is not reasonable since it discounts the difficulty of cyclists and pedestrians in crossing the Eastern Freeway or Chandler Highway.

There is also the consideration of how much of the electorate should be on either bank. A single road may be sufficient if over 90% of the electorate is on one side of the river and only a few thousand people are on the opposite bank. However if the division is split 60-40 or 50-50 on each bank, it should be expected that there be greater infrastructure connecting the two populations. A situation where two discrete populations of 60,000 are connected by one or two bridges is not practical.

As mentioned above, the situation in this redistribution is the later of these scenarios, where there would need to be close to 50% of the electorate either side of the river.

The seats to the north of the river that can be reasonably be considered as the crossing point are Melbourne and Jagajaga. The other two seats that border the Yarra, Gellibrand and Cooper, would have major travel issues with the southern bank.

On the southern side of the river the seats are Macnamara, Higgins, Kooyong and Menzies. Because of the shape of the river a crossing at Higgins alone (without including Macnamara) would create a very oddly shaped electorate, and a crossing at Kooyong should also be avoided for the same reason.

Of the two remaining options, one has an existing seat on both banks of the river, while the other has better infrastructure to support a seat where a significant portion of the electorate is on both banks.

The current crossing at Menzies is for a small portion of the electorate but that would not necessarily be capable of supporting significant populations on both banks. There is also the problem of communities of interest. The populations on the southern bank (such as Templestowe) are dramatically different in their makeup to the populations on the north (such as Eltham).

Alternatively a crossing at the Melbourne-Macnamara/Higgins boundary provides several distinct advantages.

- There is a clear connection between the two communities, with the suburbs of Docklands and parts of Melbourne on both sides of the river. The communities of Richmond and South Yarra have a lot in common and can also be considered a community of interest.
- There are multiple bridges over the river, some for cars only, some for cycling and walking, and some for mixed use. There are so many at this point that the river is not viewed as an obstacle, with many people travelling over the river multiple times daily, allowing for free movement to either bank of the river.
- The crossing at this point gives the opportunity to correct a difficult map that the AEC already unsuccessfully attempted to correct at the last redistribution, that being the map of Macnamara. The boundaries of Macnamara (and Melbourne Ports before it) have progressed in such a way as to appear as two half electorates glued together at a narrow choke point at the southern end of Albert Park Lake (a distance of only a few hundred metres). This map can now be redrawn with more logical boundaries. By crossing the river

here the river can be crossed and more logical boundaries can be drawn all in one, thus minimising the disruption to other seats.

- This solution will also minimise the disruption to other seats. Goldstein's current boundaries should remain mostly static as described above, especially with the community of interest in Bayside and boundary to its east of the train line and Nepean Hwy coinciding with the LGA of Kingston. Kooyong also has a logical boundary of the freeway to its south and the river to the north and west. If these two seats maintain their borders it would create a funnel where the majority of the boundary changes can occur south of the river. Higgins would be the seat eliminated, and by the time the map arrives at Chisholm, most of the significant changes would already have occurred.
- North of the river this solution is also a good solution, since the excess from Melbourne can be divided into both Cooper and Wills, shifting both seats south, but not dramatically changing their shape and maintain most of their current boundaries. Most of the changes beyond those two would happen in McEwen which can bring the multiple seats bordering it up above the quota.

Crossing the Yarra at the CBD

Southern seats

Melbourne

All of the current seat of Melbourne to the north of Victoria St is to be removed from the division. This will allow West Melbourne, CBD, East Melbourne and Richmond to combine with Port Melbourne, Middle Park, Albert Park, South Melbourne and South Yarra to the south.

In order to bring the electorate over the quota Prahran to the west of Chapel St will be included in this seat.

This will create a more compact electorate with easier travel, an issue with long and oddly shaped Macnamara, where it was almost impossible to get from one half of the electorate to the other without first travelling through Higgins. As mentioned above, this map would unite suburbs that already exist on either side of the Yarra and as recently as 1990 Melbourne Ports extended over the Yarra uniting the communities of South Yarra and Richmond.

Goldstein

The boundaries of Goldstein remain almost the same. The only addition is Elwood to the south of the canal and Byron St to the existing boundaries, and the sliver of Highett between the trainlines and Nepean Hwy.

There are several reasons for this to be the maps considered for Goldstein. Firstly, as mentioned above, Hotham and Isaacs can maintain their current borders with only a minor change in Keysborough. This restricts the movement of Goldstein's eastern border. It is also the logical eastern boundary with the Nepean Highway and train line creating the border between Kingston and Bayside. This forms a strong boundary between two distinct communities.

Caulfield and the northern half of Elsternwick are not candidates for expansion as explained above.

This was discovered by the AEC when they attempted to modify the boundaries around the Jewish community at the last redistribution. While the community in South Caulfield is significant, it lacks the communal infrastructure that would be separated from the Jewish community if the Goldstein

boundary was shifted north at either of these two suburbs. If the boundary was shifted just 200m north it would divide the Holocaust Museum, Beth Weitzman community centre, Sholem Aleichem school and Adass Yisroel school and other communal infrastructure from the significant communities to the north.

This leaves Elwood. This is also a natural expansion with Elwood having a very similar population profile to North Brighton. The expansion into Elwood would run along the canal and continue up Byron St which would become the new northern boundary.

Kooyong

Kooyong is bounded by the Yarra to the north and west. And it should remain inside these borders.

There is an addition to the electorate that should be made to unify two different communities of interest. The area incorporated into the seat is the block north of Burwood Highway up to Riversdale Rd and reach as far as Middleborough Rd.

The first community of interest that will be united under this proposal as described above are the Jewish schools, Bialik College and Mount Scopus College. While the Jewish population of these suburbs are not large the schools have significant and unique interests that would be better served inside a single electorate and a single MP. They both have large student populations and educate significant portions of the Jewish community and have unique educational, cultural and security issues specific to the Jewish community.

The other community that this addition will unify is the university population of Deakin University with the student population at Swinburne at the Hawthorn end of the electorate. While these populations are not united geographically, their needs and concerns are similar and should be considered a community of interest.

While there are many areas around universities that have high student populations in Melbourne, and it is obviously not possible to unite them all, in this instance a small move of the borders will unite both the student populations.

In order to compensate for bringing this population into the electorate, the block of Glen Iris to the south of Toorak Rd should be removed from the seat.

Macnamara-Higgins

Once these three seats are drawn the map for Macnamara-Higgins becomes clear. It will be bounded on three sides by the previous three electorates.

The fourth border of the seat is the M1 (continuing its boundary with Kooyong). The freeway is a reasonable boundary for the seat and continues until the East Malvern train station, where the boundary will continue in a straight line down Belgrave Rd until Dandenong Rd. The boundary will travel along Dandenong Rd until Grange Rd where it will connect to its southern boundary and meet with Goldstein at Glen Huntly Rd.

This border solves the problem that was of such concern to the Jewish community at the last redistribution, where the Hotham St boundary was considered untenable and keeps the community of interest together. It also replaces the suburbs of Elwood and St Kilda that had historically high Jewish populations, but without a significant population today with the existing significant populations in Malvern and Toorak.

Chisholm

Chisholm will take in Carnegie, Murrumbeena, Glen Iris and Ashburton, shifting its borders to the west. The balance of the southern and eastern boundary will remain the same as they are currently.

The northern border will be Toorak Rd/Burwood Hwy, along the whole northern boundary up to the north-east of the seat beyond Springvale Rd where it remains the same as its current borders where it comes down to Highbury Rd.

Isaacs-Hotham

These seats can remain as they are with only a minor land swap between them.

The part of Keysborough to the west of Corrigan Rd and south of Paterson and Henderson Rd is removed from Hotham and placed in Isaacs.

Isaacs then loses its section of Highett to Goldstein as described above. No other movement is required.

Rest of the southern seats

When the maps of the above seats are considered, it leaves a single file chain of metropolitan seats to the south of the Yarra, that being Menzies, Deakin, Aston, Bruce, Holt, Dunkley and Flinders.

The population removed from Chisholm in Blackburn, Box Hill and Burwood can be progressively moved down the chain to bring this sequence of seats up to quota.

Northern seats

Cooper

Cooper's boundaries will remain mostly intact. The seat will absorb Collingwood, Abbotsford and North Fitzroy from Melbourne. At its northern boundary it will stop at Reservoir south (the SA1s that end with the four digits 25xx and 26xx), with both Kingsbury and Bundoora out of the electorate.

This maintains the eastern and western boundaries of the seats and merely drags it south limiting the disruption that exists in the various submissions that create two new seats on an east-west axis rather than the north-south axis that currently exists for Cooper and Wills.

Wills

Wills should have similar movement to Cooper that is that it should maintain its east and western borders and is dragged to the south. At its southern end it will gain Fitzroy, Carlton, North Melbourne, Parkville and Brunswick East. The northern border is the northern boundary of Coburg North, Pascoe Vale and Oak Park.

Rest of the northern seats

The population that is removed from Cooper and Wills can be transferred to the corresponding seats to the north to Scullin and Calwell. The excess from these two seats can be transferred north to McEwen.

McEwen reaches across the northern boundary of Melbourne, and as such touches many of the seats that need more people to be brought in. Because of this, the excess population that was

transferred to McEwen from Scullin and Calwell can be used to increase the populations of Jagajaga, Hawke, Ballarat, Bendigo and Casey.

Excess population in Casey can be then moved into La Trobe and Monash.

If needed the southern boundary of Hawke can be moved north to increase the size of Corio.

Other seats

The remaining seats can be balanced by doing almost nothing.

The boundaries of Gorton, Lalor, Gellibrand and Fraser can remain unchanged, or minor population transfers between them can have them all closer to the statewide average.

Corangamite, Wannon, Indi, Gippsland, Mallee and Nicholls have no need to change and should remain inside the same borders.

Naming

- Most of the names of the seats can be reused.
- The name Melbourne should be retained since it is a federation seat. This will be the CBD based seat.
- Consideration should be given to using the indigenous name of Naarm rather than the name Melbourne. This is strictly speaking not changing the name of the seat, rather just translating it into another language.
- The name that will be removed is therefore either Macnamara or Higgins.
- Macnamara should be retained since it was introduced in 2019 in an effort to have more seats named after women, therefore Higgins is the name that should go.
- An alternative is to keep the name Higgins and move the name of Macnamara to another seat north of the river. One option would be to rename Wills.
- Consideration should be given to the possible confusion with the electorate of Lalor not based around the suburb Lalor, and possibly changing the name. A similar problem exists for Casey and Monash and others.

Option 2: Crossing the Yarra but not at the CBD

This case the bulk of the changes would not happen in the inner south. In this scenario it is still possible to keep the main Jewish community as described above as a community of interest, and join it with Higgins as would be required in creating a neater boundary. In this scenario the seat to be eliminated would be in the north or west of the city, although the country seats that had no change in the previous scenario would also remain unchanged here.

Hotham/Isaacs

This would remain the same as above providing a strong eastern boundary for Goldstein.

Goldstein/Kooyong

Goldstein and Kooyong would also remain the same as above thus leaving most of the population movement to happen between the two seats of Higgins and Macnamara, and leaving minimal disruption for the other seats.

Macnamara

Macnamara will be bounded by the Yarra to the north and west, and by Goldstein to the south which now includes the southern part of Elwood. The border then continues up St Kilda Rd until Dandenong Rd. From there the division will include Prahran, Windsor, South Yarra and all of Toorak.

While Toorak may not seem like a natural fit in this seat, there are many parts of Toorak that contains apartments that would not be at all dissimilar to neighbouring South Yarra. The image of the sprawling mansions that many would imagine when thinking of Toorak is not entirely accurate, with 50% of the residents living in apartments and only 30% in detached houses. Therefore it is a reasonable fit to bring the numbers in Macnamara up to quota.

Higgins

Higgins will be bounded on three sides by the seats of Macnamara, Goldstein and Kooyong.

The balance of the seat will be made up from the remaining portions of Higgins and Macnamara that were not used in the previous seats. To bring it up to quota it will include Glen Iris from Kooyong and Chadstone/Ashwood from Chisholm.

Attached submissions from 2020

Once again I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to present my submission for their consideration.

In order to further assist and to clarify some of the issues surrounding the Jewish community as a community of interest I have attached a number of the submissions from 3 years ago. Those being O38, O42, O49, O53, O54, O58 and CO18

These submissions should shine a light on the problems presented by a number of submissions that intend on dividing this community.

The attached submissions focus on two points when dealing with this community of interest. The first is the means of transport, while the other is the location of this community.

By moving the boundary to St Kilda Rd the issue of means of transport is neutralised since both St Kilda Rd and Dandenong Rd are major arterial roads, and both are equally disrupting to the means of transport.

Also on the second point St Kilda Rd is a natural end to the community of interest rather than Hotham St as was described in many of the submissions.

It is also important to note that of the various submissions in 2020, several of which were eminent members of the community and representing communal organisations, that while they took issue with the boundary at Hotham St, none of them considered the Glen Huntly Rd border between Macnamara and Goldstein to be problematic for the purposes of dividing the community of interest.

I believe that my submission solves the potential problems and shows a path forward to finally reunite Caulfield and North Caulfield into Higgins as it was in the 1980s.



Comment on objections 18

John Safran

1 page

JOHN SAFRAN

To the Redistribution Committee,

I offer this comment on objections to your proposed redistribution of Macnamara and Higgins.

I look to your directive that "in relation to each proposed electoral division, give due consideration to community of interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests."

I am a long-term resident of St Kilda East, living with my grandparents here when I was younger, attending the Jewish high school Yeshivah College, and owning an apartment here for most of my adult life. I'm also an author and filmmaker, who has focused on the intricacies of the Melbourne Jewish community in my work.

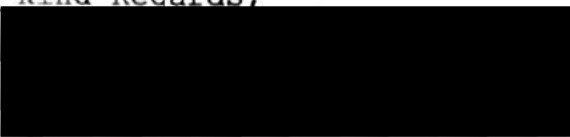
This area is its own little ecosystem of Melbourne Jewish life and choosing Hotham Street as a dividing line severs this ecosystem.

For instance, the Chabad community runs a synagogue close to the corner of Hotham Street (I can see them praying out my window when washing dishes). They also run a school a one-minute walk from this synagogue, on the other side of Hotham Street. Chabad families are scattered on both sides of Hotham Street. So this proposed division will cut through Chabadniks, not only from the same community, but the same families.

The Chabad are but one Jewish group. This arbitrary Hotham Street boundary between electorates, would mean that friends, families and fellow community members are split between electorates, and disconnected from the places they eat, shop and socialise, whereas most of them have been within the boundaries of Macnamara/Melbourne Ports continuously for the last few decades. So I echo the sentiments of the Adass Israel Community (OB38); Adjunct Associate Professor Mark Baker (OB42); Zionism Victoria (OB54); Jennifer Huppert (OB53) and St Kilda Hebrew Congregation (OB58).

The Jewish community is a clear community of interest that this proposed redistribution should take into consideration. Please do not split us down Hotham Street, but rather stick to established boundaries on Dandenong Road and Punt Road.

Kind Regards,



John Safran



Objection 38

Adass Israel Community

2 pages

CONGREGATION
ADASS ISRAEL

ק"ק עדת ישראל
מעלבארן יצ"ו

בס"ד

Victorian Redistribution Secretariat

Australian Electoral Commission

Dear Secretariat Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit an objection to the proposed redistribution of Victorian electorates. My submission is in respect of your proposals regarding Macnamara and Higgins.

I understand that one of the main criteria on which electoral boundaries are based is to unite communities of interest – I represent one such community.

My name is Benjamin Koppel. I am President of the Adass Israel community. We are an orthodox Jewish community based in Ripponlea, Balaclava, Elsternwick and St Kilda East.

I am very concerned by the proposal to move St Kilda East, Elsternwick and Caulfield from Macnamara into Higgins, and split these suburbs down Hotham St. My concerns are shared by many leading organisations in the Jewish communities of Macnamara and their leadership, as well as other prominent members of the Jewish community.

Adass Israel is one particularly vibrant and active part of Melbourne's Jewish community. Our congregation dates back to around 1940, and is highly interconnected and active. We have a number of institutions that are designed to service the needs of our community and permit our members to retain their commitment to our traditions. We have for example our own synagogue located on Glen Eira Road, Ripponlea; our school campus located in King Street, Elsternwick; and our kosher butcher located on Inkerman Street, St Kilda.

Our Adass Israel community institutions, and our families, are located on both sides of the proposed Hotham St divide. Prior to this proposed redistribution, the entirety of our community has been located within a singular electorate – that of Macnamara. Indeed, our Adass community has been entirely encompassed within Macnamara (and as it was previously known, Melbourne Ports) for several decades. However, these proposed boundaries would divide our community between two electorates – Higgins and Macnamara.

And we are but one part of the Jewish community of Melbourne, which is a community of interest that spans across Balaclava, Elsternwick, Ripponlea, St Kilda East, Elwood and all across Caulfield. Nearly all of the community's infrastructure and the places of significance in Jewish life are found in these areas – our aged care facilities, our kosher outlets, our synagogues and schools.

Our Jewish community (and the Adass community) has a number of interests regarding which it is essential that we can influence our representative in parliament, particularly with respect to issues of racial discrimination, education and community security.

CONGREGATION
ADASS ISRAEL

ק"ק עדת ישראל
מעלבארן יצ"ו

בס"ד

Our Adass community (and the Jewish community more generally) is not a large community. It is a small and extremely tight-knit community and the majority of our community members have limited interaction with the broader, secular world. It is thus vital to our community leaders that we are able to easily make representations on behalf of our community members, our families and our institutions. Being represented within a single electorate and by a single Member of Parliament makes this possible.

The Jewish community is solely located in these areas. It has no meaningful nor organised presence in any Division in Victoria other than Macnamara, unlike many other communities of interest surrounding ethnic, cultural or religious interests. We have been continuously represented within the boundaries of Macnamara (and its predecessor Melbourne Ports) for many decades.

The AEC's proposal will divide the Jewish community across Higgins and Macnamara. Our community will no longer have any meaningful capacity to influence a representative on these issues that deeply affect us. It will reduce our voice and our influence over affairs that concern us.

The representation we have enjoyed in Macnamara has been essential to our community's development and in our view has enabled positive contributions to the Australian political system and the state of government policy – for example I note the contribution of the community to advocating for and protecting the laws that safeguard multicultural communities against racial discrimination, and our success in advocating for greater funding and support for the security needs of religious and racial minority communities such as ours.

This is why in our view it is critically important that our Adass community and the broader Jewish community remain together in one Division, so that we can be represented by a Member who can and will take carriage of our interests.

On behalf of the Adass Israel community and the broader Jewish communities in Macnamara, I respectfully request that you reconsider the proposed boundary with a view to ensuring that the areas containing the Jewish community remain in the electorate of Macnamara.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon your proposals.

Yours sincerely



Benjamin Koppel

President



Objection 42

Adjunct Associate Professor Mark Baker

2 pages

Dear Committee,

I am writing to object to the proposed redistribution of Macnamara and Higgins. I am objecting because in my view the proposal will injure the Melbourne Jewish community as a community of interest, especially having regard to its political and organising capabilities. I also detail how this proposal does not have appropriate regard to the means of communication and travel in these areas.

This is a community that I am deeply involved in. In 1994 I co-founded *Keshet*. Now known as *Stand Up*, it exists to mobilise Australian Jews to work together with marginalised communities to tackle Australia's most pressing social, humanitarian and environmental challenges through action and education. From 2006 and for the following ten years, I was the founding president of *Shira Hadasha*, an inclusive orthodox congregation that has evolved into one of Melbourne's fastest-growing synagogues.

I am also a researcher and educator specialising in the Australian Jewish community. I am an Associate Professor at Monash University and for ten years was the Director of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation ('the ACJC') at the University, finishing only recently in 2018. The ACJC is an interdisciplinary centre based in the Faculty of Arts that teaches and conducts research into the cultures, literatures, politics and history of Jewish civilisation.

Among other things, the ACJC has conducted two comprehensive national surveys of Australia's Jewish population – the first in 2008 ('Gen08') and the second in 2017 ('Gen17'), which surveyed over 8,000 people. This project is led by renowned demographer Professor Andrew Markus. The objective of the survey is to establish a better understanding of the views and needs of Jewish Australians, incorporating the feedback and needs of Jewish leadership; the services provided by communal organisations; future expectations; and a range of challenges relating to social, educational, religious, political and other dimensions of Jewish life. Both surveys have played an essential role in driving policy and resourcing decisions within the community and in governments.

There a number of points that in my view are important for your consideration, insofar as they reflect on the Jewish community of Macnamara as a community of interest:

1. Gen17 establishes that members of the Jewish community have a keenly felt and widespread sense of Jewish identity;
2. The Jewish community is highly integrated and connected, with over 70% in Gen17 indicating a sense of connectedness to the community;
3. The population of Jews in Australia is estimated to be around 113,000. 87% of the community lives in Victoria or NSW, and of those living in Victoria, 98% live in Melbourne.
4. The community of Melbourne is geographically highly concentrated across the suburbs of Caulfield, St Kilda East, Elsternwick, and to a lesser extent Elwood and St Kilda. While it can be inferred from the census data that while there are small pockets of Jews living north of Dandenong Rd in the suburbs of Malvern, Armadale, Toorak and South Yarra, the community can be described as being anchored south of Dandenong Rd.

5. Many of the leading community organisations, businesses and shops at which the community intersects and connects are based in Elsternwick, Ripponlea, Balaclava, St Kilda East and St Kilda. The parts of the community from Caulfield, and indeed the other suburbs further south of Brighton East and Bentleigh, turn to these areas to socialise and shop, and have very limited connectedness north of Dandenong Road.

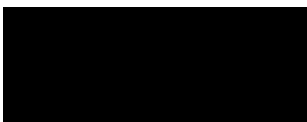
The Committee has proposed that Macnamara and Higgins be divided across Hotham St. There is no doubt in my mind that this would not conform with the 'community of interest' criteria in Section 66 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act*. The Jewish community of Melbourne is a community of interest of crucial significance, with obvious and tangible shared interests, including economic, social, political and other concerns that are derived from its members' strong sense of Jewish identity and connectedness to each other. Looking at the 2019 boundaries in Victoria, it only has a significant presence in Macnamara, and in recent history only has had a presence in Melbourne Ports.

The Jewish community is a politically organised community. It regularly engages with the commonwealth government, the opposition and third parties to advocate for political outcomes on the issues that affect its members. In doing so it relies significantly on its concentration in Macnamara (and beforehand, Melbourne Ports), being a seat that is increasingly marginal between all parties. Many political issues have a disproportionate impact on the community as Jews. The proposal to divide Macnamara and Higgins across Hotham Street will break apart this community of interest and scatter it across two electorates. It will wound its political capabilities.

More broadly, the Jewish community's dispersion and social organisation south of Dandenong Rd reflects that the means of communication and travel in the proposed electorate of Higgins would put the Jewish community and the communities of Caulfield, Elsternwick, St Kilda East and Elsternwick, into an electorate (Higgins) with which they share very little by way of communication and travel. Conversely, it would split up these communities from those with whom they do share means of communication and travel and inhabit shared communities of interest - those that would live across the proposed Hotham St divide. Put simply, dividing Higgins and Macnamara at Hotham St will split communities, because Hotham St in reality offers no divide between the communities south of Dandenong Road. The actual divide is Dandenong Road.

I urge the Committee to reconsider its proposal. It seems to me thoroughly unnecessary to disunite the Jewish community. A far better proposal, having regard to the relevant considerations, is to move Windsor back into Higgins.

Yours sincerely



Adjunct Associate Professor Mark Baker



Objection 5H

R^}} ã^!P^]] ^!c

3 pages

Dear Committee members,

I welcome the opportunity to provide you with an opposition to the proposed redistribution of Higgins and Macnamara.

I write this objection in my capacity as a long-time local resident and as a former Member of the Victorian Parliament for the Southern Metropolitan Region in the Legislative Council, which encompasses the entirety of the Federal Divisions of Macnamara, Higgins and Goldstein and parts of Kooyong, Chisholm, Hotham and Isaacs.

My submission is focused on the proposed redistribution to Macnamara and Higgins. It is my view that the proposal to divide the electorates along Hotham St and move Caulfield, Elsternwick and St Kilda East from Macnamara into Higgins is particularly problematic against the 'communities of interest' and 'means of travel and communication' considerations. It is clear to me that it fails to strike an appropriate balance between the competing considerations at play.

As a former Parliamentarian representing this area, and a long-time resident, I have an acute perspective on these communities, their links and the barriers that existed within them. Furthermore, I also served for six years as the President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV), the peak roof body of the Victorian Jewish Community. With 52 major communal organisations as its affiliates, it represents the breadth of Jewish religious, political, cultural, welfare, educational and social associations that serve the community in Victoria. That said, I make this submission in a personal capacity and as a former Member of Parliament, and not on behalf of the JCCV, which I am no longer an office holder or executive member of.

But as a former MP and Jewish community leader I am acutely aware of the fact that the Jewish community, and many of its leading community organisations, are located both east and west of Hotham Street. By putting the boundary down on Hotham Street, the community will be carved up between Macnamara and Higgins. That division would cut through the very heart of the community – the parts home to many of its leading schools, synagogues, associations, and businesses that together lay down the social, religious and cultural foundations of the community.

The community has for a long time benefited greatly from being located within Macnamara and Melbourne Ports. It has given the community a voice in relation to its affairs and its interests, as a community of significant size in the local area. The community has used its platform effectively and in my view often for the benefit of the local community and Victorians more generally, by for example advocating for policy and law that advances the interests of migrant and multicultural communities. The proposed redistribution will weaken its capacity to speak and advocate for its interests with one voice. This outcome should be avoided.

The communities of St Kilda, St Kilda East, Elwood, Ripponlea and Balaclava share far more in the form of 'communities of interest' and 'means of travel and communication' with St Kilda East, Caulfield and Elsternwick than the people who live in Prahran, Armadale,

Kooyong, Malvern and Toorak. Those south of Dandenong road on both sides of Hotham Street use the same tram lines and train stations of Balaclava and Ripponlea. They socialise on Carlisle St/Balaclava Road, on Fitzroy Street and Acland Street, rather than Chapel Street, Malvern Road, Glenferrie Road and High Street.

While these areas were all within my Southern Metropolitan Region, I found that there was a distinct difference between these communities North and South of Dandenong Road. In my experience as a Parliamentarian, these communities south of Dandenong Road are very connected, and the Jewish community is an exemplar of how interrelated these communities are with those of St Kilda, Elwood, Ripponlea and Balaclava.

By contrast, Dandenong Road, being one of the main highways in Melbourne, forms a genuine barrier between these communities and those presently in Higgins. The nub of my submission in this respect is that dividing the electorates through Hotham Street in no way reflects how the residents live as communities of interest nor how they travel and communicate. Lumping those north and south of Dandenong Road together will put together communities with conspicuously distinct interests and means of travel and communication.

I found that the City of Stonnington – located entirely north of Dandenong Road – formed its own distinct community from the Cities of Glen Eira and Port Phillip. Glen Eira and Port Phillip shared suburbs, shopping strips and main roads. They shared communities of interest across Caulfield, Balaclava, Elsternwick, Ripponlea, Elwood, St Kilda and St Kilda East. People in Glen Eira and Port Phillip frequently visited each other's municipalities but they less frequently crossed Dandenong Road into the City of Stonnington.

This proposed redistribution may make for "neater shapes" but it does not provide for more contiguous and coherent electorates that accurately represent communities of interest with clear and distinct borders and boundaries and means of travel and communication.

For these reasons I request that the Committee re-examines its proposed redistribution of Macnamara and Higgins, and implements a different redistribution that collects in one electorate as far as possible the suburbs of Caulfield (and Caulfield East, Caulfield North and Glen Huntly), St Kilda East and Elsternwick with Balaclava, Ripponlea, St Kilda and Elwood. This, rather than the proposal, will have due regard to the 'community of interest' consideration and accurately reflect the 'means of travel and communication' in these areas.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Huppert



Objection 1

Zionism Victoria

6 pages

Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre
306 Hawthorn Road
South Caulfield, VIC 3162

T: (03) 9272 5544
E: Admin@zionismvictoria.org.au
W: www.zionismvictoria.org.au
ABN 93 880 343 953

President
Yossi Goldfarb
Vice Presidents
Dave Michelson
John Searle
Hon. Treasurer
Greg Blashki
Executive Director
Jean Katzen



16 April 2021

Dear Secretariat

PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF MACNAMARA ELECTORATE

Thank you for providing members of the public with an opportunity to make submissions in relation to the proposed distribution of electoral boundaries in Victoria.

On behalf of Zionism Victoria, I am submitting an objection to the proposed redistribution of the seats of Macnamara and Higgins. Zionism Victoria is the elected and representative roof body of the 55 Jewish organisations in Victoria. Our affiliates cover the full gamut of the Melbourne Jewish community – its schools, synagogues, youth movements, and other political, social, educational, sports and religious organisations. We represent these Zionist and Jewish organisations within the Jewish and wider communities.

I and my colleagues have had several conversations with leaders from our community in the weeks following the release of the AEC's proposal. Among many others, we are deeply concerned by the proposal.

The Jewish community is a textbook community of interest. It has a strong sense of itself as a community that is bound together by its shared religious, national and cultural identity. It acts according to and within a well-defined set of values, especially in its religious segments. The community is closely connected, with networks that form through the institutional and grassroots organisations that foster Jewish life. While the community is not uniform in its politics, it is nevertheless unified by a collection of political interests that relate to its activities and interests as a community and as Jews. These interests extend to issues of racial discrimination, community security, education, foreign policy and much more.

The Jewish community of Melbourne is concentrated in the suburbs of St Kilda, St Kilda East, Elsternwick, Balaclava, Elwood, Carlisle, Ripponlea and greater Caulfield. The infrastructure that gels the community is based in these areas – its kosher shops and restaurants; its shopping strips; its synagogues and schools; its aged care facilities, its many smaller and emerging associations, and so much more.

The organised community's presence north of these areas (across Dandenong Road) is by contrast limited. While there are several Jewish people that live in Armadale and Toorak, the bulk of the community's infrastructure and organisational presence is almost exclusively in the areas listed that are south of Dandenong Road. Indeed, those Jewish people that live north of these areas regularly travel south to engage with the community and its organisations. There is no comparable movement of those south to north across Dandenong Road for the same purpose.

All these areas in which the community bases itself have historically been located in the one electorate of Macnamara and prior to 2019 in Melbourne Ports. This has been critical for

Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre
306 Hawthorn Road
South Caulfield, VIC 3162

T: (03) 9272 5544
E: Admin@zionismvictoria.org.au
W: www.zionismvictoria.org.au
ABN 93 880 343 953

President
Yossi Goldfarb
Vice Presidents
Dave Michelson
John Searle
Hon. Treasurer
Greg Blashki
Executive Director
Jean Katzen



our political representation. While the Jewish community is only small, numbering some 55,000 people it is currently united in a representative sense with the significant majority

residing in Macnamara. This enables the community to coordinate itself effectively and express its interests through the political process. This is especially important considering that the community has no comparable presence whatsoever in any other part of Victoria.

The potential of this proposal to disrupt the Jewish community's engagement in politics and with government cannot be overstated and it will fragment the Jewish community across two electorates - Higgins and Macnamara, creating a risk in regard to the community's ability to represent itself effectively.

This proposal will create an artificial gulf across Hotham Street. There is only an illusory difference between the communities on either side of Hotham Street. This proposal will put synagogues in one electorate and congregants in another. It will put the residents of our community-run aged care homes in one electorate and their families in another. It will divide the community from the places that they visit every day – to pray, to shop, and to connect with friends and family. Moreover, it will put residents east of Hotham Street into Higgins, an electorate that does not represent a comparable community of interest, and on which members of the Jewish community do not ordinarily frequent as it is bereft of Jewish community organisations and other infrastructure, especially when compared to the current electorate of Macnamara.

It is for these reasons that we oppose the proposal. The community will be split up, and its ability to seek political action in relation to its interests will suffer as a result.

We urge the Secretariat to not proceed with the proposed redistribution of Macnamara and Higgins.

We understand that there are alternative pathways that respond to the challenge of Macnamara having more voters than is permitted that can be implemented without requiring any change to any other electorate outside of Macnamara and Higgins, including by removing Windsor from Macnamara. We urge the Secretariat to consider these alternatives.

Yours sincerely



Yossi Goldfarb
President



Objection 58

St Kilda Hebrew Congregation

2 pages



ST KILDA HEBREW CONGREGATION INC REG. NO: A1256

ABN: 26 428 090 013

📍 12 Charnwood Grove, St Kilda VIC 3182

☎ +61 (0)3 9537 1433 📞 +61 (0)3 9525 3759

🌐 www.stkildashule.org.au 📧 office@stkildashule.org

Office hours Mon to Thu 9:00am - 5:00pm, Fri 9:00am - 1:00pm

📘 facebook.com/stkildashule

📺 youtube.com/user/stkildashule12

16/04/2021

**Submission in objection to the proposed redistribution
Rabbi Yaakov Glasman and Anton Block**

Dear AEC Redistribution Committee Members,

We write to submit an objection to the AEC's proposed redistribution as it affects the federal electorates of Higgins and Macnamara.

For many years we have both been deeply involved in the leadership of the Jewish community, locally and nationally. Our names are Anton Block and Rabbi Yaakov Glasman. At present, we respectively are the President and Rabbi of the St Kilda Hebrew Congregation. Other roles in which we have served include, respectively, President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, which is the officially elected roof body and voice of the Australian Jewish community, and President of the Rabbinical Association of Australasia, the representative body of rabbis.

Our Congregation is one of Melbourne's leading synagogues. Established in 1871, our Congregation is an essential part of Jewish life in Melbourne. We are home to over 1,400 members, and during the pandemic lockdown our streamed services were watched online each week by over 7,000 locals.

Our synagogue is located at its historical location of 12 Charnwood Grove in St Kilda. Our members are located nearly entirely in the areas of St Kilda, St Kilda East, Elsternwick, Balaclava, Elwood, Caulfield and Ripponlea. The spread of our members in these areas reflects the spread of the Jewish community.

Our congregation and our synagogue represents one significant example of a clear, contiguous community of interest within the old boundaries of Macnamara. We would respectfully submit that your proposed redistribution fails to take this community of interest into account insofar as it proposes to divide us between electorates.

The Jewish community is a significant community of interest. At over 10% of the electorate of Macnamara, it is one of the most significant communities of interest locally. By contrast to its local presence, the Jewish community throughout Australia constitutes only 0.4% of the national population. Our community's concentration in the electorate of Macnamara and its predecessor electorate of Melbourne Ports is and has been essential to our community having the capability to effectively advance its interests on all sides of federal parliament.

One of Melbourne's leading communities since 1871



**ST KILDA HEBREW
CONGREGATION**

ST KILDA HEBREW CONGREGATION INC REG. NO: A1236

ABN: 26 428 090 013

📍 12 Charnwood Grove, St Kilda VIC 3182

☎ +61 (0)3 9537 1433 📠 +61 (0)3 9525 3759

🌐 www.stkildashule.org.au 📧 office@stkildashule.org

🕒 Office hours Mon to Thu 9:00am - 5:00pm, Fri 9:00am - 1:00pm

📘 facebook.com/stkildashule

📺 youtube.com/user/stkildashule12

The interests of our community are wide-ranging across the federal sphere, for example as they relate to the laws governing racial discrimination and multiculturalism; funding for our community's security and integration with national security and counterterrorism services; national refugee and asylum seeker policy; freedoms, including religious freedoms; support for charitable organisations devoted to alleviating poverty, disadvantage, working with people with a disability and in aged care; support for projects in the community including Jewish educational, religious and historical institutions; and integrating Holocaust education into the national curriculum.

Moreover, the Jewish community's interests are often exclusive to the community. If the community cannot prosecute its own interests, it has no confidence that anyone else will.

It is for these reasons that we are profoundly concerned by the proposed redistribution. It will carve our community into two. Dividing our community across Higgins and Macnamara will adversely impact our capacity to advocate for ourselves. Our synagogue, to the west of Hotham St, will be divided from roughly half of its congregants – half in Higgins, half in Macnamara. And our synagogue will be in another electorate from the many other Jewish organisations with which we work every day.

We urge you to reconsider your proposed redistribution. The Jewish community of St Kilda, Elwood, Ripponlea, Balaclava, Elsternwick and Caulfield is a clear and connected community of interest and they should remain united within the single electorate of Macnamara/Melbourne Ports.

We understand that you need to make a redistribution as the electorate has too many electors. We urge you to consider proposals that do not divide our community. We understand that the redistribution can be achieved by other means that do not divide our community, and that only affect the electorates of Higgins and Macnamara. We wish to voice our strong support for any such alternate measure.

Yours sincerely,



Anton Block
President
St Kilda Hebrew Congregation



Rabbi Yaakov Glasman
Rabbi
St Kilda Hebrew Congregation

One of Melbourne's leading communities since 1871