



Objection 391

Point Cook Action Group

14 pages

AEC VICTORIAN FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION —APR 2018

OBJECTION SUBMISSION FROM POINT
COOK ACTION GROUP(PCAG)



PointCookActionGroup
The Voice of Point Cook Residents

ABSTRACT

This Objection is primarily against proposal for dividing 'Point Cook' Suburb across two electoral divisions considering multiple factors including social economic factors as highlighted in the detailed submission below.

Submitted by:

Dr. Bob Fairclough OAM, President, Point Cook Action Group

Mr. Senthill Sundaram, Committee Member, Point Cook Action Group

(On Behalf of Point Cook Action Group(PCAG))



Contents

Introduction	2
Change Proposed	3
‘Point Cook’ – Proud United community more than a Suburb	5
Point Cook – A Fast Growth Suburb.....	6
Point Cook – A Super-diverse Ethnoburb	7
‘Point Cook’ – Unique Suburb with highest Socio-Economic Advantage in West	8
Geography/Access/Transport Factors	11
Conclusion.....	13



Introduction

As a result of the proposed redistribution of Victorian electoral divisions released by AEC in early April 2018, many residents in Point Cook have expressed strong concerns to the Point Cook Action Group (PCAG) that the 'Point Cook' suburb will be divided across two electoral divisions, if the proposed changes to the electoral boundaries for the next federal election are enacted. Residents in Point Cook are of the view that the proposed boundary change will have a detrimental effect on advocacy for priority projects, close links and community connectedness that have been developed across the proposed boundaries in Point Cook. The PCAG is concerned that the proposed boundary changes will have an adverse impact on community engagement and social cohesion for residents in Point Cook. The PCAG, an advocacy group for the residents of Point Cook has a strong objection to this proposal for a number of reasons (detailed in the objection below).



Change Proposed

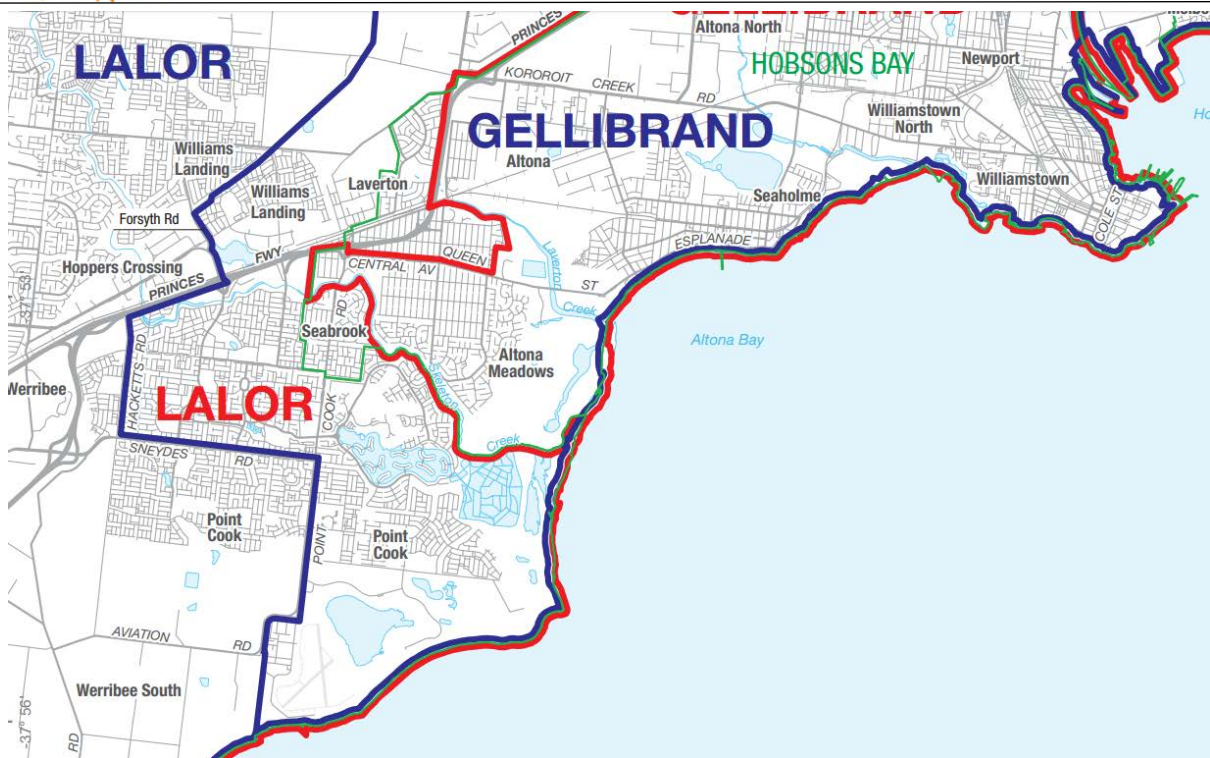
“Point Cook” has been part of “Lalor” electoral electorate for 15+ years. However, over this time the electorate of Lalor has experienced a dramatic increase in population which has resulted in the enrolment of Lalor reaching 131,058 residents (as at 4th Sep 2017) which is higher than the designated AEC requirement (please refer table below). Consequently, there is a need to markedly reduce the number of enrolments of Lalor subdivision. However, as a solution to the increase in growth of enrolments in Lalor subdivision, the proposal is for the “Point Cook” suburb to be split across two electoral divisions namely “Lalor” and “Gellibrand”.

REFERENCE:-

[HTTPS://WWW.AEC.GOV.AU/ELECTORATES/REDISTRIBUTIONS/2017/VIC/ESSENTIAL.HTM](https://www.aec.gov.au/electorates/redistributions/2017/vic/essential.htm)

[HTTPS://WWW.AEC.GOV.AU/ELECTORATES/REDISTRIBUTIONS/2017/VIC/PROPOSED-REPORT/MAPS/COMPARISON/VIC-COMPARISON-INNER-MELB.PDF](https://www.aec.gov.au/electorates/redistributions/2017/vic/proposed-report/maps/comparison/vic-comparison-inner-melb.pdf)

Electoral division	Enrolment as at Monday 4 September 2017	Projected enrolment at Sunday 25 August 2019	Is the requirement met?
Lalor	131,058	141,199	No <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current enrolment for the Division of Lalor is more than 10 per cent over the current enrolment quota• Projected enrolment for the Division of Lalor is more than 3.5 per cent over the projected enrolment quota



359. The Redistribution Committee proposes the transfer to the proposed Division of Gellibrand of:

- those parts of the localities of Altona Meadows, Laverton and Laverton North currently in the Division of Lalor,
- the part of the locality of Williams Landing south of the Federation Trail, and
- part of the locality of Point Cook, adopting a boundary of Hacketts Road from the Princes Freeway south to Sneydes Road, then east to Point Cook Road, then south to Aviation Road, then west and south to the locality boundary between Point Cook and Werribee South, then south to the coastline.



‘Point Cook’ – Proud United community more than a Suburb

During the last 15 years, the suburb of Point Cook has evolved into a close community which has resulted in the development of strong common socio-economic connections between community members and groups in the community. The connections and the bond among the members has now transformed the community into a strong coherent community that share common values and aspirations.

As a result, the members are proud to identify themselves as part of “Point Cook community” and have developed a strong feeling of belongingness for the "Point Cook community". Although Point Cook has had fast growth in population in recent years, the community has been supporting the new members to seamlessly integrate themselves into the wider "Point Cook Community” with common interests, values and ideals.

The Point community are proud of their suburb and have strived hard to make Point Cook a better place to live and thrive. This has been reflected in the establishment of a large number of Point Cook based community groups and community initiatives including festivals, community fairs, Pop-up Parks, sporting groups and cultural events. The Point Community has also proved that they are resilient and united in times of adversity by helping needy members in the community who are experiencing hardships including homelessness and other detrimental circumstances.

We have worked tirelessly together as a united team to successfully lobby and obtain funding/support from our local federal member for projects/initiatives. With the proposed redistribution, Point Cook community will be split across two electoral subdivisions and will have to lobby with two different federal MPs to support our projects/initiatives which will detrimentally impact the initiatives as the priorities /ideologies/party alignments of the two federal MPs might not align.



Point Cook – A Fast Growth Suburb

The ability to effectively advocate for the needs and specific aspirations of our community as a whole will be impacted especially considering that it has been one of the fastest growing in Australia with 250% population increase in the period 2006-2016 with further 25% population increase projected in next 18 years.

SOURCE:

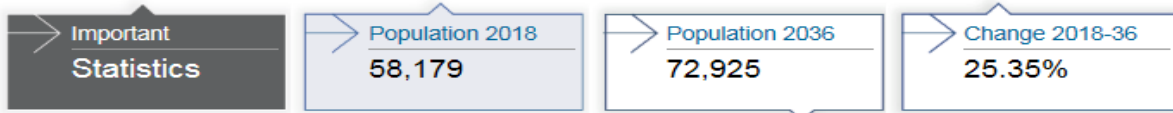
[HTTPS://PROFILE.ID.COM.AU/WYNDHAM/POPULATION?WEBID=120&ENDYEAR=2006&DATATYPE=UR](https://profile.id.com.au/wyndham/population?WebID=120&EndYear=2006&DataType=UR)

Point Cook - Total persons	NEW 2016			2006			Change 2006 to 2016
	Number	%	City of Wyndham %	Number	%	City of Wyndham %	
Estimated Resident Population	52,750	--	--	--	--	--	--
Enumerated Population	49,431	--	--	14,149	--	--	+35,282
Usual Resident Population	49,942	--	--	14,319	--	--	+35,622

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2006 and 2016. Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://FORECAST.ID.COM.AU/WYNDHAM/ABOUT-FORECAST-AREAS/?WEBID=140](https://forecast.id.com.au/wyndham/about-forecast-areas/?WebID=140)

Point Cook is bounded by the Melbourne-Geelong railway line, the Princes Freeway, the City of Hobsons Bay, Crellin Avenue South, St Anthony Court, Machair Drive, Dunnings Road, Point Cook Road, Tournament Drive, Evening Close, Scenic Drive, Lowes Lane, Fawkner Way, Crystal Court and Skeleton Creek in the north, Port Phillip Bay in the east and south, and the western boundary of the RAAF Williams Point Cook Base, Aviation Road, the drain, Hacketts Road, Sneydes Road and the Princes Freeway in the west.



SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.9NEWS.COM.AU/NATIONAL/2018/04/24/12/21/MELBOURNE-LEADS-ON-AUST-CITIES-GROWTH](https://www.9news.com.au/national/2018/04/24/12/21/melbourne-leads-on-aust-cities-growth)



An aerial image of Point Cook eight years ago. Picture: NearMap

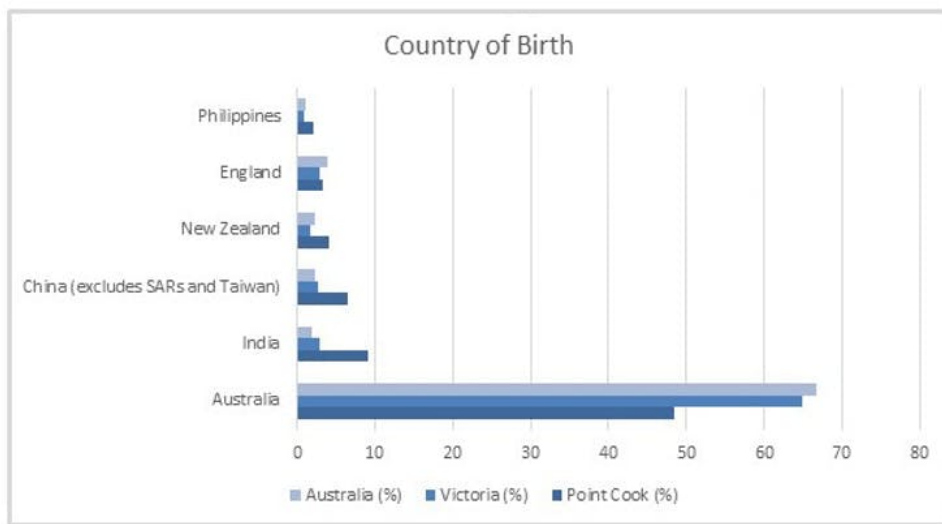


Point Cook – A Super-diverse Ethnoburb

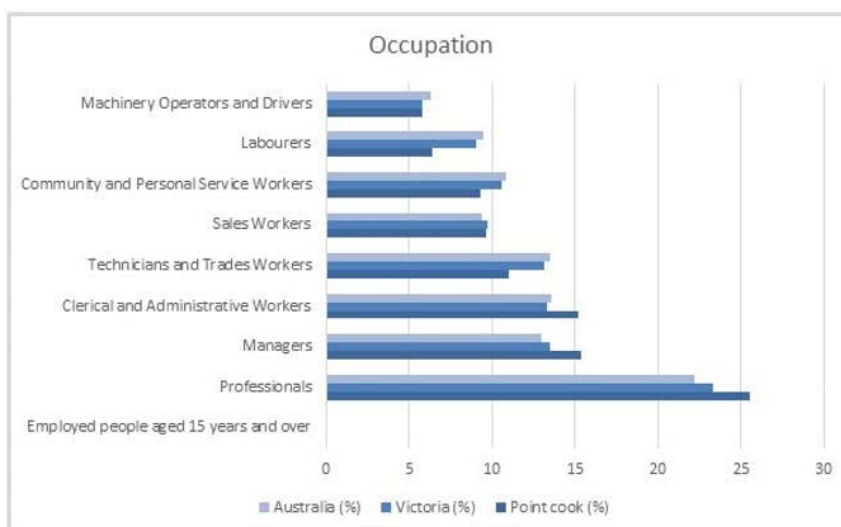
SOURCE: [HTTP://THECONVERSATION.COM/THE-RISE-OF-THE-SUPER-DIVERSE-ETHNOBURBS-90926](http://theconversation.com/the-rise-of-the-super-diverse-ethnoburbs-90926)

EXTRACT FROM ARTICLE ABOVE

Analysis of [demographic data](#) shows that residents in Point Cook come from many different destinations. The most common countries of origin are England, New Zealand, China, India and Philippines, although this suburb is home to people from 160 different ethnic backgrounds. A great variety in the countries of origin and ethnicity of migrant population has been described by sociologist Steven Vertovec as “[super-diversity](#)”.



While the population in Point Cook comes from many different countries, they are all mostly professionals and managers with high educational qualifications and economic status. As shown in the attached figure, Point Cook has more high-income earners than the average for Victoria and Australia





'Point Cook' – Unique Suburb with highest Socio-Economic Advantage in West

Figures available from the latest Census show that Point Cook has highest socio-economic index rating in the western suburbs of Melbourne. One economic term, which combines all factors to determine whether or not the average household in your region is advantaged or disadvantaged compared to others in Australia, is the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Advantage and Disadvantaged (IRSAD).

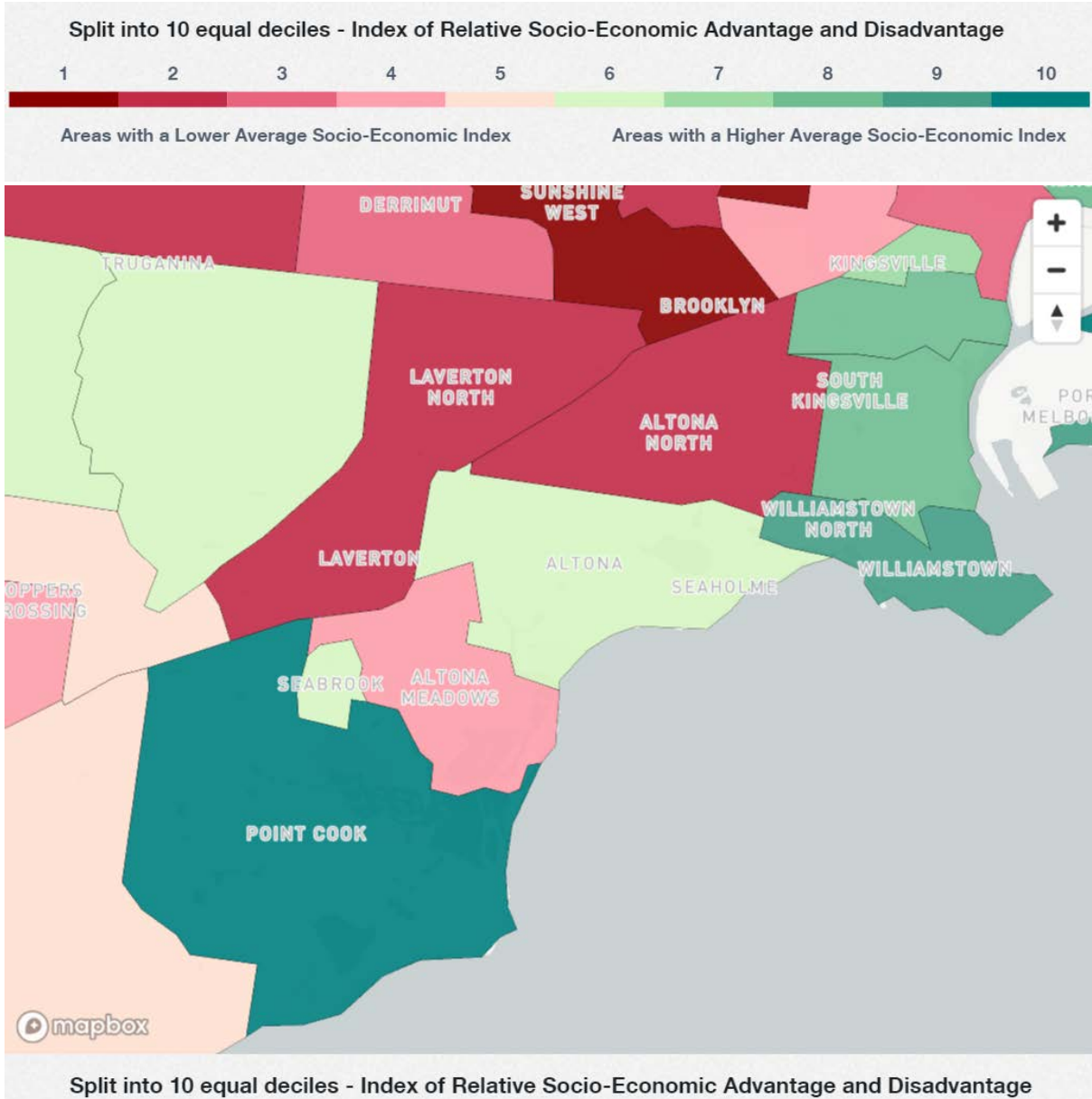
The IRSAD is the default index charted region-by-region in the map of Australia below.

Point Cook has got the highest IRSAD index rating of 10 in the western suburbs and is in fact the only suburb with this rating in the western suburbs. Altona Meadows has a rating of 4. Altona and Seabrook have rating of 6 while Laverton has rating of 2 which shows the significant change in patterns in the western suburbs around Point Cook region. Splitting Point Cook across different electoral divisions will adversely impact & complicate effective planning of government schemes and addressing community priorities.

The index ratings below clearly demonstrates that Point Cook as a suburb is unique compared to other surrounding suburbs considering economic resources, Education & Occupation and relative Socio-Economic advantage.

REFERENCE: - [HTTPS://WWW.SBS.COM.AU/TOPICS/LIFE/HOW-ADVANTAGED-OR-DISADVANTAGED-IS-MY-SUBURB](https://www.sbs.com.au/topics/life/how-advantaged-or-disadvantaged-is-my-suburb)

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)	Score	Decile
Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD)	1106	10
Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD)	1093	10
Index of Economic Resources (IER)	1106	10
Index of Education and Occupation (IEO)	1085	9



Point Cook as a suburb has higher education qualification across City of Wyndham and across Greater Melbourne and the aspirations and needs for the community needs to be addressed as a whole.

<https://profile.id.com.au/wyndham/qualifications?webid=120&endyear=2006&datatype=UR&bmID=20>

Highest qualification achieved

export reset

Point Cook - Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)	NEW 2016			2006			Change
Qualification level	Number	%	City of Wyndham %	Number	%	City of Wyndham %	2006 to 2016
Bachelor or Higher degree	12,565	35.0	24.4	2,487	24.4	11.7	+10,077
Advanced Diploma or Diploma	3,946	11.0	10.0	1,087	10.7	7.0	+2,860
Vocational	5,004	14.0	17.1	1,663	16.3	18.0	+3,341
a No qualification	11,839	33.0	39.2	3,954	38.8	51.1	+7,885
Not stated	2,494	7.0	9.1	987	9.7	12.3	+1,507
Total persons aged 15+	35,850	100.0	100.0	10,180	100.0	100.0	+25,670

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2006 and 2016. Compiled and presented by .id, the population experts.

Highest qualification achieved

export reset

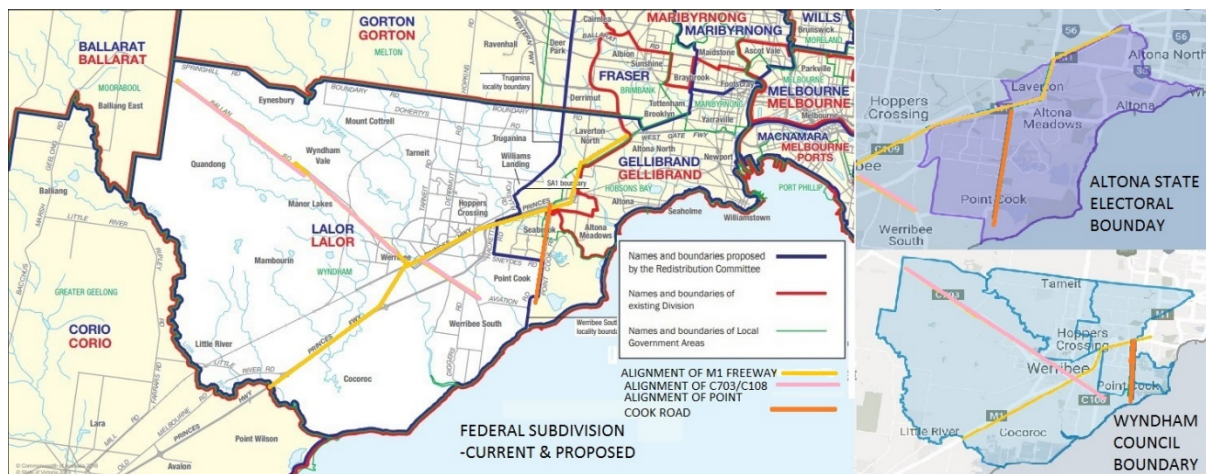
Point Cook - Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)	NEW 2016			2006			Change
Qualification level	Number	%	Greater Melbourne %	Number	%	Greater Melbourne %	2006 to 2016
Bachelor or Higher degree	12,565	35.0	27.5	2,487	24.4	19.6	+10,077
Advanced Diploma or Diploma	3,946	11.0	9.5	1,087	10.7	7.7	+2,860
Vocational	5,004	14.0	15.3	1,663	16.3	14.2	+3,341
a No qualification	11,839	33.0	38.6	3,954	38.8	45.8	+7,885
Not stated	2,494	7.0	9.2	987	9.7	12.8	+1,507
Total persons aged 15+	35,850	100.0	100.0	10,180	100.0	100.0	+25,670

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2006 and 2016. Compiled and presented by .id, the population experts.

Geography/Access/Transport Factors

Point Cook as a suburb is located on one side of the M1 freeway with all the regions of the Point Cook being accessible from consecutive exits from M1 freeway. The William landing station remains the main train station for the “Point Cook Community”. The popular bus routes serving Point Cook 494 & 495 get more patronage from Alamanda & Featherbrook estates which will be impacted by the proposed redistribution. All the areas in Point Cook still use “Point Cook Town Centre” as the main community hub, library & shopping centre though there are smaller shopping centres and hubs in their area.

One could argue that the rapid growth of Point Cook has had a consequence of inadequate planning especially in the provision of road infrastructure, public transport, schools and for recreation. In addition, the complexities of being located on the other side of the freeway to the rest of Wyndham LGA and falling into the Altona district in the state divisions has led to lack of adequate integrated planning in infrastructure and vision. The below map highlights the different boundaries for Point Cook in Federal, State and Wyndham Council Subdivisions. The proposed change in Federal electoral boundaries would compromise the capability for the suburb to effectively advocate for their priority projects even more, when there is a great need for a more cohesive integrated vision and partnership with the 3 tiers of government.



This is very important given that approximately 62% of the workers work outside of Wyndham area. There is strong need for an advocacy campaign to encourage projects such as IT, knowledge and Innovation hubs to be located in Point Cook.



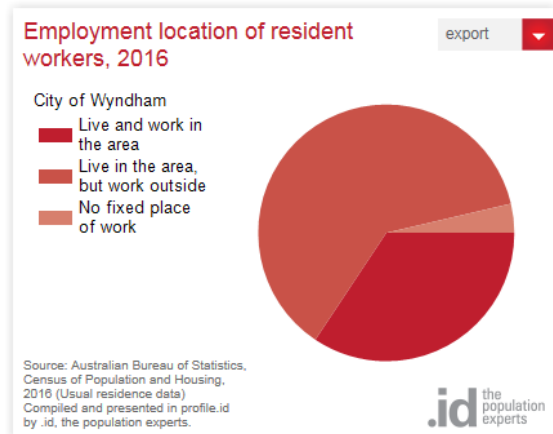
As well, there is strong investment needed for major public infrastructure projects to support members working outside of Wyndham.

Employment location of resident workers export

City of Wyndham NEW 2016

Location	Number	%
Live and work in the area	33,781	34.4
Live in the area, but work outside	60,966	62.0
No fixed place of work	3,595	3.7
Total employed residents in the area	98,342	100.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016.
Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id, the population experts.



Based on above factors, it is quite evident that proposed redistribution of Point Cook across two electoral divisions will have a detrimental impact on the implementation of community cohesion, social engagement & addressing community aspirations and priorities.



Conclusion

Considering that Point Cook's unique social fabric, community engagement, unique socio-economic index & geographic/transport related factors are closely interlinked, it is strongly recommended that Point Cook is retained as a whole in one of the electoral subdivisions rather than splitting the suburb across two divisions as proposed.

On behalf of the wider Point Cook Community, the PCAG requests the AEC committee to consider this objection and redesign the redistribution in such a way that "Point Cook" as a suburb is retained as a whole in one of the electoral subdivisions.

We are happy to support with any clarifications regarding this submission and also happy to present the objection in person as required.

We appreciate the AEC committee taking our objection into consideration and trust a more favourable outcome can be achieved.