



Comment on objections 26

Councillor Phillip Danh

1 page

I submit this Comment on Objections in my capacity as a local councillor for the City of Greater Dandenong whose ward encompasses Dandenong West in the Division of Bruce as well as parts of Noble Park proposed to be transferred from the Division of Isaacs into the Division of Hotham.

I strongly agree with the many objections which argue that the long-established shared boundary between Bruce and Isaacs along the Dandenong railway line be restored.

These views are formed by my experiences as Yarraman Ward Councillor on the City of Greater Dandenong Council and past experiences working in government services in the area.

The railway border is a very strong and clearly defined boundary.

Dandenong West is a well-established residential area which relates entirely to Central Dandenong including the market, Coles and the commercial centre and in no way to the land south of the railway line.

The area to the south of the railway line is not residential – it includes a mix of light industrial businesses and sporting grounds. Including Dandenong West in Isaacs will therefore make very little sense.

There is no reason to disrupt continuity for residents in Dandenong in terms of their federal division. I agree with the many Objections that the suburb of Dandenong is already split between two different electorates and that the proposed change will cause greater confusion and inconvenience for residents.

The railway line has served as a federal border for many years and this should remain. The logical conclusion to keep the border at the railway line is also reflected at local government level to demonstrate the border between Yarraman, Noble Park and Dandenong Wards at the City of Greater Dandenong Council reflecting the clear communities of interest here.

The proposed border along Lonsdale St would also split the Dandenong Activity Centre across two Divisions which is undesirable and unnecessary. The Dandenong Activity Centre is a vibrant and integral part of the community, with many residents relying on the district for their shopping and leisure activities. Splitting the Activity Centre will complicate the ability of small business owners and residents to seek appropriate assistance from their federal representative and complicate Council's advocacy. It is therefore in the interests of the community inside the Activity Centre continue to be represented by one member of Parliament.

The railway serves as a clear and obvious boundary. Restoring this boundary will ensure better local representation and greater administrative efficiency for all residents and small businesses.

**Councillor Phillip Danh
Yarraman Ward Councillor, City of Greater Dandenong**