



Objection 155

Chinese Senior Citizens Club of Manningham Inc

3 pages

21/06/2024

Redistribution Committee
Australian Electoral Commission

Dear committee,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide feedback on the AEC's draft federal redistribution.

The Chinese Senior Citizens Club of Manningham Inc is a nonprofit organisation, established in 1987, to serve the needs of senior members of the Chinese community of Manningham and its adjoining suburbs. It is the largest senior's organisation in the seat of Menzies.

The Club believes that the committee has attempted to unite the Chinese-Australian community of interest in Menzies through the addition of Box Hill, Box Hill South, Blackburn South, and Surrey Hills to Menzies. In doing so the committee may have overlooked that the Chinese-Australian community of Melbourne exists along two separate axes, Box Hill-Glen Waverly, and Balwyn-Doncaster.

The undersigned strongly believe that including Balwyn and Balwyn North in Menzies would be a much better way of uniting the Chinese Australian community of Manningham and its adjoining suburbs, than the current AEC proposal.

The Chinese community of Balwyn and Balwyn North is substantial. According to the most recent census, Australians of Chinese heritage compose 34.1% of the population of Balwyn, and 31.2% of Balwyn North. This population share is likely to have increased since.

The Balwyn North and Balwyn Chinese community is just as large and strong as similar communities in Doncaster and Box Hill, but receives substantially less attention by the AEC.

As the attached map illustrates, Menzies has a substantial Chinese Australian community, centred on Doncaster, Doncaster East, and Northern Box Hill. In contrast, very little Chinese community exists in Kooyong outside of Balwyn and Balwyn North.

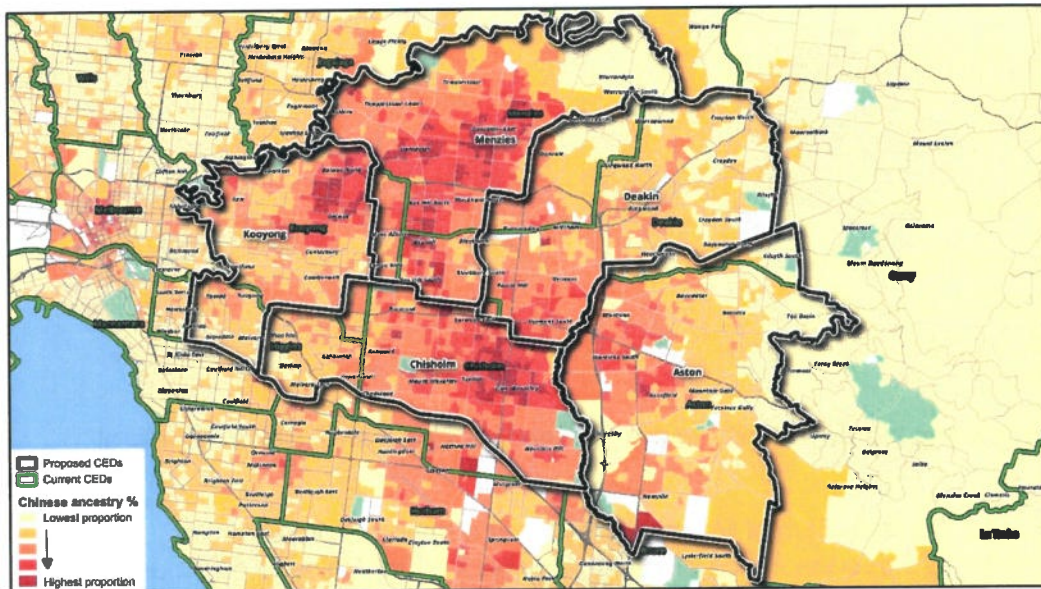


Fig 1: Chinese-Australian % by SA1, boundaries overlaid, source: ABS, AEC

Our organisation, and many others like it, service the Chinese community of both Manningham, Balwyn, and Balwyn North. This is because the Chinese residents of Balwyn and Balwyn North feel themselves to be a part of the Chinese community of Manningham, not the Chinese community of Whitehorse. We see ourselves as two separate Chinese communities.

In addition to uniting the common Chinese community, Balwyn North and Balwyn have many other community of interest reasons to be included in Menzies.

Balwyn North and Balwyn are primarily residential, and so they rely on Doncaster and to a lesser extent Box Hill for most services and infrastructure. This includes shopping, eating, and importantly our businesses.

Examples of the services and infrastructure include access to transport via the Eastern Freeway and Doncaster Park and Ride, to which most bus routes in Balwyn, including the 207, 285, 200, 284, 302, and 304 lead. As users of the Eastern Freeway, Balwyn and Balwyn North also share common concerns with the residents of Bulleen and Doncaster around the construction and maintenance of the North-East Link.

The population of Balwyn and Balwyn North also use Menzies for shopping, mostly at the Doncaster Westfield, but also sometimes at the Box Hill activity centre. This is encouraged by lines of transport in the area. The main transport axes in Balwyn and Balwyn North (Doncaster Rd, Bulleen Rd, Burke Rd, the Eastern Freeway, Greythorn Rd, Belmore Rd, Whitehorse Rd) all lead to a part of Menzies. This also ensures that the Eastern Freeway does not divide Balwyn and Balwyn North from the rest of Menzies if they were to be included in the electorate, as transport options across it are so many.

Many Chinese in Balwyn and Balwyn North also own businesses in Doncaster or Box Hill. Westfield Doncaster in particular is full of Chinese owned small business. At the moment, members of our community in Balwyn have two federal members, one for businesses and services, and one for where where they live. This is frustrating and complicated.

Lastly, bringing Balwyn and Balwyn North into Menzies would unite the school zones of Koonung Secondary College, Belle Vue Primary School, Boroondara Park Primary School, and Greythorn Primary School.

It seems to us that Kooyong is treated as something that never changes, even when Menzies and Chisholm have undergone significant changes over the years. We wish for this to Change. Our community in Balwyn North and Balwyn wishes to be united with our community in Doncaster. What happens in Doncaster impacts our businesses, our shopping, our education, and our transport. Decisions made about Doncaster matter a great deal to the population of Balwyn and Balwyn North, so they should have a say as to who makes those decisions.

As the above Chinese heatmap shows, the Chinese community is strongest between Bruke Rd, Canterbury Rd, and the Eastern boundaries of Boroondara. For this reason we define Balwyn North and Balwyn as these between these boundaries and request they be included in Menzies.

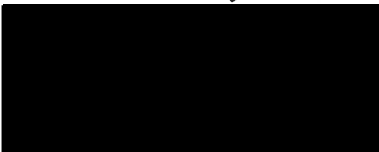
We understand that incorporating Balwyn North and Balwyn into Menzies would put Menzies significantly over quota, and Kooyong significantly under. Our proposed remedy to this is to re-establish the border between Chisholm and Menzies at Whitehorse Road. To balance out Kooyong, Kooyong would then take the portions of Chisholm between Dandenong Road and the Alamein line.

This would allow the Glen Waverly and Box Hill Chinese community of interest, and future suburban rail loop community of interest, to be united. It also ensures Chisholm maintains its nature as a seat representing the Chinese Australian community, and does not take on established, less multicultural, wealthy, highly educated Glen Iris, Malvern East, and Camberwell, which have nothing in common with the rest of Chisholm.

This proposal also gives Kooyong a more natural shape, and unities the Auburn High School community.

We kindly welcome the consideration of our proposal by the committee, and hope they give the Chinese community in Balwyn and Balwyn North the same attention they have given Box Hill in recent years

Yours sincerely,



SELINA LEUNG

President

The Chinese Senior Citizens Club of Manningham Inc.

