



Comment on objections 48

Chap B Chow

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Dear Secretariat,

Dated: 10 July 2024

Having read through the objections submitted, I agree with the arguments of objection no. 487 (Victorian Labor) in relation to the electorate of Deakin.

This objection outlines that the suburb of Box Hill and surrounds share a common identify with the neighbouring suburbs of Blackburn and Nunawading, creating a community of interest that sits within the City of Whitehorse. This is particularly pertinent to the large Chinese community that is situated within the City of Whitehorse.

Box Hill as “a cultural epicentre for Melbourne’s Mandarin-speaking population. This community, however, is not isolated solely to the Box Hill area, but is spread throughout Whitehorse. Thus, placing the border for the electorate along Blackburn Road and Surrey Road, splitting the township of Blackburn in half, artificially divides the Chinese community of Whitehorse over two electorates.

The Chinese community of Whitehorse utilise places such as Box Hill central as centres in which they do their shopping, attend community groups, and meet with friends and family. To travel into Box Hill, these communities would utilise the Belgrave-Lilydale train line that runs east to west, or the similarly aligned major traffic routes of Whitehorse Road or Canterbury Road. The AEC’s proposed border runs perpendicular the east-west avenues of transport that exist within Whitehorse.

It is for these reasons that I concur that the City of Whitehorse should be united under a single electorate, thus not only uniting the electorates communities of interests, but also aligning the electorate with the local lines of communication and transport. This would also allow the Chinese community of Whitehorse to be able to act united when advocating for the needs of the community.

The said objection referred to above correctly identifies the current seat of Deakin as what ought to encompass the City of Whitehorse. I concur with this suggestion, as not only does Deakin already encompass parts of the Eastern side of the City of Whitehorse, but it is also already oriented in a way that reflects the aforementioned means of transport.

For these reasons, I encourage the Committee to reassess its proposed redistribution of Deakin to realign the borders with that of the objections of Victorian Labor, finally uniting the Chinese community of Whitehorse within one electorate.

Thank you for considering my comment on the objections.

Yours sincerely,



Chap B Chow

Former People of Australia Ambassador 2012-2014