



Comment on objections 77

Parkville Gardens Residents Association

2 pages

RE: Redistribution of Parkville West

Comment on Objection by Victorian Labor Party

Parkville Gardens is a residential neighbourhood situated in the north west corner of the suburb of Parkville. It is constituted by housing from the Athletes' Village for the 2006 Commonwealth Games augmented by later low- to medium-rise residences and a set of apartment towers. The Gardens are home to approximately 2000 residents, with a portion of homes here provided as social housing. The Parkville Gardens Residents Association (PGRRA) represents and serves this community in partnership with the Parkville Association.

Our corner of Parkville is the exact part that the Victorian Labor party proposes to move into the electorate of Maribyrnong. PGRRA is well placed to speak of the community here and of its affiliation with the other neighbourhoods of Melbourne, not those of the suburbs to the west.

We believe we should remain in the electorate of Melbourne, for the following reasons:

- **The constituents of Parkville should be represented together.** Parkville Gardens residents identify with Parkville as a whole and with the City of Melbourne. Along with the Parkville Association, PGRRA is an active member of the Presidents of Residents Associations group that meets regularly with the Lord Mayor and council staff. We share the same Neighbourhood Partner (our liaison person with Council). Funding for our activities is primarily sourced from the City of Melbourne. In short the Parkville Gardens community fully identifies itself with Parkville, the city and the Melbourne electorate, not to the western suburbs and the seat of Maribyrnong.
- **Heritage buildings.** For a century prior to the Commonwealth Games, Parkville Gardens was a mental health precinct. In the Games development, the Royal Park Mental Hospital was declared a heritage building and was sympathetically adapted into apartments. This historic site is at the heart of Parkville Gardens. It connects us to the heritage architecture of the rest of Parkville and of Carlton.
- **Density.** Parkville Gardens is characterised by a range of building styles, from a minimum of two stories through to a maximum of fifteen. Over half the population now dwell in high-rise apartments. This density connects us to the remainder of Parkville and the CBD, not to the north-western suburbs.
- **Access to the CBD.** With the close proximity of the CBD, the city is the primary destination of our residents, like those of our neighbouring inner-city suburbs, for work, business, shopping and entertainment.
- **Shared connection to Royal Park.** Royal Park is a strongly shared community interest for all who live near it. Parkville residents on all sides of the park are united in their passion for the preservation and maintenance of the park itself and its facilities, along with the wetlands and the Zoo. They draw us together as a community.
- **Citylink is a hard edge to the city.** Parkville Gardens is demarcated, not by the Upfield train line, but by CityLink and the Moonee Ponds Creek. The combination of this landscape feature and major piece of infrastructure very clearly divides us from the suburbs to the west and is a much more appropriate boundary for Melbourne. It is

easier and more natural for us to travel to Carlton and the city than it is to cross the barriers to the west.

- In view of the above, the Parkville Gardens Residents Association strongly objects to the proposal to move the western region of Parkville into Maribyrnong. Instead we urge the AEC to continue with a Citylink boundary, so that our members can remain constituents of Melbourne.

Regards,
Tom Knowles

On behalf of the Parkville Gardens Residents Association

