



# Comment on objections 93

Nina Taylor MP

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**Comment on Objections OB152, OB235, OB86, OB94, OB95, OB174, OB416, OB448, OB47, OB462, OB482, OB493, OB448, OB503, OB149.**

Dear Members of the Augmented Electoral Commission for Victoria,

I write in response to the public objections that relate to the proposed Division of Macnamara and the proposed Division of Melbourne.

I am the Victorian state member for the electorate of Albert Park which resides entirely in the existing and proposed division of Macnamara. The boundaries of Albert Park orient south of the Yarra River west of Queens Road and St Kilda Road and along Port Phillip Bay to St Kilda. Prior to being elected as a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, I was the member of the Victorian Legislative Council representing the South Metropolitan Region. I also live locally in Southbank.

I welcome the Redistribution Commission's proposal for the proposed division of Macnamara as an appropriate and accurate reflection of the key community of interest of Albert Park, the means of local travel and communication, the physical features of the Division and the existing state boundaries of my seat of Albert Park. I understand that the existing division of Macnamara is under quota, and I commend the commission for their proposed division of Macnamara which rectifies this issue while causing as little disruption to electors or communities of interest as possible.

I wish to comment on several submissions including by the Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division) [OB398] suggesting transferring electors from the proposed division of Macnamara in Southbank and Fishermans Bend to the proposed division of Melbourne with the West Gate Freeway as a boundary. This is an inappropriate and inaccurate representation of our community.

These objections propose that Southbank and Fishermans Bend should be transferred to the proposed division of Melbourne given local government areas. However, this does not consider the clear communities of interest and physical boundaries dividing Southbank and Fishermans Bend from the CBD, nor the fact that these communities form my seat of Albert Park. The Redistribution Committee in complying with the requirements of the Electoral Act accepts that splitting local government areas or localities may be appropriate where doing so provides for a strong physical boundary and/or a clear community of interest.



The West Gate Freeway is a means of travel more broadly within the state, it does not act as a boundary between two communities. There is no evidence that suggests the Freeway is a feature of the communities it passes through.

Residents of Fishermans Bend and Port Melbourne travel over the West Gate Freeway via Todd Rd, Salmon St and Ingles St to connect with the local primary and secondary schools, local dining precincts, shopping districts and travel routes. These communities share the same postcode, fall into the same school catchment zones, participate in the same sporting clubs and gather in the same shopping strips and parks.

There is no school catchment zone which allows for students in Southbank and Fishermans Bend to attend schools in the CBD, in contrast they fall into the zones for Port Melbourne and South Melbourne Primary Schools.

The Fishermans Bend framework is Australia's largest urban renewal project and is the long-term strategic plan for the development of the locality. This development is backed by the City of Melbourne and the City of Port Phillip, as well as local community groups across Fishermans Bend and Port Melbourne. The Framework sets up five precincts in Fishermans Bend, three of those in the City of Port Phillip and two of those in the City of Melbourne, all of which in the state electorate of Albert Park.

Just recently, the Allan Labor Government announced changes to the 606-bus route to provide residents of the Fishermans Bend community access to more frequent bus services and better connections to neighbouring suburbs of Albert Park, Middle Park, St Kilda, Elwood and towards Elsternwick Station. The Minister for Education announced just over a month ago that the state government will be building a new primary school on Williamstown Rd with the temporary name of Fishermans Bend Primary School. If the commission were to accept the objections put forward by the Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division) to transfer Southbank and Fishermans Bend into the proposed division of Melbourne, the community would be inappropriately divided, inconsistent with infrastructure.

While some objections suggest that Southbank is an extension of the CBD based purely on proximity, Southbank residents form a distinct community and share much more in common with their neighbours in South Melbourne and Port Melbourne. There are numerous community and advocacy groups I have had the privilege of working with such as Southbank3006 whose purpose is to bring together the local community. Residents do not feel connected to the CBD, they are a distinct and united community.

The localities of Southbank and Fishermans Bend are divided from the CBD by the Yarra River. While there are bridges to cross the Yarra via foot, to drive from Southbank into the CBD residents need to travel south onto Princes Hwy. It is important to note there are no crossings over the Yarra from Webb Bridge down to Fishermans Bend.

Lastly, the western boundary of my electorate of Albert Park is along Queens Road and St Kilda Road which is reflective of the distinct communities on either side. I strongly agree with the commission that St Kilda Road serves as a clear natural boundary between two distinct communities and means of travel on either side. This case was agreed to and acknowledged by the Victorian Electoral Commission in the 2021 redivision of the state divisions of Albert Park and Prahran.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a comment on the objections, and I welcome the proposed division of Macnamara for the reasons stated above.

Yours Sincerely,



Nina Taylor MP 