



# Objection 385

Park Orchards Ratepayers Association

3 pages

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Park Orchards Ratepayers Association (PORA).

PORA was founded to protect, maintain and improve the unique and picturesque nature of the suburb. We are a not-for-profit group that works closely with the community, council, state, and federal governments.

We are writing to convey our dismay at the redistribution proposal released by the AEC earlier this month, which places Park Orchards in the division of Deakin. After conversing and consulting with neighbours and friends, we felt that a submission was necessary to communicate the confusion around the changes that have been made to Park Orchards and the surrounding area.

Park Orchards is a pristine semi-rural locality in north-eastern Melbourne, a key part of the Manningham local government area. It is full of open green spaces, large blocks and long, curving avenues. It gained this rural neighbourhood character due to its establishment as a site for orchards (which is also where it gets its name). It is a beautiful part of the world in which to live and is similar in many respects to Warrandyte and Templestowe.

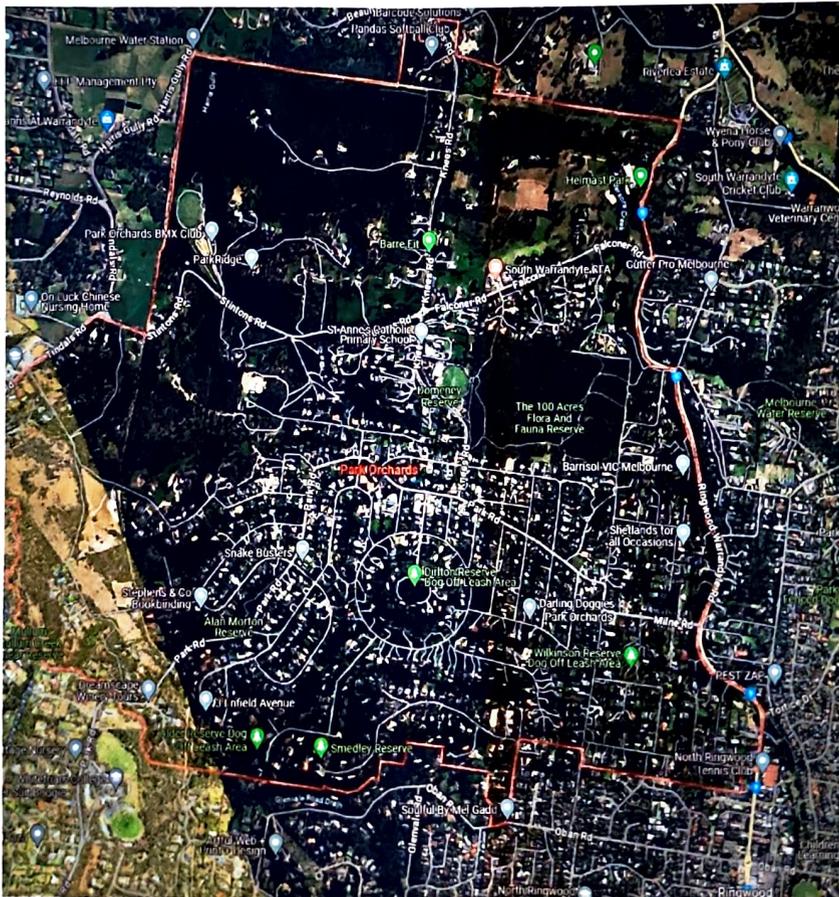


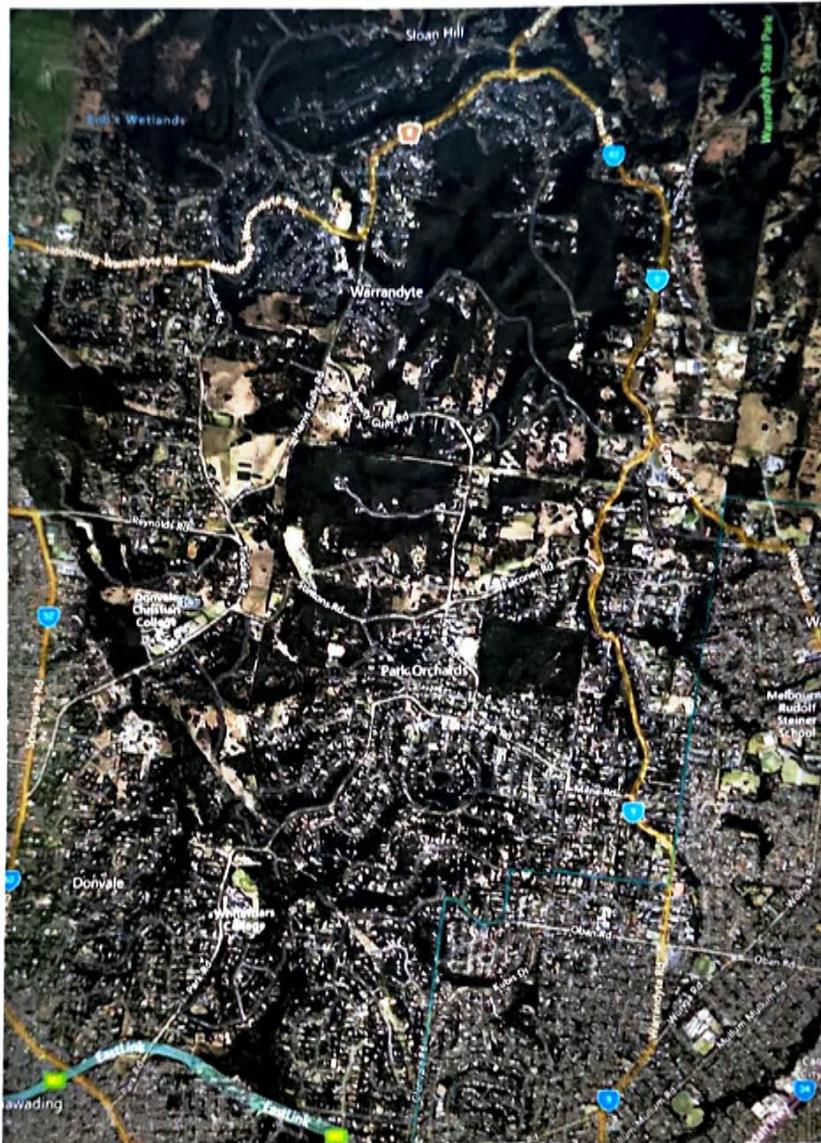
Image 1:



It has accordingly been a source of confusion why we would now move to Deakin.

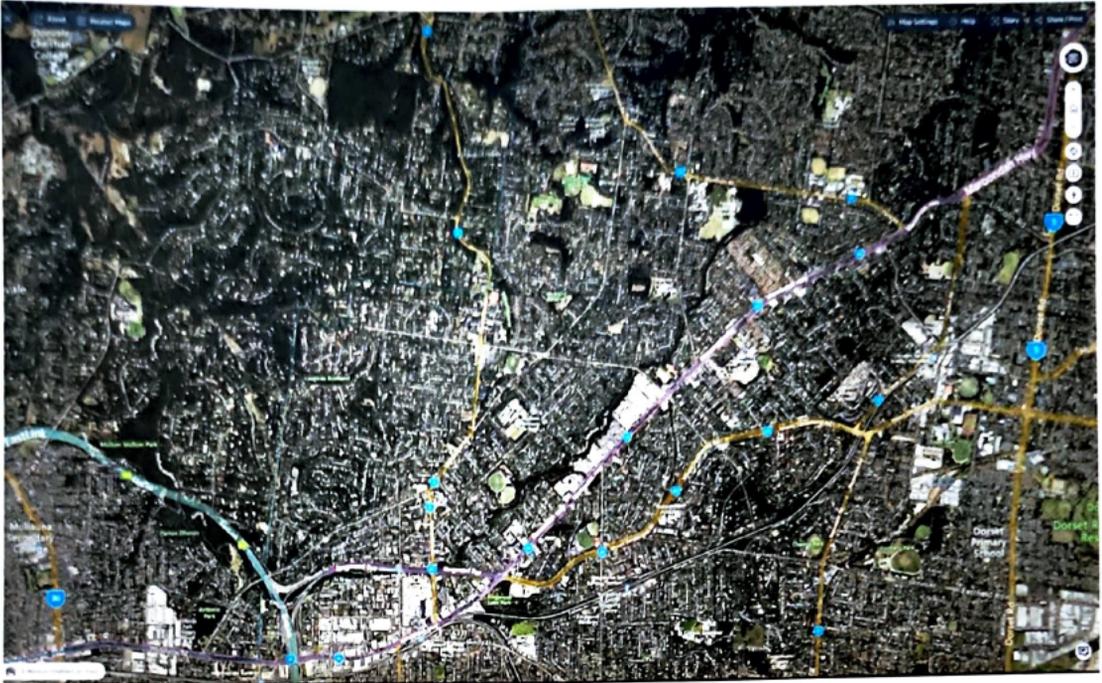
Significantly, Park Orchards is part of Melbourne's famous green wedge, a hilly entrance to the Yarra Valley which has strong planning laws to protect its semi-rural nature.

We have a strong physical connection to the semi-rural localities that have remained in Menzies. Putting these leafy green suburbs together allows them to be effectively represented. This is important as the green wedge is almost constantly under attack in some way or another. We share common interests, and want to be represented together, so our concerns are taken seriously.



**Image 2:** The strong similarities between Templestowe, Warrandyte, Park Orchards, and Donvale.

Finally, there is little neighbourhood character in common between Park Orchards and the Croydon-Ringwood area. In contrast to our green space, Ringwood was built on Antimony Mining, and has since developed into a highly industrialised and metropolitan area.



**Image 3:** The small suburban blocks and big industrial areas of Ringwood and Croydon. Note how different it looks to the big blocks and green areas of Park Orchards in the top right.

This redistribution will take away the effective representation of the Park Orchards area. By putting our small leafy community in an electorate that is 90% made up of suburban areas, the AEC has made certain that our voices will not be heard.

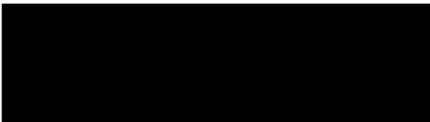
This is especially concerning since the most important issues in Park Orchards also impact the rest of Manningham, which will be in Menzies. These include for example.

- Concerns about rate rises;
- The North East Link;
- Saving the Park Orchards Chalet;
- Sewerage.

Many of these issues require assistance and cooperation of state, local, and commonwealth governments. Having the same federal member as the rest of Manningham has improved our ability to advocate for our community. We ask that the AEC does not deny us this benefit afforded to all the other suburbs of the municipality.

The only way that we will be able to preserve our neighbourhood is if we are reunited with our leafy counterparts in Warrandyte and East Templestowe. To the AEC, please put us back in Menzies!

Kind Regards,



*of the PORA committee*

Park Orchards Ratepayers Association