I am the current Club President of Suburbs Rugby Football Club in Christchurch. We have our clubrooms in Spreydon and our home playing ground around the corner in Hoon Hay. I have strong roots in this part of Christchurch. I grew up in Hoon Hay and now live in Spreydon. I went to school in Hoon Hay (Te Komanawa Rowley Primary, Manning Intermediate and Hillmorton High). My three children and mokopuna have all attended either West Spreydon School, Te Komanawa Rowley Primary, Manning Intermediate and Hillmorton High.

My life is typical of many in our area – we see Spreydon and Hoon Hay/Hillmorton as being one joined up community. These connections are strong and long-standing. In fact, Suburbs Rugby Club Christchurch was formed in 1949 following the amalgamation of the Sunnyside Rugby Club (Hillmorton and Hoon Hay) and the Spreydon Rugby Club. It was known as Sunnyside/Spreydon, or Combined, until the name was changed to Suburbs in 1961. Today our players are largely drawn from Spreydon, Hoon Hay and Hillmorton.

I am objecting to changes to the Spreydon boundary in the electorate boundary review because it cuts our area in half. The boundary along Neville St between Barrington to Lyttelton St is not one that makes any sense to us locally. We have a strong community around these three suburbs and drawing and line down Lyttelton St ignores our strong community.

Spreydon in our minds stretches right across to Selwyn or Strickland St in the east and does not stop at Barrington or Lyttelton St as the review proposes. We work with schools across our local area but the majority of our junior players are drawn from West Spreydon and Te Komanawa Rowley. This is because we form a strong local community.

With the help of the local Community Board, we recently opened our new clubroom home last year, at Coronation Hall in Domain Tce, Spreydon. This facility is fast becoming a hub for groups and people across our community of Hoon Hay, Hillmorton and Spreydon.

My solution is that we do not cut our community in two but leave the eastern boundary of Wigram south of Brougham St at either Selwyn or Strickland Street.

