**Objection**

I am the Manager – Tumuaki of Rowley Community Centre in Hoon Hay. The Rowley Community Centre has been in the Rowley Avenue - Hoon Hay community for over 30 years. We operate as a community-based Centre that focuses on enabling growth through the provision of services, facilities, courses and groups for the improvement of lives in the community. We provide a range of services from supporting families through the use of a community worker to assist with resourcing and support, through to the free use of phones, computers and internet access, photocopiers and scanners. We are a drop-in Centre where people can just come in and read the paper, have a chat and grab themselves a cup of tea or coffee and meet others. We have a group of volunteers who support us in a range of ways, from the work in the garden or kitchen through to the volunteer tutors. We have a range of courses available and provide cheap vegetables through the Vege Co-op that is a volunteer community initiative established throughout Christchurch. We have a meeting room, a community shed and stone carving area.

We host a monthly network meeting that brings together community workers and organisations from the local area of Spreydon and Hoon Hay. For example, Project Esther Trust regularly attend these meetings.

People who use our centre come from around the Rowley/Hoon Hay, Hillmorton and Spreydon areas. This is because our suburbs are interconnected and have much in common. A number of our regular users live in parts of Spreydon that the commission is proposing be moved into Christchurch Central.

We are objecting to the proposed boundary as the new boundaries divide our communities and make no sense locally. In local understandings Spreydon extends out to at least Selwyn St (if not Strickland) along the eastern boundary. So, not only is Spreydon being split in half but half of Spreydon is being disconnected from its neighbours of Hoon Hay, Rowley and Hillmorton. This is not giving due regard to the community of interest that has long existed in Spreydon or with the neighbouring suburbs of Hoon Hay and Hillmorton.

Barrington Mall and the associated facilities around there (GP, library etc) are as much the village centre of the people of Hoon Hay and Rowley as they are for Spreydon. This is also a major transport hub for our local people with 5 bus routes passing through Barrington.

The proposed boundaries also ignore the local school zones of West Spreydon and Hillmorton. Our local schools are integral to our communities and having a dividing line through these communities would also be detrimental to our ability to advocate with our local MP.

**Proposal**

Spreydon is an integral part of its wider local community and is not well served by being carved off from its community of interest. Instead, some of the more rural areas proposed to come into the Wigram electorate have more affinity with their rural neighbours and should be grouped with those communities in a single electorate.

Regards,

Evelyn Kenneally