Counter-Objection to Objection N10005

Statement from N10005

"Firstly, while McLaren Park is considered a part of Henderson per Google Maps, its residents are separated from the rest of the Henderson residential area by an industrial zone, thus its links to the Henderson area are weaker than McLaren Park's geographical connections to areas within the proposed Glendene electorate. Moreover, McLaren Park residents share share other stronger connections to areas within Glendene, such as those relating to educaiton and transport. Connections to schooling, such as Bruce McLaren Intermediate school zone (map attached), can be seen in the McLaren Park and Sunnyvale areas, which would indicate that the area holds stronger ties to being within Glendene rather than the proposed Ranui electorate. Furthermore, residents of McLaren Park would be more likely to shop and connect with their community in areas contained within the Glendene electorate boundaries (Glendene and Sunnyvale). Finally, these arguments seemed to be acknowledged by previous review committees, with prior boundary changes in the former Kelston and Te Atatu electorates, as shown by the former electorate boundary line between the two electorates that places McLaren Park in Kelston."

Counter objection to statements about industrial zone and transport

- Two bus routes serve McLaren Park; 145 and 154.
- The 145 travels on Henderson Valley Rd and Forest Hill Rd and provides a short, direct ride to the Henderson Shopping Centre.
- The 154 travels on Bruce McLaren Rd and Railside Ave and gives residents in this part of McLaren Park a short, direct ride to the Henderson Shopping Centre.
- Each route passes through an industrial zone at no inconvenience to passengers.
- These industrial zones are, at most, 1km in road length.
- For car travellers, Henderson Valley Rd, Forest Hill Rd, Bruce McLaren Rd and Railside Ave provide easy access to the Henderson Shopping Centre.
- It is more difficult for McLaren Park residents to get to Glendene and Sunnyvale than it is to get to Henderson, with the Oratia Stream being a greater hindrance to travel than either industrial zone.

Counter objection to statements about education

- In the south-eastern corner of the proposed Rānui electorate there are three major schools; Henderson South School, Bruce McLaren Intermediate and Henderson High School.
- These form a natural educational community of interest for all the years of compulsory education.
- Many parents in McLaren Park currently have children at more than one of these schools.
- Many long-term residents of McLaren Park have had their children educated at these three schools.
- Although these three schools have not always been in the same electorate there is a strong case, based on communities of interest, that they should be.
- The boundaries of the proposed Rānui electorate have all three schools within them and that is preferable to having two in one electorate (Rānui) and one in another (Glendene).

Counter objection to statements about shopping

- Few McLaren Park residents do their shopping in Sunnyvale or Glendene.
- There are few shops in Sunnyvale and it has no shopping centre.
- For McLaren Park residents the Henderson Shopping Centre is closer to and more accessible than the Glendene shops (see above for comments about bus routes and arterial roads in McLaren Park).
- It is more difficult for McLaren Park residents to get to Glendene and Sunnyvale than it is to get to Henderson, with the Oratia Stream being a greater hindrance to travel than either industrial zone.

Counter objection to statements about boundary between Te Atatū and Kelston electorates

- Boundaries between electorate need to change from time to time.
- The Electoral Commission is required to consider five items including existing general electorate boundaries, communities of interest and topographical features.
- The community on the western side of Henderson Valley Rd and bounded on the west by Opanuku Stream (that is, Border Rd, Garelja Rd, Keeling Rd and Smythe Rd and their sidestreets) has more in common with the McLaren Park community than any part of Glendene or Sunnyvale.
- These two communities (McLaren Park and the one described in the preceding bullet point) are contiguous whereas McLaren Park is separated from Glendene and Sunnyvale by Oratia Stream, its river bank and some significant esplanade areas.
- The middle of Henderson Valley Rd forms part of the boundary between the existing Te Atatū and Kelston electorates and, in my opinion, divides the community I live in rather than unifies it.
- Using the more significant topographical feature of Oratia Stream as part of an electorate boundary would have a cohesive effect on this community.

Conclusion and Solution

- McLaren Park has a much closer affinity to Henderson than it does to Glendene or Sunnyvale and should therefore stay in the proposed Rānui electorate.
- This is consistent with the statement in the NZ Electorate Boundary Review that the proposed Rānui electorate is based around the communities of Henderson, Rānui, Massey and Massey East.
- Retain McLaren Park in the proposed Rānui electorate.