



Submission to the NZ Electorate Boundary Review 2019/2020

I, **Chris Sutton**, work in a professional capacity as Town Centre Manager for the Panmure Business Association, which represents the Panmure Business Improvement District.

This submission is on behalf of the Panmure Business Association (PBA). The membership consists of 350 building and business owners whose buildings and businesses are situated in a defined Business Improvement District (BID) area in and around the town centre. The role of the Business Association is to support and promote that businesses community.

The Panmure Business Association **does not support** the proposed electorate boundaries review that places Panmure in the Manukau East electorate.

On page two of the New Zealand Electorate Boundary Review document, the criteria for determining boundaries notes that the Commission is required to give due consideration to:

- existing General electorate boundaries
- community of interest
- facilities of communications
- topographical features, and
- any projected variation in the General electoral population of those electorates during their life

We wish to make the following comments regarding the proposed boundaries:

We would disagree that the Commission has given due consideration to the existing General electorate boundaries; as Panmure has no history or community of interest with the Manukau East electorate. Historically, Panmure has always sat within the former Auckland City Council and the Mount Wellington Borough Council administrative areas. From 1848, Panmure became central to the political administration of this area through such bodies as the Panmure/Mount Wellington Highway Districts, the Borough of Mount Wellington and even the short-lived Tamaki City Council. This proposed change ignores all that history.

We would disagree that the Commission has given due consideration to recognising Panmure is part of Tāmaki with a strong community of interest; enhanced by the current Tāmaki Regeneration Company's project. Local people think of Tāmaki as one entity that has fought hard to be heard and for the first time in decades Panmure is now at the heart of the largest urban transformation via the AMETI Eastern Busway project, Panuku Developments Unlock Panmure project as well as the Tāmaki Regeneration Company ambitious housing and social change project. These are large central and local government projects and this is not the right time to dilute our representation in Parliament. We are concerned that splitting the existing electoral boundaries will negatively impact the development, management, and operation of infrastructure projects over the next two parliamentary cycles. The proposed boundaries changes are not good for our democratic rights as voters in Panmure and Glen Innes will feel disconnected and alienated from the larger Manukau East electoral area and will probably see all future election campaigns centred on South Auckland issues debated by South Auckland-based politicians. This is likely to undermine and discourage participation in democracy in our areas.

We would disagree that the Commission has given due consideration to the topographical features; as it removes the Maungarei/Mt Wellington from it being at the traditional heart of Tāmaki for both manuwheua and historically for the early settlers. Since 1848 when Panmure became central to the political administration of this area through such bodies as the

Panmure/Mount Wellington Highway Districts, the Borough of Mount Wellington and even the short-lived Tamaki City Council. This proposed change ignores all that history.

The change would separate Panmure politically not only from the maunga but also an area of the Panmure Business Improvement Districts business community that is situated to the west of Jellicoe Rd with its own manmade topographical feature, the rail line and the Panmure Rail Station that would remain in the Maungakiekie electorate. We believe that a simplistic approach to creating the boundary lines has been used with everything in the west of the train line part of Maungakiekie and everything to the east in the new proposed electorate of Manukau East.

We would disagree that the Commission has given due consideration to any projected variation in the General electoral population of the proposed electorate; due to the fact that the Tamaki Regeneration Companies project has removed 200 houses from Panmure/Point England area so an conservative estimate of around 800 people would not have been captured in the last census. With 460 new homes being built over the next two to three years, the project also foresees a significant population increase in Panmure, Glen Innes and Point England coming decades. This is likely to force a reversal of this proposal by the Electoral Commission in years to come.

We are keen for the commission to note that all surrounding electorates of the proposed electoral boundary change, namely Tamaki, Epsom, Maungakiekie, Mangere, Manurewa, Botany and Pakuranga - are allowed to maintain their identity and sense of cohesion under the changes, but Panmure, along with parts of Glen Innes, Point England, and parts of Mount Wellington and Otahuhu, will be forced to lose our strong historical identity.

Suggested solution

The solution to our objection of what we view as being absorbed into a South Auckland electorate without the care and consideration of the history of our area, is to create a new electorate called Maungarei.

This name recognises the topographical, historical and cultural heart of this area of Auckland, namely Maungarei/Mt Wellington.

The 'watchful mountain', Maungarei/Mt Wellington is viewed from all directions and from the suburbs of Glen Innes, Point England, Panmure, Mt Wellington, Ellerslie, the northern part of Otahuhu, and we view this important physical feature of our landscape as at the heart of our area.

We wish to thank the commission for the opportunity to voice our concerns and a representative of our Association is willing to attend a hearing.

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