# SUBMISSION TO THE REPRESENTATION COMMISSION ON THE DRAFT ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

# Submission on Retaining Flat Bush / Ormiston Area in the Takanini Electorate

## 1. Community of Interest and Logical Boundaries

We oppose the proposal to move the Flat Bush–Ormiston area south of Ormiston Road, east of Te Irirangi Drive, and north of Dawson Road and Thomas Road into the new Ōtāhuhu electorate. We respectfully submit that this area should remain in the Takanini electorate.

This area includes dense new housing developments, Ormiston Town Centre, Ormiston Junior and Senior Colleges, Barry Curtis Park, and is part of a cohesive urban growth corridor connecting Ormiston, Donegal Park, Takanini, and Addison. The schools, in particular, are a large part of the community of interest for Flat Bush / Ormiston children.

Te Irirangi Drive forms a natural western boundary, and Dawson (East)/Thomas Roads are a logical southern edge.

Ōtāhuhu lies outside the natural transport and social orientation of this community.

## 2. Local Government Ward Alignment and the Flat Bush Residents’ Association.

It is also important that electoral boundaries align, where possible, with local government ward boundaries which reflect well-established communities of interest and natural boundaries.

The area between Ormiston Road, Te Irirangi Drive, and Dawson/Thomas Roads falls within the Howick Ward of Auckland Council. Retaining this area, and the area that is Donegal Park formerly in the Botany Electorate, in the Takanini electorate would respect that alignment.

This is one of the few Local Board boundaries which does not align with electorate boundaries; the result is that the Howick Local Board will deal with 4 Members of Parliament rather than the current 3.

This is *especially* important given that Flat Bush has a very high proportion of immigrants to our country. Aligning Flat Bush in the Takanini electorate with the Howick ward boundary, keeps consistent representation for their neighbourhood.

The draft proposal would also split the area represented by the **Flat Bush Residents’ Association** (FBRA). The proposed area of Flat Bush that is to be transferred to Ōtāhuhu makes up around a quarter to a third of the Flat Bush Residents’ Association’s coverage area.

This would mean that residents in one part of the FBRA area would fall under the electorate of *Takanini* and have different representation to other residents of the FBRA who would fall in the *Otahuhu* electorate and have different representation again.

Such a division is confusing and weakens the neighbourhood’s collective voice. It undermines the cohesion of the community and complicates local advocacy efforts across parliamentary boundaries.

## 3. Alternative for Population Balance

Under the current draft proposal for the Takanini electorate, the suburbs of Flat Bush and Clover Park, would each be split between Takanini and Otahuhu electorates, and do not align well with local ward boundaries.

On the other hand, if the Flat Bush area (south of Ormiston Road, east of Te Irirangi Drive, and north of Dawson/Thomas Roads) is retained in Takanini, Otahuhu would instead gain population by naturally taking in rest of the Clover Park suburb, south of Dawson Rd and North of Redoubt Road.

This would balance quota requirements while keeping communities of interest and the two suburbs intact.

The Manukau area shares greater transport and socio-economic ties with Ōtāhuhu and would be a more appropriate adjustment than splitting Flat Bush.

An alternative is to retain, from the proposed move to Botany, the area west of Murphy’s Rd and south of Ormiston Rd known as Tuscany Estates and Regis Park. This lies within the Howick Local Board and currently the Takanini Electorate. The population balance could be overcome by moving an area of Manurewa East, that which lies between Great South Rd, Mahia Rd and Weymouth Rd back into Manurewa where there are strong community and transport links. It is noted that Manurewa electorate can support this population being included within it’s boundary.

## 5. Transport Connectivity and Community Alignment

The area of Flat Bush bounded by Ormiston Road, Te Irirangi Drive, and Dawson/Thomas Roads is integrally connected to the Takanini electorate through established transport routes and community infrastructure.

Residents in this area rely heavily on Ormiston Town Centre and surrounding areas for shopping, education, and community services, as does the Regis Park/ Tuscany estates community. The centre is easily accessible via local roads and public transport, reinforcing the area's orientation toward the southern growth corridor and the Takanini electorate.

Public transport routes, such as the 35 and 355 buses, provide direct connections between Flat Bush and key areas within the Takanini electorate, including Manukau and Botany. These links support daily commuting patterns and reinforce existing community relationships.

By contrast, there is minimal direct public transport connectivity between this part of Flat Bush and Ōtāhuhu. There are no regular or efficient services linking these areas, and Ōtāhuhu is not a regular destination for residents' work, education, or community activity. This highlights the lack of any natural alignment between Flat Bush and Ōtāhuhu.

Conversely, the area south of Dawson Road—including Clover Park—has strong transport and community ties with Ōtāhuhu and Ōtara. Bus routes such as 325 and 352 provide regular service from Clover Park to central Ōtāhuhu and Ōtara town centres, and the area shares educational, recreational, and commercial facilities with those communities.

These factors further support our recommendation to retain Flat Bush within the Takanini electorate while suggesting that Ōtāhuhu could instead take in the southern Manukau area below Dawson Road. This would preserve both transport orientation and community integrity.

**Presentation**

I would like to present to the Commission.



Dr Lee Mathias ONZM April 26 2025

DHSC, MBA, BA, NZRN, CFInstIOD