

SUBMISSION TO THE REPRESENTATION COMMISSION ON THE DRAFT ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

From : Daniel Newman
To : Representation Commission
Date : 27 April 2025
Objection relating to : Takanini electorate boundaries

SUMMARY

My submission acknowledges the work of the Representation Commission (“the Commission”) but objects to the design of the boundaries as they relate to the Takanini electorate, predominantly on the grounds of communities of interest.

My submission seeks amendments to the Takanini electorates, with proposed changes to better align longstanding communities of interest as they relate to Manurewa East, Tuscany Estate, and Donegal Park (in part).

I wish to be heard on this submission.

ABOUT THE SUBMITTER

I am a resident of Wattle Downs, having lived in this community continuously since 2005. I have served continuously as the Auckland Councillor representing the Manurewa-Papakura Ward since 2016, and as a Trustee of the Wiri Licensing Trust since 2019.

I have a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts (Honours) from the University of Auckland, majoring in Geography. I have worked primarily in public policy and planning roles. I also provided evidence in relation to cases considered by the Independent Hearings Panel on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan from 2014 to 2016.

My constituency gives me deep insight into growth, communities of interest, and the social and physical landscape of South Auckland in particular. My submission to the Commission is informed by that insight.

This submission as well as the relief sought is expressed solely in my capacity as a private resident. I request the opportunity to speak in person to the submission evidence and reserve the right to make further submissions in response to other submitters.

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST ARGUMENTS PERTAINING TO MANUREWA, TUSCANY ESTATE AND DONEGAL PARK

Through my role as a local government official, I represent thousands of people who reside in the Manurewa, Takanini and Papakura electorates. Each of these electorates represent communities that are either well-established through generations of shared experience and networks, or they are new communities that are currently growing from paddocks and former farmland (as part of Auckland's sprawling transition).

In a peri-urban outer suburban community like mine, communities of interest arguments will always be more nuanced. To assist the Commission, my assessment of existing communities of interest are:

Manurewa East

As generally described, this is the area between Weymouth Road, Coxhead Road, Mahia Road, and the northern rail corridor/Great South Road. That area is for all intents and purposes a Manurewa suburb. It faces to Manurewa for retail, employment, school zones (e.g. James Cook High School), sports clubs (e.g. Manurewa Marlins, Manurewa RFC, Clendon AFC, and Manukau Cricket), and transport hubs (e.g. Manurewa Train Station).

In my view the Commission was correct to reallocate the suburban community between Sykes Road and Coxhead Road from Takanini to Manurewa, this strongly reflects existing communities of interest.

However, the area of Manurewa East as described above is proposed to be excluded from Manurewa, which is problematic as this would continue a disconnection of one community solely because of population quotas.

I accept that the Commission must ensure one vote-one value, but I submit it would be advantageous if it could achieve a further adjustment to reallocate Manurewa East from Takanini to Manurewa.

Tuscany Estate

Tuscany Estate is generally described as the area around Redoubt Road from Mill Road to Regis Lane.

In my view the Commission defined the boundaries for this community correctly in 2020 based on communities of interest arguments. This area of Takanini is new but it broadly represents a corridor that is the subject of rapid urban redevelopment and will shortly be the subject of further transformation as the Mill Road corridor reshapes this part of Takanini.

In my view the Commission should use its best endeavour not to separate Tuscany Estate from Takanini if possible. While the Commission needs to be mindful that Botany is proposed to be at the bottom of the population quota, recent residential consents and a plan change in Beachlands will quickly see Botany experience some of the fastest growth anywhere in New Zealand.

Donegal Park (in part)

Donegal Park is a relatively new residential community, whose community of interest aligns with Donegal Glen, Vista Estate and Flat Bush.

I oppose the proposed reallocation of Donegal Park from Takanini to Otahuhu. Donegal Park would exist as an island in awkward isolation under this proposal, it runs contrary to a communities of interest argument.

I would recommend a trade-off, which sees the Commission swapping parts of Chapel Downs and Donegal Park between Takanini and Otahuhu, which would seek to address communities of interest arguments will working to ensure tolerance with the population quota.

In my view the Commission should use Te Irirangi Drive as the first boundary line. This would see the established community between Te Irirangi Drive and Boundary Road being reallocated from Takanini to Otahuhu, which is consistent with an existing community of interest argument noting this is in effect the southern meshblock of the broader Otara community,

In my view the Commission should use Hollyford Drive (in part), Aspiring Avenue, and Matthews Road as the second boundary line. This would see the established community

being reallocated from Takanini to Otahuhu, which is consistent with an existing community of interest argument.

In my view the Commission should use Chapel Road to either Flat Bush School Road or Ormiston Road as the third boundary line. This would see Donegal Park reallocated from Otahuhu to Takanini, which is generally offset by subsequent population changes proposed in this submission too. I accept that Ormiston Road would be more disruptive than Flat Bush School Road, but in any event, some adjustment is necessary in this part of the Auckland region to align communities of interest.