



Comment on suggestion 54

Victorian Labor Party (Victorian Branch)

10 pages

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Dear Redistribution Committee for Victoria

Please find attached Comments on Suggestions from the Australian Labor Party (Victorian Branch) in relation to the 2017-18 Federal redistribution in Victoria.

Grateful if this email and submission could please be acknowledged as received.

Regards,
Justin

Justin Barbour
Victorian Labor Party (Victorian Branch)

[REDACTED]

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**Victorian
Labor's**
COMMENTS ON
SUGGESTIONS



OVERVIEW

When formulating our suggestions to the Redistribution Committee the Australian Labor Party (Victorian Branch) (ALP) was mindful of the fact that this Redistribution will apply to the next Parliament. The quarterly Demographic Statistics released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in September confirmed that Victoria's annual population growth continues to be 50% greater than the Australian average. As the Committee has concluded Victoria's growth rate will soon gain the State with an extra Division.

Our suggestions also provided the principles by which we think the Committee should judge both our own and other suggestions made. In summary, these were that in Regional and Rural Victoria Local Government Area (LGA) boundaries wherever possible are not breached and that Divisions also, to the greatest extent possible, comprise those parts defined as Rural and Regional. Secondly, that in outer Melbourne, that Divisions should be drawn which reflect the fact that the Interface Councils have similar economic issues to such an extent that these councils work closely together when making proposals at both the State and Federal level. Finally, that in Inner Melbourne, Divisions should not cross the Yarra River and have clearly recognisable boundaries.

In an era when public disclosure of information is rightly expected it is only fair that the major political parties, when making suggestions for the Redistribution, should provide clear details of proposed elector movements and boundaries. We note that several independent proposals have done so consistent with the ALP's submission. It is disappointing that the Liberal Party suggestion is so difficult to follow.

The ALP's comments will mostly focus on those proposals which breach the general principles earlier outlined and on those parts in various suggestions which are contentious.

Existing boundaries are part of the criteria when forging new Division boundaries. The Commissioners always provide as a yardstick the percentage of electors moved to another Division. We start there. Next, the ALP examines those proposals affecting Rural and Regional Victoria and then Melbourne itself. Finally, the ALP comments on Division names that have been suggested.

ELECTORS RETAINED IN EXISTING DIVISIONS

At the 2010 Redistribution, only 10.8% of electors were moved to another Division. This time that percentage will increase, due to the additional Division entitlement.

The most recent Federal Redistributions which involved a change in a State's Divisional entitlement were in 2014-16. New South Wales lost a Division and Western Australia gained one. Final boundaries resulted in 18.9% of electors in NSW changing Divisions. In WA it was 17.4%. However, in WA the creation of the new seat of Burt, south of the Swan River, necessitated significant transfers from the north to the south. Similarly, the abolition of Hunter in NSW produced a cascading effect across many Divisions.

In Victoria, the new Division is likely to be located in the north east of Melbourne. The outer suburban seats of Lalor, Gorton and McEwen when combined contain a surplus of more than three quarters of an electorate at the projected date. On the inner southern and eastern side of the Yarra River, as well as in rural areas, the Committee is dealing with Divisions which usually require an infusion of electors to meet quota.

Taking everything together, it is fair to expect that the percentage transfer of electors into another Division will be higher than last time, due to the new Division, but below that of the recent NSW and WA Redistributions.

Under the ALP proposal, only 14.4% of electors are moved to another Division. The Liberal Party maintains that the transfer of nearly 25% of electors into a different Division is a reasonable outcome. That is 400,000 more electors than under the ALP suggestion. In fact, comparisons with other recent Redistributions, involving a change to seat entitlements, demonstrate the poor outcome that would occur as a result of the Liberal Party submission.

Moreover, the wholesale changes suggested by the Liberal Party produce six Divisions containing a minority of current electors. These are:

	DIVISION	Current	Retained	%
1.	MURRAY	105,643	0	0
2.	McEWEN	140,152	37,595	26.8
3.	CALWELL	111,686	24,103	21.6
4.	SCULLIN	113,623	49,127	43.2
5.	GORTON	121,382	30,247	24.9
6.	BRUCE	95,417	42,006	44.0

As a consistently theme of its submission, the Liberal Party goes for the big, unnecessary change at the expense of communities of interests and of keeping existing boundaries together when either no or small changes are required. Besides Murray, a further example, among many is its proposal, when Banyule Council can and should be united in Jagajaga, to move Menzies across the Yarra to Ivanhoe and parts of Heidelberg.

Every independent submission, whilst not achieving the ALP's lower number of transfers of electors to another Division is much closer to the ALP's mark of 14.4% than to the Liberal Party.

REGIONAL & RURAL

The most surprising suggestion is that of the Liberal Party which effectively attempts to abolish the Division of Murray.

The Liberal Party tries to recreate the Shepparton/Strathbogie/Mitchell/ Macedon Ranges McEwen similar to that proposed in 2010. This is about is having another go to take Murray from the National Party. They also send Murrindindi and Mansfield to Casey and draw Indi into the balance of Moira from Murray. As well, they split Moorabool; Hepburn and Greater Bendigo.

On Murray, in 2010, the Augmented Redistribution Committee reversed its original proposal, which was strongly opposed by the Liberal Party, to abolish that Division. The Committee's report states:

44. *"The proposed abolition of the Division of Murray accounted for more than 70 per cent of objections. Ninety one objections and three comments either opposed the abolition of the Division of Murray or opposed the transfer of specific areas from Murray into neighbouring divisions. Six speakers at the public inquiry on 14 October 2010 in Shepparton expressed concern about the proposed disbanding of the Division of Murray and the consequential changes to surrounding divisions.*
47. *"In the Commission's opinion, the community of interest arguments presented in support of retaining Murray were compelling. The Commission was convinced of the logic of maintaining as much of the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District in a single electoral division as possible, given the unique challenges facing the region."*

The National Party has made suggestions for 10 Divisions. Nonetheless, they still manage to split the LGA's of Hepburn; Greater Bendigo; Glenelg; Southern Grampians, (Mitchell which we do like most others via transferring Seymour and environs to Murray), and South Gippsland. They retain the Loddon S split and foreshadow Corio moving into Wyndham.

The Australian Greens also produce several splits in Council and Shire boundaries. They split Moorabool; Hepburn; Greater Bendigo; Colac-Otway; Campaspe; Strathbogie and Murrindindi whilst maintaining the Loddon Shire Council split.

The independents have fewer new LGA splits than the Liberal and National Parties and the Australian Greens. None come close to the ALP. The ALP has united Bass Coast, Loddon and Golden Plains Shires but only split Mitchell via the Seymour transfer to Murray.

Most independents agree that McMillan gain the balance of Bass Coast from Flinders, thus becoming a truly rural Division with the shedding of Pakenham to La Trobe. Those suggestions, such as Mark Mulcair's which don't unite Bass Coast Shire in McMillan end up with half of Pakenham being retained in McMillan instead of the lot being sent to La Trobe. They also usually agree that the shortfall in the east be made up by transferring parts of Nillumbik S to Casey. A few attempts have been made to unite Macedon Ranges within McEwen, but in every case at the expense of both splitting Greater Bendigo Council via Healesville and Hepburn Shire via Daylesford.

On this point, it is reasonable to regard both Bendigo and Ballarat as having a greater catchment of satellite towns than what the numbers allow to fit. A few suggestions adopted the mindset that Central Goldfields Shire has a relationship with Bendigo and/or that a similar relationship pertains between Golden Plains Shire and Ballarat. These things are true but the consequences of incorporating these Shires in respectively, Bendigo and Ballarat either splits Shires between Wannon and Mallee or splits Daylesford from the rest of Hepburn Shire, or else takes Bacchus Marsh from the remainder of Moorabool Shire in the case of Ballarat. With Bendigo, it is Heathcote taken away from Greater Bendigo Council.

BATMAN / MELBOURNE / WILLS

Most suggestions, except for the Liberal Party and Australian Greens, accept that those parts of Moonee Valley Council should be removed from Melbourne and Wills. Most suggestions also reduce the three way split of Yarra Council by either transferring the Yarra component of Batman or Wills to Melbourne. Most also try to keep the M80 as a northern boundary for either Batman, or for Wills, at least in part.

The ALP provided detailed reasons in support of its suggestions for this trio of Divisions. We won't repeat these, but in summary, our suggestion, by enabling the transfer of Kensington from Melbourne to Gellibrand both had the effect of placing all of Yarra Council within Melbourne as well as maintaining the M80 as the northern boundary for both Wills and Batman.

What is most interesting about the other suggestions for this area is that although each keeps Kensington in Melbourne, each also with varying degrees of success attempt to produce partially our outcome.

Both the relatively recently built M80 and CityLink are examples of major man-made features that can and in the case of the M80 have been adopted by the Commissioners as electoral boundaries.

That also recognises that these features have had and will continue into the future the effect of changing the communities of interest in electoral arrangements. Just as in NSW, the M2 and M5 have, despite the recent build been adopted as partial boundaries, so too in Victoria should that option be considered.

MOVING MENZIES ACROSS THE YARRA INTO IVANHOE / HEIDELBERG

Since being established in 1984, Jagajaga has been a Banyule Council based Division. It has always contained Ivanhoe and Heidelberg. On this occasion, the numbers allow the option, which should be taken by the Commissioners, of uniting all of Banyule Council within Jagajaga.

Almost all suggestions recommend this. These also recognise the significance of the Yarra River as a long standing and major impediment. But, as is generally recognised by the time you get to the far northern metropolitan reaches of the Yarra River, it becomes a much less significant barrier. Indeed, the transfer of electors when necessary, north to south has been effected via McEwen. We saw that last time when McEwen transferred its remaining holdings of Yarra Ranges Shire into Casey. This time, a significant transfer is necessary, given that the Divisions from Lalor to McEwen are collectively one and a quarter seats over quota. The place to do it is a partial Nillumbik shire transfer into Casey.

The major exceptions are the proposals of the Liberal Party and Mark Mulcair which move Menzies across the Yarra River.

The proposal to transfer the postcodes 3079 & 3084, including Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe East, Eaglemont, Heidelberg, Viewbank and half of Rosanna into Menzies runs contrary to the aim of aligning and simplifying current jurisdictional boundaries.

This proposal disregards the Yarra River (and the adjacent Eastern Freeway) as the common boundary separating Manningham LGA and Menzies on one side from Banyule LGA and Jagajaga on the other.

Abandoning the Yarra River as a basic electoral boundary makes no sense.

The incorporation of these suburbs into Menzies will see a significant portion of Banyule LGA transferred into Menzies, dividing the Banyule LGA across two federal electorates, unnecessarily and making existing boundaries more complex, not less.

It would mean Menzies takes on an entirely new LGA in Banyule.

With Lower Plenty Road as the proposed new border, it would mean the suburb of Rosanna would be split in half across two federal electorates, creating a logistical mess.

From a community of interest standpoint, the ALP certainly does not believe this proposal is beneficial to anyone.

These are very established communities, very distinct from that in Menzies with many long standing organisations including the Austin medical precinct, schools and groups that are well integrated into the Jagajaga electorate.

There is simply no imperative for such disruptions.

INCORPORATING 3081 POSTCODE IN BATMAN

This proposal runs contrary to the objective of simplifying and streamlining current boundaries by attempting to transfer a section of Banyule LGA into the electorate of Batman.

Once again, it makes boundaries more complex, not less.

It would decouple the current border (Darebin Creek) that separates Banyule and Darebin LGAs as well as the electorates of Jagajaga and Batman.

It is currently a functional, clear and long standing boundary that keeps Darebin LGA within Batman and Banyule LGA within Jagajaga.

So established is this boundary that it is now a part of the identity of those areas.

It is one that residents, schools and organisations know and rely upon when seeking support from their Councillors and Federal MP.

From a community of interest standpoint, this proposal is most strongly advised against.

It is an insensitive proposal that diffuses the needs and identity of the 3081 postcode into a new federal area with separate socioeconomic challenges and a separate history.

The 3081 postcode is an area of traditionally high socioeconomic need.

Whilst some parts of the postcode such as Heidelberg Heights are increasingly affluent, there remain large pockets of disadvantage and public housing there.

It is a postcode that has a high reliance on support services, government agencies and departments.

Residents seeking support have long associated their needs with the Federal Member for Jagajaga. Such a move would be a major disruption to their understanding of where to seek assistance.

Similarly, it would be a major disruption to organisations that are on the very front line of supporting residents such as Banyule Community Health, Children's Protection Society, West Heidelberg Community Legal service, Olympic Adult Education and the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, among many others.

For instance, it would place Austin Health into two federal electorates instead of one.

There is a large Somali community spread across these suburbs, who all meet in the West Heidelberg Mall, the Mosque in West Heidelberg and the Banyule Community Health Service.

Since the Somali community began to arrive in West Heidelberg in 1992, they have developed a close relationship with their neighbouring suburbs.

We also note the suggestion made by David Mullholland concerning Jagajaga. It should be noted for the attention of the Commissioners that Mr Mullholland was the Liberal Party candidate for the Division of Jagajaga in 2016. His submission makes no sense from a community of interest perspective.

OUTER WEST & NORTH MELBOURNE

In the inner west the Liberal Party draws effectively the ALP's proposed Batman but leave in Melbourne all of Moonee Valley Council. That results in Wills losing the entire surplus of Batman/Melbourne/Wills going out (38,800) via Wills.

The Australian Greens take out Ascot Vale but not Flemington from Melbourne and also transfer a parcel of 3,700 electors from Docklands to Melbourne Ports. They also remove Whittlesea from Batman, (as do most independents) and also send to Calwell from Wills parts of Pascoe Vale and Glenroy.

The Liberal Party transfers Lalor's surplus to Gellibrand, thus disrupting the ALP's interface Councils principles, whereas the Australian Greens put 10,000 from Hobsons Bay Council into Lalor. With other Divisions, the Liberal Party suggestion is based on its transfer of Ivanhoe and other parts of Banyule Council, (24,000 electors) from Jagajaga to Menzies and its absurd Hume C Murray Division. Under the Liberal Party's submission, Maribyrnong sheds its share of Brimbank but not under the Greens.

Most independents send Lalor's surplus to Gellibrand and, in other Divisions, disregard the desirability of keeping to peri-urban Divisions. Otherwise, with the exception of Mark Mulcair, who agrees with the Liberal Party's transfer of parts of Banyule Council from Jagajaga to Menzies, all transfer to Casey the western surplus via Nillumbik Shire.

HOTHAM / ISAACS / BRUCE

Once you make the decision that all of Bass Coast be united in McMillan, which frees all of Pakenham to La Trobe once Flinders share of Cardinia is added to McMillan, you then have to decide what transfers are going to enable Dunkley and Hotham to meet quota. As you have seen in our submission, the shortfall of electors in the eastern and south eastern Melbourne seats is made up mostly by transfers of electors from Casey Council, north of the Monash Freeway, in Holt and La Trobe into Bruce. In turn, transfers from Bruce to Chisholm enables that seat to shed electors south of the Monash Freeway into Hotham which then flows through down to Dunkley.

We note almost that all suggestions make no change to Goldstein. These also accept that the lack of population on Isaacs western end means you can't transfer parts of Holt into Isaacs. That is also the conclusion of the Liberal Party.

Yet, there are major differences between the ALP and Liberal Party proposals for the above mentioned Divisions. As elsewhere, the Liberal Party make far more than the necessary changes required. The results, from a community of interest perspective, are far weaker boundaries.

Take, for instance, the Liberal Party inclusion of Mulgrave from Bruce into Chisholm. Mulgrave's major shopping and community links relate to wards Glen Waverley, Knox or City of Greater Dandenong rather than towards Clayton and Springvale. There are transport links such as the Princes Highway, the Dandenong Railway line and the Monash Freeway that serve as barriers between most of the Mulgrave area and Clayton. There are also significant industrial estates that separate these communities. The size of the Councils in this region will almost always require significant components of two Councils to be added together to create a viable electorate.

However, given the existing orientation was that Hotham was a Kingston/ City of Greater Dandenong Division while Bruce was a Monash/ City of Greater Dandenong Division, the level of movement between Hotham and

Bruce that has been proposed by the Liberal Party leads to an unnecessary degree of voter disruption by switching large numbers of voters between the two electorates for no discernible advantage to community of interests in the area.

The Liberal Party's Isaacs changes, which removes much of the Southern end of the City of Greater Dandenong and transfers to Bruce misses the community of interest there. Bus lines and major roads run between Keysborough, Noble Park and Dandenong South and City of Greater Dandenong residents from South of the train line are among the most frequent visitors to their nearest bayside suburbs, from Parkdale in the North to Chelsea in the South. In the summer, when Australians flock to the beaches, residents of Keysborough, Noble Park and Dandenong take the short drive or catch public transport to the beach and visit the shops and cafes of these bayside suburbs.

The Dandenong train line is the major divider of South-East Melbourne, not the respective local government areas. Many residents of Keysborough and Noble Park move there for its access to nearby beaches. It is partly for that reason that many of the new residential developments in the Southern part of the City of Greater Dandenong promote their access to the Bay.

The community of interest between City of Greater Dandenong south of the Dandenong train line and suburbs in the City of Kingston is strong and growing stronger. It would be a mistake to stretch Isaacs entirely along the Bay, when visitors to Mordialloc Beach are more likely to be from Noble Park than from Seaford.

The Liberal Party submission states that its aim is to emphasise, preserve and reunite 'communities of interest' while placing importance on areas that have shared economic fortunes.

In the case of their proposed boundary changes for the Division of Hotham and the surrounding areas in the South East of Melbourne, they have clearly not achieved these aims, indeed they directly contravene them. They have also caused unnecessary voter displacement in this area, with Hotham only retaining roughly 63% of its current electors.

In their submission, the Liberal Party have split the strong Indochinese community that stretches all the way from Clayton, to Clarinda, Springvale, Springvale South and into Noble Park. This is demonstrated by the ABS data below.

Table 1 (Source ABS.gov.au)

SUBURB	Percentage of residents that speak Indochinese Languages at home	Percentage difference between suburb vs Australia	Percentage of residents with Indochinese ancestral heritage	Percentage difference between suburb vs Australia
Australia	7%	N/A	6.9%	N/A
Clayton	36.5%	+29.5%	41.5%	+34.6%
Clayton South	23.1%	+16.1%	27.5%	+20.6%
Clarinda	10.1%	+2.9%	18.1%	+11.2%
Springvale	48.8%	+41.8%	45.4%	+38.5%
Springvale South	53.4%	+46.4%	50.8%	+43.9%
Noble Park	30.6%	+23.6%	25.7%	+18.8%

This Indochinese community is the clearest community of interest within the seat of Hotham. It forms the backbone of the Division and has for many years. The areas of major Indochinese settlement include all the suburbs listed above, covering extensive areas on both sides of Westall Road. The Liberal submission essentially splits the community in half. This is not just a community with shared economic fortunes. It is a community who

share languages, religion, culture, length of settlement in Australia, schools, community organisations, health centres, and other facilities.

Relevant to the above is the suggestion made by Robert Davies. In 2014 he was the Liberal Party candidate for the State Electoral District of Mulgrave against the now Premier, Daniel Andrews. Although Mr Davies describes his proposals for southern and south eastern Melbourne Divisions as being 'independent', the arguments he makes, beginning with the suggestion that McMillan's share of Bass Coast Shire be transferred to Flinders are in keeping with the suggestion that has been made by the Liberal Party.

MELBOURNE PORTS

Whereas most suggestions, including the Liberal Party make no change to either Melbourne Ports or to Higgins, three do. The Australian Greens partially revive the Commissioners proposal of 2010 that Melbourne Ports take the Docklands from Melbourne. They also remove Caulfield East from Melbourne Ports, sending it to Higgins. Both Tim Colebatch and Mark Mulcair recommend transfers between Higgins and Melbourne Ports, moving the latter's share of Caulfield and replacing it with part Prahran and South Yarra, west of Williams Road, again a revival of a dropped Commissioners proposal.

We find the claim made by Mr Colebatch particularly offensive when he states:

"East St Kilda and Caulfield should be in Higgins or Goldstein, where they belong, rather than being added to an inner urban electorate like Melbourne Ports to suit the local member.

The criterion of "community of interest" set out in the legislation does not specify that boundaries should be drawn to suit particular ethnic minorities. That is gerrymandering, and with the exception of this one case, we don't do things like that here".

From the time Caulfield was added at the 1989 Redistribution to Melbourne Ports, there were eight successive elections for that seat held on the same boundaries. Both the 1994 and 2003 Redistributions involved no changes to its boundaries. In 2010, South Caulfield was removed and added to Goldstein. In nearly 30 years, no territory has been added to Melbourne Ports, only the deletion of South Caulfield to take account of population shifts.

The reason for the relative stability of the Division of Melbourne Ports is due to the natural boundary of the Yarra River and to the fact that for most of the period, Melbourne Ports enrolment has mostly been at pace with the State average.

There isn't any real community of interest between Docklands and South Melbourne. The Yarra is a major barrier, and there is no easy way to get from Docklands to the centre of Melbourne Ports. Docklands is an extension of Melbourne City and is oriented eastwards the city, not southwards. Its public transport links all run east-west. Southbank, while in geographic proximity, is oriented to St Kilda Road. Despite their proximity these two areas really have little in common.

There are also few communities, social or economic that link across the areas south of Dandenong Road, in the Cities of Glen Eira and Port Phillip (currently with the Division of Melbourne Ports) and north of Dandenong Road in the City of Stonnington (currently in the Division of Higgins). Dandenong Road is a major natural and traditional boundary, as well as a municipal boundary, and has been for many years. Although Prahran and South Yarra are closer to St Kilda than Caulfield is, they are oriented northwards to the city or eastwards to Toorak and Malvern, rather than southwards across Dandenong Road to St Kilda or East St Kilda. The inclusion of Prahran and South Yarra in Melbourne Ports would mean that Melbourne Ports would cover parts of four municipalities (Port Phillip, Glen Eira, Melbourne and Stonnington) instead of the current three. That's not desirable. The City of Stonnington is based on Malvern and Toorak, which are very affluent areas and by-and-large do not share the attributes which unite the various communities currently in Melbourne Ports. On the current boundaries all of Stonnington is in the Division of Higgins, a Division which has a very different social and political character to Melbourne Ports, and a much more appropriate one for a representative of these areas.

Melbourne's Jewish community has its centre in the suburbs of Caulfield, St Kilda, Elwood and East St Kilda. Jewish schools, synagogues and religious centres, community centres, community libraries and art centres, kosher shops and restaurants, and Jewish health and aged care services are concentrated across these suburbs. They serve the significant number of Jewish residents in both Port Phillip and Glen Eira. Further, there are strong family connections across these suburbs. Many Jewish families now living in Caulfield grew up in St Kilda, East St Kilda and Elwood, or first settled there when they came to Australia, and retain strong ties to these areas.

Relevant to this is the high number of pre-poll and postal ballots cast in Melbourne Ports. This is because of the many Jewish residents who for religious reasons cannot vote on Saturdays. Having the Jewish community largely located within one Division has enabled an appropriate level of planning and resourcing by the AEC in support of the high numbers of pre-poll and postal voters, as well as well understood and anticipated pre-poll locations for voters themselves.

It is clear that Melbourne Ports current boundaries, which have no need to change, provide, within the numerical constraints, the best possible boundaries on community of interest grounds.

The Liberal Party and most independents agree with the ALP that Melbourne Ports, Higgins and Goldstein be unchanged. The Australian Greens add the Docklands to MP and transfer Caulfield East to Higgins which also adds territory to Kooyong.

Almost all submissions agree that Aston be a Knox Council only Division; that McMillan shed Pakenham and gain Bass Coast; that Hotham go north; that Flinders be more of a Mornington Peninsula based Division; that Dunkley gets more of Frankston and that Kooyong gain Mont Albert-Surrey Hills.

The big exception to the above is the Liberal Party which moves Menzies to Ivanhoe; sends Murrindindi and Mansfield to Casey and transfers Bass Coast in McMillan to Flinders. That also results in Hotham and Isaacs partially losing to Bruce much of the City of Greater Dandenong.

DIVISION NAMES

There are 28 suggestions to rename McMillan; six to rename Batman and eight, including from former Premier, Ted Baillieu saying Melbourne Ports be renamed Monash. The ALP also acknowledges the suggestion of the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) that McMillan be renamed Bunjileene. Alternatively, there is the option of the third iteration of Corinella, (A Federation Division. 1901-6; 1990-96) named after the town of Corinella, an Indigenous word meaning "falling waters".

Despite the fact that Malcolm Fraser was a Prime Minister from the Liberal Party, and led a Coalition Government, neither of the Coalition Parties have suggested that a Division be renamed after Mr Fraser. Elsewhere, there have been proposals to name a Division after the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives, Joan Childs; the first female Victorian Premier, Joan Kirner; the former Governor General, Sir Ninian Stephens; the revival of Burke; Monash, after Sir John Monash; Simon Wonga for Batman and, as suggested by the ALP Cooper, after William Cooper to replace Gellibrand as a Division name.

The ALP believes the times require that Batman, Gellibrand and McMillan be renamed. We also think, particularly as next year marks the centenary of the end of World War 1 that a Division should be named Monash. The name of Murray, once a geographic describer of that Division, is no longer an appropriate name for that Division. Any of the other suggested names could be adopted for that Division.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the ALP's response to other suggestions received by the Australian Electoral Commission. We look forward to continuing to participate in the process in the coming weeks| and months.