



Comment on suggestion 33

Australian Greens Victoria

2 pages



30 October 2020

To: Redistribution Committee for Victoria
Re: Comments on suggestions – Victorian federal redistribution

Dear Committee members,

The Australian Greens Victoria (“the Greens”) thank the Redistribution Committee for the opportunity to comment on suggestions for 2020/21 Victorian redistribution. While there are many good suggestions for how the Committee can meet its requirements to add an additional division to Victoria while keeping all electorates within their elector tolerances, we would like to focus our comments on the submissions that have made proposals that relate to the public housing community of interest recommendations we made in our original submission to the Committee on October 16.

Inner South

A number of submissions¹ have made similar recommendations to the Greens in redrawing the boundaries of Macnamara to include all of South Yarra and Prahran west of Williams Rd. We warmly welcome these submissions, as they all would achieve the Greens proposal of uniting the community of interest of high density public housing communities of South Yarra, Prahran, Windsor, South Melbourne, Albert Park and St Kilda within the same electorate. These submissions have similarly suggested that Higgins incorporate either the whole or the majority of the sections of the City of Glen Eira currently within Macnamara to offset the loss of Prahran and South Yarra.

While different submitters have argued for slight deviations from the Williams Rd/Hotham St boundary in order to ensure that Macnamara stays within projected elector tolerances, the Greens maintain our preference for retaining the section of St Kilda East within the City of Port Phillip to ensure that that local government area remains entirely within the Division of Macnamara.

Inner North

A number of submissions² have suggested boundary changes to the reverse effect of those above, seeking to further split the public housing communities of Melbourne’s inner north across electorates by moving the suburb of Kensington into the Division of Maribyrnong. As we noted in our submission, there is a very strong shared community interest between public housing

¹ Darren McSweeney (S24), Dr. Mark Mulcair (S34), Charles Richardson (S70), Liberal Party of Victoria (S90), Harry Hook (S99), Justin Lamond (S101)

² Jeff Waddell (S13), David Liam Walsh (S31), Charles Richardson (S70), Liberal Party of Victoria (S90), Justin Lamond (S101)



residents in terms of both the political and advocacy commitments they seek from their local member.

In addition, many extended families and communities live directly across developments, and this is particularly true for the communities of North Melbourne, Kensington and Flemington. The Greens unequivocally oppose these suggestions.

Additional concerns arise from this proposal. Kensington is clearly within the boundaries of the City of Melbourne and shares a community of interest with the remainder of the City of Melbourne within the Division of Melbourne. Ongoing major projects, including the Arden-Macaulay development, only stand to increase the shared community of interest and direct connections between North Melbourne and Kensington.

The decision to remove Kensington would also have unfortunate consequential impacts, with many of the submissions requiring the Division of Melbourne to take in parts of the Division of Wills or the Division of Cooper to stay within its projected elector tolerances. This would mean the Division of Melbourne would either take in sections of the City of Moreland, an LGA that currently has no overlap with the Division of Melbourne, or absorb electors from the Division of Cooper, a division that is currently projected to remain close to quota by the end of the projection period and therefore requires no alteration as part of this redistribution.

The Greens would again suggest that the Committee consider our October 16th submission's preference to not only retain Kensington within the Division of Melbourne but to further include the suburb of Flemington within its boundaries. This would far better serve to unite the high density public housing community of interest that we identified in our submission, and is easily able to be achieved while keeping both Melbourne and neighbouring divisions well within their projected elector tolerances.

I thank you again for the opportunity to comment on submissions to the Redistribution Committee and look forward to any future engagement throughout the redistribution process.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Shield
State Director
Australian Greens Victoria