



Comment on objections 95

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2 pages

Comments of objections to the proposed Victorian Redistribution 2024

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to comment on some of the objections.

Abolition of Higgins.

Demographics and the numerical requirements required under the act mean that sometimes divisions have boundaries that are not ideal.

Current examples are McNamara, Isaacs, Higgins, and McEwen. Given the need to straddle the Yarra River more than in the past, tough decisions needed to be made. The crossing from Melbourne to McNamara and resultant abolition of Higgins was the least bad option.

A large number of what I suspect are “pro forma” objections have just objected to the abolition of the division of Higgins without any suggestions even at a macro level as to an alternate. A number of objections refer to the community of interest of the City of Stonnington. The city of Stonnington was a merger of the cities of Prahran and Malvern. The eastern and western ends of the seat have little in common except that they pay rates to the same council and have expensive real estate. How often do the residents of Prahran eat out or socialise in East Malvern or vice versa.

To look at the division the community of interest...again it is a mismatch of interests Ashburton to South Yarra or Murrumbeena? To keep the existing division to meet numerical requirements would require a further extension towards Oakleigh which would further deteriorate community of interest links.

The only alternative would be to do something like add South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor to McNamara and extend south and south eastwards which I think might worsen the situation.

Higgins should not be quarantined from abolition due to previous members having served as Prime Ministers. Its existing boundaries are problematic. Whilst I appreciate that it is never nice to have a division you reside in abolished it is a fact that these things need to happen. Consequently I support the committee's decision.

Melbourne and McNamara

I note that there are a number of proposals that support my objection to suburbs of South Yarra and Prahran / Windsor being transferred to Melbourne.

They also to varying degrees agree that Port Melbourne and Southbank and part of South Melbourne are superior transfer options.

A number of options have proposed only a partial transfer of South Yarra and Port Melbourne / Southbank. This is worse than then current proposal is far preferable to simply have one area transferred.