



Objection 448

Adam Ray

2 pages

Dear members of the Redistribution Committee,

I would like to make a number of objections and suggested improvements to the proposed boundaries for a number of electorates in Melbourne's eastern and southeastern suburbs.

I make these objections on the basis of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth) and refer to s60 which states that due consideration must be given to 'community of interests', 'physical features and area of the proposed Electoral division'.

Casey

I object to the new areas proposed to be added to the Division of Casey, around Kinglake, Panton Hill, St Andrews, Kangaroo Ground and Christmas Hills. These communities lack a strong connection to the existing Division of Casey, which is based on the Yarra Ranges Council area, and the Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley.

The community of interest would be better maintained by instead including the areas around Emerald, Avonsleigh, Cockatoo and Gembrook, which are currently in La Trobe. This area is part of the Dandenong Ranges, and shares strong community ties with towns in the Division of Casey such as Monbulk, and Belgrave. The connection to Belgrave is evident through the Puffing Billy tourist railway line. These areas have been combined at a state level in the electorate of Monbulk.

La Trobe

The suggested transfer of the area around Emerald into the Division of Casey would likely mean the proposed transfer of the electors around northern Berwick, Harkaway and Beaconsfield into Bruce would not need to occur. The economic, social and regional interests of these areas are much more aligned with the division of La Trobe, including areas such as Officer and Pakenham, than with the area surrounding Dandenong.

Bruce/Hotham

By removing the area around Berwick and Beaconsfield from Bruce, there may be room for Bruce to extend further west and gain areas some areas around Noble Park and Springvale from Hotham, as these areas, within the City of Greater Dandenong, fit better with Dandenong in Bruce than they do with the electorate of Hotham.

Chisholm

With the proposed abolition of Higgins, it is clear that there will need to be significant changes made to the Division of Chisholm, which will unfortunately mean crossing Warrigal Road, which serves as a significant social boundary in this part of Melbourne. While this seems unavoidable, the community of interest divide is made worse in the proposed boundaries by not only crossing Warrigal Rd, but also the Gardiner Creek and Monash Fwy. The creek and Fwy are significant physical boundaries and crossing them should be avoided. The area south of the Monash Fwy and Gardiner Creek (Malvern East) would be better suited to a seat like the reworked Kooyong, where Malvern East could be united with Malvern. This is the only area in the proposed Chisholm within the City of Stonnington. Chisholm would be improved if it were made up only of parts of Whitehorse, Monash and Boroondara.

Chisholm could instead move further north into areas in the proposed Division of Menzies, to make up the numbers.

Kooyong/Menzies

While it is unfortunate that the proposed boundaries of Kooyong cross the Gardiners Creek and the M1, it seems that with Higgins abolished this is unavoidable. The current boundaries make the new additions to the seat appear as an appendage to the existing part of Kooyong as it contains mostly eastern suburbs/Boroondara areas, with a small addition of a southeastern suburbs/Stonnington area. If parts of the east of Boroondara (around Balwyn) were moved into Menzies, where there is some community connection between Balwyn/Balwyn North and Doncaster/Box Hill, the boundaries of Kooyong would be improved. Menzies would then be able to shed some of the southern parts of the proposed electorate into Chisholm.

This would allow Kooyong to take in more parts of Stonnington, including Malvern East from the proposed Chisholm and Hotham. This would improve the Division of Kooyong, as it would be a hybrid inner eastern/southeastern suburbs seat, rather than a largely eastern suburbs seat, with a protrusion into the southeast.

McNamara/Melbourne

While it does seem sensible for the Division of Melbourne to cross the Yarra, it does not seem reasonable to add the suburbs of South Yarra and Prahran into the Division of Melbourne. The Southbank area, which serves as an extension of the Melbourne CBD, would fit better in the Division of Melbourne from a community of interest perspective, which might allow South Yarra and Prahran, along the Chapel St corridor, to join McNamara. These areas have strong links to Windsor and St Kilda, within the Division of McNamara.

Overall, I feel that changes of this nature could improve the electoral boundaries from a community of interest perspective, and allow the divisions to have stronger physical boundaries.

Kind regards,

Adam Ray