



Objection 462

Michael Ritchie

2 pages

Objection to proposed Victorian Redistribution June 2024

Michael Ritchie

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to lodge an objection to some of the proposals made in your recent proposed boundary adjustments.

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge that your work is difficult and as the AEC's CEO recently noted it is a battle between geography and demographics which I thought was rather deftly put. I have one suggestion regarding renaming a division and then a series of comments regarding the proposed boundaries.

Name of the division of Corangamite.

I would suggest that the name Corangamite needs to be retired. The main reason for this is that the geographic reference is now well out of the seat.

The previous committee sensibly changed the name of Murray as that seat was moving further away from its geographic namesake. I would suggest that the Present committee look to rename the division. I might suggest that Macfarlane-Burnett be considered as a name. He is a Nobel laureate in medicine and was born in country Victoria (although in Traralgon not near Geelong).

Comments on Boundaries

There are currently several divisions that have imperfect boundaries due to the impact of the geography versus demographic battles that have impacted the work of previous committees. The current divisions of Higgins, McNamara and Isaacs are the divisions where community of interest criteria are most compromised.

Divisions of Melbourne and McNamara

The current division of McNamara is one of the most imperfect divisions. There is no community of interest between either end of the seat. In fact, it could be argued that the Only thing in common between Caulfield and Port Melbourne is high real estate prices. I feel that under the proposed boundaries the commission has missed an opportunity to improve the boundaries of McNamara.

Whilst the crossing of the Yarra as a natural boundary is regrettable the numbers necessitated this. I have no objection to Melbourne moving south of the Yarra. I do feel that the areas added can be adjusted to improve the boundary of McNamara. Southbank and Port Melbourne have no community of interest with Caulfield. I would propose that the sections of the city of Stonnington and City of Melbourne south of the Yarra be added to McNamara. In return McNamara should shed

Southbank and Port Melbourne. Whilst this would not fully fix the issues it would be an improvement.

McNamara gains all the City of Stonnington from Melbourne and the portion of the city of Melbourne south of the Yarra River.

To balance the number McNamara will then in turn need to shed electors to Melbourne.

- Southbank East
- Southbank West/South Wharf
- Port Melbourne Industrial
- Port Melbourne

If numerical adjustment to the above is needed, then a number of electors could be moved in Port Melbourne or South Melbourne as needed. This proposal would also reduce slightly the number of divisions that the City of Stonnington has been split into – although this is a minor point.

Divisions of Menzies and Deakin

The proposal has split the City of Manningham into 3 divisions. I feel that the boundaries between these divisions could be improved by: -

- Returning the portion of the City of Manningham to Menzies that is proposed to be moved to Deakin
- The portion of the City of Whitehorse transferred be retained in Menzies.

To counterbalance this Deakin could absorb some of the voters that the commission proposes be transferred from Chislm to Menzies. This would mean that Deakin although elongated on an east west axis has clear transport links on the Maroondah Highway and the nearby trainline.

Divisions of the Dunkley, Flinders, Holt, Isaacs, and Bruce

The commission missed an opportunity to move some of the semi-rural locations in Holt to Flinders where there is a better

Community of interest with other similar locations especially those near Westernport Bay.

To fix this I would suggest that the commission move these divisions in an anti-clockwise direction thus: -

- Mt Eliza remains in Dunkley
- Flinders gains voters from southern Holt
- Holt gains voters from Isaacs and or Bruce
- Dunkley returns voters north of Patterson River to Isaacs

I wish the commission all the best with the consideration of the objections and thank them for the opportunity to provide commentary.

Michael Ritchie

