



Suggestion 46

Dr Monique Ryan MP

3 pages

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The Redistribution Committee for Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Redistribution Committee,

Submission for the redistribution of Victorian electorates

As the Independent Federal Member for the Division of Kooyong ("Kooyong"), I welcome the opportunity to provide a submission for the federal electorate redistribution of 2023-2024.

I set out my analysis below, but in summary, I respectfully submit that:

1. The boundaries of the Division of Kooyong should remain unchanged.
2. The name of the Division of Kooyong should remain unchanged.
3. There is no case to abolish the Division of Kooyong.

Redistribution Analysis

1. Kooyong boundaries

The number of electors enrolled in Kooyong on Wednesday 9 August 2023 was 113,586 and therefore falls within the range of (+/-)10% of the redistribution quota of 116,894 (4,441,980 Victorian enrolled electors/38 members of the House of Representatives).

The average projected divisional enrolment quota for Victoria on 17 April 2028 is 127,238 (4,835,048 estimated Victorian enrolled electors/38 members of the House of Representatives). In making the proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee is required as far as practicable to ensure that, three years and six months after the redistribution in April 2028, the number of electors enrolled in each proposed electoral

division in Victoria will be not less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average projected divisional enrolment in Victoria.

I understand that, currently, 14 divisions depart from the average projected enrolment requirement. Moreover, the calculated redistribution quota for Victoria will require the reduction of one electoral division from Victoria's electorate quota — from 39 to 38. These outcomes will necessitate changes to some divisional boundaries.

I submit that there is presently no cause within the Redistribution Committee's guidelines — as set out in section 66(3)(a) of the *Electoral Act* — for any change to Kooyong's electoral boundaries. At 124,455 projected electors, Kooyong sits well within the 3.5% deviation from 127,238 (that range being 122,785-131,691 voters).

I note that the report into the 2020-21 Victorian Federal Redistribution stated that:

“[T]he primary factor for consideration in determining electoral divisions is to ensure the two numerical requirements of the Electoral Act are met...[and] minimisation of elector movement is generally desirable and movement can be minimised where existing boundaries are retained, although this factor is subordinate to other considerations.”

Keeping Kooyong's boundaries as is clearly meets the primary factor — the numerical requirements — as well as minimising elector movement.

In relation to the 'other considerations' mentioned above, I note that:

1. The community of interests within Kooyong, including its economic, social, and regional interests, has not changed since the last redistribution. The 2020-21 redistribution took care to ensure that the community of Surrey Hills was placed in its entirety within Kooyong to ensure that it was no longer divided as a community of interest.
2. The means of communication and travel within Kooyong have not changed since the last redistribution.
3. The physical features of Kooyong have not changed since the last redistribution.

A note on Contiguous Electorates

Six electorates neighbour Kooyong. Three deviate from the 3.5% requirement to be within 127,238 electors by April 2028. Those electorates and their projected enrolments are: Chisholm 121,345, Higgins 119,660, and Cooper 121,431.

The projected enrolments of the three remaining electorates — Jaga Jaga 124,455, Melbourne 126,170, and Menzies 123,466 — are within the acceptable projected enrolment range.

Obviously provisional suggestions regarding changes to any division boundaries — as well as the removal of a division — may involve Kooyong’s boundaries. Should such changes be proposed, I will of course respond to those suggestions in due course after considering relevant matters such as: communities of interest (s66(3)(b)(i) of the *Electoral Act*), transport links (s66(3)(b)(ii) of the *Electoral Act*), and geography (s66(3)(b)(iv) of the *Electoral Act*).

2. No change to name

Kooyong is believed to be an Aboriginal word for camp or resting place. It is one of 10 of Victoria’s 23 federation electoral division names that is still in use, and one of 11 of Victoria’s 38 electoral divisions named for an Aboriginal person or word.

I note that the AEC *Guidelines for Naming Federal Electorate Divisions* provide that:

1. every effort should be made to retain the names of original federation divisions; and
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander names should be used where appropriate, and as far as possible existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander divisional names should be retained.

Accordingly, I respectfully submit that there should be no change to the name of Kooyong.

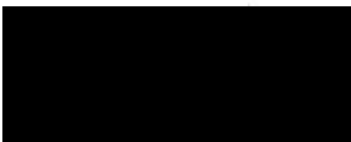
3. No abolition of Kooyong

For the reasons stated above, I submit that there are no grounds to abolish Kooyong.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I submit that there is no cause for the abolition of Kooyong and ask that the Redistribution Committee make no change to the name or electorate borders of Kooyong.

With all best wishes,



Dr Monique Ryan, MP
Member for Kooyong