THE FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION VICTORIA

Comment on objections 53

Australian Greens Victoria

4 pages

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Subject:	Comment on objection
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Attachments:	Comment on Objection 412 made by the Australian Labor Party (Victorian Branch)v1.pdf

Good morning

Please see attached our comment on an objection received.

Kind regards

Clare Quinn
State Director, Victorian Greens - [redacted]

Australian Greens Victoria

Comment on the ALPs objections to the Redistribution of Victoria draft boundaries

We would specifically like to comment on Objections 2, 3 & 4 made by the ALP in their objection to the draft boundaries from the Augmented Electoral Commission.

Objections 2 & 3

On the ALP's objection 2 and 3, given the widespread impact of Victoria's population growth and the addition of an extra seat to the state, it is inevitable that some divisions would undergo significant change, and it seems inconsistent to argue that there is too much change in divisions such as Bruce and Hotham particularly, given how under quota these divisions were prior to Victoria being allocated an additional seat, (which would have resulted in significant changes at the standard 7 year redistribution). We support the current boundaries proposed by the Augmented electoral commission for the inner south, inner east, outer east and south east of Melbourne. However, should the Augmented Electoral Commission wish to consider the ALP's objections, then we would like to highlight some issues with their Objection 3, and propose alternatives.

The ALP's objection to the boundaries of Hotham, Kooyong and Higgins can be much better addressed than by what they are proposing (and it seems to be somewhat of an additional reach given their already extensive suggested changes to Hotham in particular in their objection 2, and even their proposed map of Hotham only reflects their proposed changes in objection 2 rather than incorporating the additional changes from objection 3).

The ALP's suggestion to put Murrumbeena and Hughesdale into Hotham makes some sense, and would stop Hughesdale being split from the rest of the City of Monash and from Oakleigh, however, it ignores the strong links between Carnegie and Murrumbeena which was a strong reason for uniting Murrumbeena into one seat and placing it in the same seat as Carnegie. If the Augmented commission did decide to switch all of Murrumbeena and Hughesdale into Hotham, and given the proposed boundaries, along with natural demographics and population changes, are seeing Kooyong shift east, it makes more sense to shift Higgins into Hawthorn and retain Camberwell in Kooyong.

Hawthorn has strong links to Malvern via the shared business and retail precinct along Glenferrie Road, and many demographic similarities to South Yarra, with increasing numbers of younger professionals moving to Glenferrie. Shifting Hawthorn into Higgins will also better balance the seat and neighbouring seats for further population growth in the inner east and inner south, as there is then potential for all of Hawthorn to be shifted into Higgins in future redistributions, and thus address the long term imbalance between seats in the north and south of Melbourne, at a location where there are shared demographics and/or communities of interest (South Yarra, and Hawthorn and Malvern and Kew). The part of Hawthorn south of Burwood road should be shifted into Higgins in this redistribution, with scope to move Higgins further north to Barkers Road in any subsequent redistribution.

Instead Kooyong should only include Box Hill North as suggested by the ALP, and should retain Camberwell, and instead lose Hawthorn south of Burwood Road to Higgins. With future population growth and at subsequent redistributions, Higgins can contract further, and also lose Carnegie to Hotham or Goldstein, and take in the rest of Hawthorn. Kooyong can move further east and potentially south, taking in Glen Iris - East from Higgins.

Proposed changes (Based on the Commissioners Proposals):

Higgins
Part of Hawthorn south of Burwood road and west of Auburn Road from from Kooyong to Higgins (+7482 voters)
Murrumbeena from Higgins to Hotham (-6102 voters)
Hughesdale from Higgins to Hotham (-4792 voters)
net change to Higgins: approx -3412 voters.
Higgins 2017 enrolment: 105138 (-1.7% from quota)

Kooyong
Box Hill North from Chisholm to Kooyong (+7251 voters)
Part of Hawthorn south of Burwood road and west of Auburn Road from from Kooyong to Higgins (-7482 voters)
net change -231 voters
Kooyong 2017 enrolment: 109996 voters (2.8% from quota)

Hotham
Ashwood-Chadstone from Hotham to Chisholm (-2806 voters)
Mount Waverley South from Hotham to Chisholm. (-6276 voters)
Murrumbeena from Higgins to Hotham (+6102 voters)
Hughesdale from Higgins to Hotham (+4792 voters)

net change: 1812 voters
Hotham 2017 enrolment:109772 (2.6% from quota)

Chisholm
Box Hill North to Kooyong from Chisholm (-7251 voters)
Ashwood-Chadstone from Hotham to Chisholm (+2806 voters)
Mount Waverley South from Hotham to Chisholm (+6276 voters)
net change: 1831 voters
Chisholm 2017 enrolment: 108503 voters (1.4% from quota)

Objection 4

On the ALP's objection 4, we also do not support it and believe it makes far more sense for Strathmore Heights to be located in the same seat as Essendon Fields and Airport West. It would in fact be better with respect of Wills for it to continue to become more compact on its western and northern boundaries, and with future population growth in both Wills and the seat of Melbourne, there will be more population growth in the south of Wills which is likely to result in both Strathmore Heights and Oak Park being pushed out of Wills in the near future.

Instead the ALP's proposal to keep Braybrook within Maribyrnong because of the shared community of interest instead of transferring it to Fraser can be addressed by retaining Flemington in Melbourne, and thus being able to retain Braybrook in Maribyrnong. Fraser may need to have a small change in its boundary of approximately 500 voters to keep it within the permissible range, but this can be easily accommodated.

	2017 enrolment	2017 quota and permissible range	2019 enrolment	2019 quota and permissible range
Melbourne	104,982 + 6,138+ 40 – 2198- 1192= 106,980	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	111134 + 6,293 +41 -3027-1211= 113,230	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)
Maribyrnong	108,119-6138-40= 101,941 (But after gaining 5,255 from Fraser= 107,196)	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	111,765-6293-41= 105,431 (But after gaining 5,473 from Fraser= 110,904)	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)
Fraser	109,317 (But after losing 5,255 to Maribyrnong= 104,062)	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	111,482 (But after losing 5473 to Maribyrnong= 106,009)	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)

This could be dealt with by adopting one of Labor's suggestions (a transfer of 745/751 voters in Sydenham from Gorton to Fraser) or a different approach. This proposal would also have the added benefit of requiring no further changes to the proposed western boundary of Wills.

As the number of objections to the draft proposal shows there is significant community concern about the extreme proposal to remove of Flemington from Melbourne, concerns the Australian Greens share.

Retaining Flemington within Melbourne instead of transferring it to Maribyrnong would also help address Labor's concerns regarding the proposed boundaries of Maribyrnong. Given that no other substantial objections have been raised to the boundaries of these seats, we encourage the Augmented Electoral Commission to make these changes.