



Comment on suggestion 58

The Nationals - Victoria

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Redistribution Committee for Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission
Level 1, Urban Workshop
50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne 3000

Dear Sirs

The Nationals – Victoria thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide comments on the suggestions received in respect of the proposed redistribution of Federal Electorate Boundaries in Victoria.

The suggestions highlight the challenge the Committee has in ensuring that the people of Victoria continue to have appropriate representation in the Australian Parliament.

As indicated in our submission, The Nationals believe that it is important to ensure that the voice of people in regional and rural Victoria is not diluted by either a reduction in regional and rural electorates, or by electorates that contain both urban and regional characteristics.

We support the intention of the majority of relevant submissions, which recommend retaining the existing number of regional electorates, returning McEwen to a regional electorate, and establishing a new electorate in the north western area of metropolitan Melbourne.

We are concerned about, and reject, suggestions that seek to reduce the representation of regional Victoria. In particular submission 63 seeks to abolish the current seat of Murray and replace it with a seat on the urban fringe of Melbourne. The submission then proposes to stretch the seat of McEwen to include communities which have absolutely no relevant communities of interest whatsoever.

Furthermore, the same submission demonstrates an additional disregard for regional Victoria by suggesting naming a new seat based around Tullamarine Airport and Sunbury as Murray. Given the current Division of Murray is named after the Murray River, which comprises its northern boundary, this defies common sense.

As a party with MPs and candidates exclusively focused on regional Victoria, we remain at the Committee's disposal to provide further information to assist in your deliberations. I would be pleased to present to the Committee and speak to The Nationals submission and any other issues.

Your sincerely

Matthew Harris
State Director

01/12/2017