



Objection 268

Mark Dal-Corobbo

2 pages

The augmented Electoral Commission for Victoria

Dear Chair and Members,

Objection to the Victorian Redistribution Proposal, April 2018

Proposal to shift the locality of Gowanbrae to Maribyrnong, not Calwell

I wish to put forward my objection and comments on the recently released *Proposed redistribution of Victoria into electoral divisions* report, particularly as it relates to my own suburb, Gowanbrae where I've resided for the past 15 years.

Gowanbrae currently belongs to the Commonwealth Electoral Division of Wills (and the Moreland LGA). The Redistribution Proposal changes the boundary of Wills and moves the suburb to the Electorate of Calwell (*page 47, note 189 of the Redistribution Committee for Victoria Report*). I put forward the alternate argument that the proposed electoral boundary of Maribyrnong be moved to include Gowanbrae.

Gowanbrae is located 13 kilometres north-west of Melbourne's central business district. The suburb is bounded by the Western Ring Road in the north and west, the Tullamarine Freeway in the west, the Albion-Jacana freight railway line in the south and Moonee Ponds Creek in the east.

Gowanbrae is a relatively new suburb, which from its origins as a vacant parcel of land some 20 years ago is now a thriving community. Due to the nature of its strong urban boundaries, Gowanbrae is effectively cut off from neighbouring localities, with exception to the sole access point via Coventry Street and Malvern Ave that provides access to Airport West, and the Moonee Valley LGA (Electorate of Maribyrnong). Due to this, on a daily basis its residents rely on and access a large number of services and facilities within the Moonee Valley LGA, including roads, public transport, education, healthcare, retail and recreation to name a few.

The isolated nature of the Gowanbrae locality has been well documented in previous formal submissions, including that of Charles Richardson (*Suggestion 66, Page 35*) and Dr Mark Mulcair (*Suggestion 25, page 15*) whom both recognised this issue and through their respective detailed analyses have subsequently suggested Gowanbrae form part of the Maribyrnong Electorate in the redistribution process.

Furthermore, due to their heavy reliance on the Moonee Valley LGA, the residents of Gowanbrae should be provided the opportunity to participate in and vote in the Commonwealth Electorate that has oversight of services and facilities they utilise on a daily basis, being the Electorate of Maribyrnong. The current proposal to change the boundary for Wills and shift Gowanbrae to Calwell does not satisfy this need.

I appreciate the Redistribution Committee of Victoria is required to adhere to Legislative requirements in relation to number of electoral divisions, and numerical constraints for number of electors in each electoral division, being 106,954 for the for the current enrolment quota (plus or minus 10% allowed), and 110,372 for the projected enrolment quota (plus or minus 3.5% allowed).

As noted in the Redistribution Committee for Victoria Report (*pg 68, note 387*), the proposed Division of Maribyrnong will have a projected enrolment of 111,765 electors at Sunday 25 August 2019, or a variation from the projected enrolment quota of plus 1.26 per cent. Following my suggestion that the electoral boundary of Maribyrnong be changed to incorporate Gowanbrae, this will add a further 2,159 electors (*pg 47, note 189 of Redistribution report*), bringing the proposed Division total to 113,925, or a variation from the projected enrolment quota of plus 3.22% (within required tolerance).

As a long term resident of Gowanbrae I'm aware its residents have strong social and community links to the Moonee Valley LGA and the Electorate of Maribyrnong. As noted above due to the suburb's strong urban boundaries the sole means of travel outside the suburb primarily to Airport West and the broader Moonee Valley LGA, I strongly believe the most logical and effective outcome for Gowanbrae's residents in the Redistribution Process is to shift to the Electorate of Maribyrnong, not Calwell.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide my objection and supporting comments to the Redistribution Proposal and trust they will be given due consideration. I look forward to the announcement of final electoral divisions over the coming months.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Dal-Corobbo