



Objection 286

Michael Ritchie

3 pages

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Submission to the Victorian Electoral Redistribution Committee – objection to proposed boundaries.

Dear Sirs,

Firstly I would like to acknowledge that I feel that the committee has done a good job within what would have been some very tight constraints – population and otherwise.

In particular I am pleased that both Brue and Chisholm have been re-orientated from north south to a more east west orientation. I feel that this has created a more harmonious boundary. Latrobe is also greatly improved and less of a “slapped together” electorate and Maribyrnong, McEwen and Isaacs are also improved on this front.

I have some concerns and objections. These fall into 2 categories – boundaries and names.

Names:-

Given that the committee has foreseen the capacity and need to make many changes to names I feel that whilst some of the new names are undoubtedly significant in terms of their impact aside from Monash none are household names.

I would like to propose that McFarlane Burnett , Gillard and Hawke replace one of Cox, Mcnamara and Nicholls. I am aware that it has not traditionally been the approach to honour living former prime ministers however I take the approach that we should honour them whilst they are alive. I am sure that the names Cox, McNamara and Nicholls have made solid contributions to Victoria even if Gillard and Hawke are not used I am sure that there are other names of more repute such as Melba, Bolte and Kirner

I would propose also that Fraser be used as the replacement name of Corangamite as he held such a long association with the western district of Victoria.

Additionally it is likely that McEwen will continue to creep in the outer suburbs of northern Melbourne. As the seat is named after a Country party member I would suggest that Murray be renamed McEwen. The boundaries changes are already very significant and it is a good opportunity to make this change.

The proposed seat of Fraser could be renamed Gillard and the proposed seat of McEwen Hawke. The current seat of Melbourne Ports could be renamed after McFarlane Burnett who is perhaps one of the country's foremost medical scientists.

One further thought – the division of Mallee is going to continue to grow geographically and now covers much territory that is not in the area known as Mallee. A name change may well need to be looked at in the future and could be entertained now.

Proposed Electoral boundaries

Isaacs: flow on effects to Dunkley, Holt, Flinders and Bruce

Isaacs on current boundaries was perhaps the most inharmonious seat in the state essentially almost the left overs. The proposed boundaries go some way to addressing these concerns/issues however I feel that they could be improved.

There is a small section of Dandenong South that sits in Isaacs. This would be better suited to Bruce. The area is bounded by Kirkham RD to the North, Dandenong bypass to the south and Eastlink and the South Gippsland Hwy.

The community of Keysborough is split again between electorates. If the boundary of Bruce were to shift south to absorb the balance of Keysborough bordered by : Springvale Rd, Cheltenham Rd/ Kirkham Rd, South Gippsland Hwy and Greens Rd. This would unite Keysborough in Bruce.

To make up the numbers in Isaacs – electors could be taken from the north of Dunkley. Dunkley could then take voters from Flinders – perhaps the area or Mornington transferred to Flinders would be ideal.

Flinders could then absorb the areas that the committee proposes to transferred to Holt along with the section of Latrobe proposed to transferred to Holt. Holt could then move north to absorb the excess voters from Hotham.

I believe that this would:-

Substantially improve Isaacs – making it a seat orientated as a bayside seat.

Geelong and Cox/Corangamite.

It seems that substantial boundary changes have been made without due cause. Whilst there are similarities between the bayside communities on the Bellarine peninsula with the Surf Coast they do not really orientate towards one another. The locations of Moolap and Leopold are Geelong suburbs with nothing in common with the Surf Coast and further western side of the seat and it would be much better in terms of community of interest issues if they in particular stayed in Corio.

Lalor/Gellibrand

Suburbs on both sides of the Princess Fwy have been transferred to Gellibrand from the very overweight Lalor. I feel that it would have been preferable it possible to add territory from only one side if possible.

I thanks the committee for considering my thoughts and look forward to the rest of the redistribution process.

Michael Ritchie

