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2 pages



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Redistribution Committee for Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission
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Submission to the Victorian Redistribution

This submission does not object to the proposed overall redistribution acknowledging the always difficult task the Committee has in redrawing boundaries.

However, this submission takes issue with a possible interpretation of some comments made by the Committee in the course of its report about the proposed Division of Melbourne. Specifically, the Committee says at p72:

376. Six suggestions to the redistribution and three comments on suggestions refer to the unification of the localities of Flemington and Kensington.

377. In transferring the locality of Kensington to the proposed Division of Maribyrnong, the Redistribution Committee addresses the community of interest based around public housing and historical community associations between these localities in the areas of commercial and recreational shared activities.

The footnote 95 referred to in paragraph 376 states that this matter was raised by a number of submissions, including mine.

For the sake of clarity, I do not wish my original submissions to be interpreted as supporting the excision of Flemington and Kensington from the electorate of Melbourne

My submission at the last redistribution and at this one was to retain and keep both Flemington and Kensington within the electorate of Melbourne, where they have been since 1922.

With respect to public housing (para 377), I also note that my original submissions drew the Committee's attention to the fact that a high level of public housing is concentrated in the Division of Melbourne, in suburbs including North Melbourne, Carlton, Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond. The point of my original submissions was to argue that these suburbs should remain together with Flemington and Kensington.

Regarding the community of interest and historical community associations (para 377), my original submissions made the point that these are inner-city suburbs with much in common with neighbouring North Melbourne, something reflected in their almost 100-year inclusion in the Division.

With respect to the Committee, the decision to remove Flemington and now Kensington from the electorate should be something the Committee considers reversing at the next redistribution.

The forecast high population growth in the Arden-Macaulay precinct, which links North Melbourne with Kensington, and the continued presence of the high-rise public housing towers in these three suburbs will only strengthen the inner-city nature of Flemington and Kensington.

There are strong reasons that these suburbs have remained in the Division of Melbourne since 1922, and at the next redistribution, whenever it may occur, the Committee should give serious consideration to rectifying their excision.

Accordingly, although I am not making any formal objection to the Committee's proposal, please note that my submissions to this and the last redistribution should not be interpreted as supporting the removal of Flemington and Kensington from the Division of Melbourne.

Yours faithfully,



Adam Bandt MP
Federal Member for Melbourne