



Comment on suggestions 28

Maroondah Business Group

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Comment on submissions re Deakin

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some comments on the suggestions received about the current Federal redistribution.

As our suggestion noted (S24), as an organisation based in Maroondah we are keen for this redistribution to follow two clear principles when it comes to the Maroondah area.

One is for small businesses to have a direct point of contact for representation in the outer east of Melbourne in the Federal Parliament. The second is that the whole of the Maroondah municipality, which forms the core of the outer east, should remain wholly within the Deakin electorate. Something which the AEC has thankfully worked towards at recent redistributions and achieved at the most recent redistribution. It would be very disappointing if the AEC's own good work was undone this time around.

We are therefore very pleased to note that most suggestions acknowledge one or both of the above principles.

Many of these submissions also noted that with the abolition of a seat in Victoria, the redistribution is likely to see Deakin gain some extra territory. This can be achieved either without losing any current territory, or alternatively by gaining a larger area in exchange for losing some of the non-City of Maroondah territory from within its current boundaries.

If there are to be gains for Deakin our suggestion (S24) noted Wonga Park and Park Orchards as the most logical areas for consideration:

Given the need for Deakin to grow slightly, we would suggest that the Redistribution Committee examine the possibility of Wonga Park or Park Orchards joining the Division of Deakin.

We therefore support the well-argued position of Geoff Arnott (S22) who explains in wonderful detail the links, both historic and current, between Wonga Park and Croydon as well as other suburbs which make up the electorate of Deakin.

We also believe that if there are to be gains and losses from Deakin, the suggestion from the Greens (S61) provides a formulation worthy of consideration, adding Park Orchards as above, and bringing the western boundary of Deakin to Springvale Road.

Dr Paul Rival (S39), Henry Rees (S50) and Dr. Charles Richardson (S60) provide other options worthy of consideration, adding Warrandyte and Warrandyte South as well as Wonga Park and Park Orchards, although we do not support their proposals to move a southern portion of the City of Maroondah from Deakin to Aston.

Dr Rival makes the point about the area beyond the current northern boundary of Deakin that it 'is supported through the major activity centre in Ringwood, which is a significant social and retail hub for all residents of the North-Eastern suburbs.' Put another way, we would say that people's whose main regional shopping centre is Eastland are the natural constituents for the electorate of Deakin.

Perhaps the best of the category of suggestions which both add to and subtract from Deakin are Ben (S16) and from Phillip Drake (S41). Ben recognises that Deakin must be 'centred on Ringwood and the Maroondah LGA' and suggests a general 'north-south alignment' in the area, something also recognised in Drake's submission.

It also seems that there is considerable recognition (see S16, S22, S24, S25, S37, S39, S41, S50, S60, S61, S62 and S63) for the fact that the communities of eastern Melbourne operate more in a north-south manner, rather than an east-west direction.

We agree with these suggestions – that our community operates more north-south than east-west – and that this redistribution is a good opportunity to include all of the suburbs that cluster around Ringwood and Croydon in a single electorate.

On the contrary, some suggestions emphasise an east-west alignment which seem to simplistically connect suburbs via a railway line or highway. These are not compatible with the way Maroondah and surrounding eastern Melbourne communities operate. For example, Trent Wilson (S53) turns Deakin into an east-west seat and kills the community of interest it currently has as an outer-eastern electorate.

We also note the City of Manningham's suggestion (S59) but believe that the connections of the localities of Wonga Park and Park Orchards are much stronger with Croydon and Ringwood than with the other parts of Manningham.

We would also like to record our opposition to the submission of PJ (S9) which creates enormous disruption to electorates in the east of Melbourne, completely changing the nature of Chisholm and Menzies, and abolishing Deakin (but also giving the name Deakin to a seat in a different part of Melbourne which would be very confusing).

If the Yarra were to be crossed around the area proposed by S9, the suggestion of the Punjabi Club of Victoria (S37) provides a much-improved north-south alignment with much greater continuity for the

outer east and is therefore preferred, although again with the same caveat about the southern boundary of the Maroondah LGA that applied to some submissions mentioned earlier.

We hope these comments on Suggestions are helpful to the Redistribution Committee.

Yours sincerely

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Jenny Newman

Maroondah Business Group

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