



Comment on suggestions 58

Dr Monique Ryan MP

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8 December 2023

The Redistribution Committee for Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Redistribution Committee,

Comments on Suggestions for the redistribution of Victorian electorates

As the Independent Federal Member for the Division of Kooyong (“Kooyong”), I welcome the opportunity to provide Comments on Suggestions for the federal electorate redistribution of 2023-2024.

My comments focus mainly on the following suggestions: S57 Australian Labor Party – Victorian Branch, S61 Australian Greens Victoria, and S56 The Nationals - Victoria.

In summary, my comments are:


1. The consensus among submissions is that the borders of the federal electorate of Kooyong should remain unchanged or undergo only very minor changes. I reassert the view I have previously expressed - that the borders of Kooyong do not need to change to meet the redistribution requirements. However, I acknowledge that boundary changes as part of the greater redistribution may have to impact Kooyong. My comments as to the suggested changes are noted in the analysis below.
2. No submission has suggested that Kooyong be abolished. I agree that there remain no grounds for abolition.
3. The overwhelming majority of the suggestions recommended that Kooyong retain its name. For the reasons outlined in my original suggestions to the Committee, I also support retention of the name Kooyong.

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Comments on Suggestions

1. Response to the suggestions (S57) of the Australian Labor Party — Victorian Branch (ALP)

I note that the ALP has considerable concerns with the projected enrolments for each Division, and as a result rejected the basic starting point for the redistribution. The ALP concluded that: *'there is a compelling case for a reassessment of the current phase of the redistribution and consideration of more realistic projections once the Commission and the Committee has been able to seek further advice on the quality of the projections'*. These concerns notwithstanding, I've considered the suggestions made by the ALP insofar as they affect Kooyong.

The ALP suggests that the division of Casey be abolished. In turn, they suggest that Kooyong must consequently grow by extending into Box Hill North *'which orients closely in school zones and community links to Mont Albert North'*. Specifically, this extension would be into that part of SA2 Box Hill North (West of Station Street) that comprises SA1s 2116408-14; 34-35.

This represents some 2486 electors. My view is that the ALP's argument that school zones are communities of interest is fair and reasonable. However, the Committee would need to weigh this suggestion against arguments to unite Box Hill in a single electorate (for example, as raised by Mr William Ma in S48).

2. Response to the suggestions (S61) of the Australian Greens Victoria (The Greens)

The Greens have suggested abolition of the division of McEwen. They have also suggested a small amendment to Kooyong's boundaries to compensate for boundary movements they have suggested in Higgins. They note that: *'if Kooyong's excellent boundaries on three sides are maintained only modest changes are possible'*.

The Greens suggest moving — from Chisholm to Kooyong — that part of Burwood situated *"north of the Burwood Highway and west of Deakin University"* (some 2305 projected voters). I have taken this to mean that area bordered by Burwood Rd, Elgar Rd, Riversdale Rd, and Warrigal Rd. It is my view that if this suggestion were to be considered it would be a reasonable and logical addition to Kooyong.

In addition, the Australian Greens suggest moving the area of Glen Iris that is currently contained within Kooyong to Higgins (some 3240 projected voters). I would submit that there is no numerical case for moving any parts of Kooyong to another electorate, and accordingly I ask that the Committee retain this area within current Kooyong boundaries.

3. Response to the suggestions of The Nationals – Victoria

The Nationals Victoria have suggested no changes to the boundaries of Kooyong.

4. Response to the unsubmitted suggestions of the Liberal Party

The Victorian Branch of the Liberal Party failed to lodge its suggestions by the deadline. However, the suggestions posted on its website were a clear indication that it had intended to make a submission. Those suggestions did not recommend any changes to the boundaries of Kooyong. I support that position.

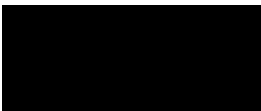
5. Response to other suggestions

I note that others have suggested incorporating that part of the Boroondara City Council that is currently located within the division of Higgins within Kooyong. In my view this is a reasonable suggestion. All but this part of Boroondara is currently located within Kooyong. The change would require only a straightforward south/southeasterly extension of two existing boundaries — those being Warrigal Rd and the Monash Freeway.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I submit that based on the suggestions to the Committee there remains no cause for the abolition of Kooyong or for any change to the name of Kooyong. I also maintain that based on the projected enrolments there is no need to change the boundaries of Kooyong. However, to give effect to the Victorian redistribution, I do not object to the suggestions noted above to expand the boundaries of Kooyong.

With all best wishes,



Dr Monique Ryan, MP
Member for Kooyong