



Objection 352

Punjabi Club of Victoria

2 pages

Thank you for your consideration of our Suggestion, Comments on Suggestions, and this further opportunity to contribute to the Redistribution of Victoria.

We commend the work of the Redistribution Committee and the efforts they have gone to prepare these proposed boundaries.

Similarly to our Suggestion and Comments on Suggestions, we limit our Objection to considering the boundaries of electorates in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Overall, we agree with the key decisions that the Redistribution Committee has made, mainly the abolition of the electorate of Higgins. It was clear that there would have to be either the abolition of a Division south of the Yarra River or for a significant part of such a Division transferred north of the Yarra River. While the Committee has not chosen to go down our suggested path of the Division of Menzies crossing the Yarra River into Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, and surrounds, the decision to abolish Higgins, nevertheless makes sense in allowing crossing the Yarra River by Divisions elsewhere.

The abolition of the electorate of Higgins also avoids the need to significantly alter the overall structure of the other Divisions in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne — they remain roughly centred on their current major population areas. While we acknowledge that the split of the Division of Higgins among the Divisions of Macnamara, Melbourne, Kooyong, Chisholm, and Hotham may appear at first to not align with existing boundaries — given that Higgins was primarily a Stonnington LGA centred electorate — the Committee's work does acknowledge the links between the redistributed communities.

We acknowledge and commend the Committee for linking the suburb of Melbourne in one Division. Furthermore, the links between Cremorne through to Prahran through South Yarra are strong along the Chapel Street corridor and Tram Route 78.

In Kooyong, the Committee has acknowledged the community links along the Glenferrie Road corridor, by linking the areas north and south of Gardiners Creek. Many electors in these areas frequently cross this old divide by working on the other side of this old boundary, by sending their children to schools on the other side of this boundary. The community links between the different areas of the proposed Division of Kooyong cannot be understated.

The Committee also has sensibly divided the remaining eastern part of the Division of Higgins between Chisholm and Hotham — Carnegie, Murrumbeena, and Ormond always were a disjointed part of the Division of Higgins and rightly belong in the Division of Hotham.

It was not an easy task to split Higgins into the surrounding Divisions and we submit that the Committee has made the best possible alignment of boundaries along the grounds of communities of interest and means of communication.



Further north, in the boundary between the Divisions of Menzies and Deakin, we note that the Committee has decided to implement part of our proposal to incorporate Warrandyte and Park Orchards into the Division of Deakin. While we acknowledge and accept the Committee's realignment of the boundaries for the Division of Casey to meet the required enrolment, we suggest that the Committee considers transferring the balance of Park Orchards and all of Warrandyte and Warrandyte South to the Division of Deakin and offsets this by transferring Blackburn North and as much of the balance of Blackburn to the Division of Menzies from Deakin. This will create more cohesive Divisions that link and align the respective communities of interest within those areas of each Division.

Just to the south, in the boundary between the Divisions of Deakin and Aston, we note that the Committee has decided to implement most of our proposal to move the border of Aston north from Dandenong Creek to the next strong and natural border, being Canterbury Road. This small transfer of electors was the best option to ensure Aston maintains parity relative to other division in Victoria.

Kind Regards

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