



Objection 398

Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division)

29 pages



OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION FOR VICTORIA



**LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA
(VICTORIAN DIVISION)**

JUNE 2024

Introduction

The Liberal Party of Australia – Victorian Division (The Liberal Party) makes the following submission of objections to the draft boundaries released by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) on 31 May 2024.

The Liberal Party appreciates the opportunity to make this submission.

In this submission the Liberal Party will particularly focus on better aligning communities of interest displaced by the proposed boundaries, notable Local Government Areas (LGAs), and multicultural communities.

Context of the 2023-24 Victorian Federal Redistribution

The Liberal Party contends that it is important to highlight the events leading up to the release of the proposed boundaries when considering objections.

On 23 January 2024 AEC Commissioner Mr. Tom Rogers sent a letter to the Liberal Party’s State Director outlining errors in relation to the projected enrolment data compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and released by the AEC as part of the redistribution process, pertaining to the federal redistribution in Victoria. At the same time the AEC released corrected data for Victoria which varied significantly from the original data released.

This correction occurred eight weeks after the deadline for both suggestions to the redistribution process, and comments on those suggestions.

Following the release of the original projected enrolment data in October 2023 it was intuitively clear that there was an error in that data, which projected broadly uniform population growth across all Victorian divisions, at variance with all other information on population growth trends.

At that time multiple submissions to the commission expressed disbelief at the projected enrolment data released, with detailed analysis of their concerns, including:

- Suggestion 32 (Dr Mark Mulcair);
- Suggestion 35 (Jeff Waddell); and
- Suggestion 60 (Dr Charles Richardson).

Concerns with the data were also raised in the Australian Labor Party submission (suggestion 57), which described the projections as “untethered from reality.”¹

In addition to formal comments, online commentators on psephological matters publicly expressed concern on social media at the integrity of the data.

It is therefore alarming that despite all the above warning signs this error was not identified by the AEC until well after the close of submissions on 24 November 2023.

¹ Australian Labor Party submission, p4

Due to this failure to promptly identify and correct the error, all submissions and all comments on submissions were made using significantly wrong information, and accordingly all groups and individuals submitted proposals with no relation to mathematical reality.

This redistribution has been triggered by the requirement to abolish a Division in Victoria, reducing Victoria's representation in the Federal Parliament to thirty-eight electorates. Therefore, the key aspect of all submissions and comments is the decision of which division to abolish; all other suggestions are predicated on this decision.

All submissions and comments – including that of the Liberal Party – made this fundamental decision based on inaccurate data. There is no doubt that the Liberal Party submission would have advocated for the abolition of a different division had we had access to accurate data.

Accordingly, this is the first opportunity the Liberal Party – and all other interested organisations and individuals – has had to comment on the redistribution with accurate information.

General Objections to Proposed Boundaries

Proposed Abolition of the Division of Higgins

The Liberal Party objects to the decision to abolish the Division of Higgins and asks for the commission to re-consider this decision.

The Division of Higgins was created for the 1949 election, and since that time has consistently encompassed the City of Stonnington (and its precursors, the Cities of Prahran and Malvern).

The proposed abolition of Higgins would leave this Stonnington area split across five divisions, dividing a significant community of interest.

The proposed redistribution creates an electorate boundary at Tooronga Road, which is not a natural boundary of any significance, and appears to be an arbitrary choice.

Residents of Malvern, Malvern East, and Glen Iris are a close community, shopping together at Glenferrie Road Malvern and High Street Armadale, as well as at Chadstone Shopping Centre.

The proposed redistribution ignores the natural transit flow of the community. The community of Higgins is clustered around the Glen Waverley and Frankston train lines which provide connection for sport, aged care, and senior citizens. These public train lines provide connection and closeness within the community of interest, with the present boundaries neatly sitting between the two train lines, but under the proposal cut across three federal electorates which shows a lack of understanding as to how people live their lives and interact in this community.

The Division of Higgins is also based on tram lines; Higgins' rates of tram use are 250% those of Victoria generally. Notably, the #58 tram line runs through Higgins from the CBD to Toorak, and the #6 tram runs from the CBD to Glen Iris.

The Division of Higgins is also centred around the Cabrini Hospital, which provides significant health services for the catchment across the Higgins electorate.

Finally, the Division of Higgins also has a unique place in Australian electoral history, being the only Division to have elected two Prime Ministers: Mr Harold Holt, and Sir John Gorton.

For these reasons, the Liberal Party advocates reconsidering the abolition of Higgins.

Suggested Abolition of Hotham

Had the Liberal Party access to correct data at the time of making its initial submission, the Liberal Party submission would have proposed the abolition of Hotham.

This proposal is based purely on being the most pragmatic division to abolish.

Hotham is at the geographic centre of the divisions under quota across the south-east of Melbourne, and accordingly best able to accommodate the loss of a division.

As presently constituted, the Division of Hotham shares boundaries with five other divisions. This allows significant room should it be abolished.

Unlike other divisions in the relevant part of Melbourne, Hotham is not bounded by the coast, the Yarra River, or mountain ranges, again allowing for maximum flexibility in adjusting boundaries.

The Division of Hotham is a disparate community; on the proposed boundaries it would cover five different LGAs, each with their own distinct character. It stretches from the inner suburb of Malvern East to the outer suburb of Noble Park, two areas with no connection to each other.

The abolition of Hotham would allow for better unification of these LGAs and associated demographically similar areas in other divisions, rather than splitting LGAs as the abolition of other divisions would require.

The Liberal Party advocates for the commission to consider the abolition of Hotham, based on the pragmatic reasons outlined.

Specific Objections to Proposed Boundaries

Whilst the Liberal Party advocates for the retention of the Division of Higgins, and consequently the abolition of the Division of Hotham, it would be imprudent to simply assume that the final boundaries will reflect that advocacy.

Accordingly, the Liberal Party makes the following objections and comments on the specifics of the draft proposed division boundaries of 31 May.

Rural Divisions & Monash

The Liberal Party commends the commission for retaining the five clearly rural divisions of Wannon, Mallee, Nichols, Indi, and Gippsland as part of this redistribution, in line with the position advocated by the Liberal Party in its initial submission.

This retains the strong and distinct representation of rural Victoria in the Federal Parliament.

The Liberal Party suggests that any changes to the final boundaries continue this position.

The Liberal Party also commends the decision to make no changes to the Division of Monash, retaining this regional electorate as a clear and unique seat covering the LGA areas of Bass, South Gippsland, Baw Baw, and the township of Moe. This is a community with strongly linked farming and tourism industries, and the Liberal Party suggests that the Division of Monash should remain unchanged on the final boundaries.

Division of Wannon

The Liberal Party objects to the nature of the changes proposed for the Division of Wannon.

Wannon has been a rural division since its conception in 1901, beginning at the South Australian border, and centred on the towns of Portland and Warrnambool since its creation over a century ago.

Wannon is entirely different from the areas of the Surf Coast Shire which the commission proposes be placed in Wannon, from the Division of Corangamite. These new areas are not rural, but peri-urban, and are in respect of public services, transport, and character linked to the Geelong/Corangamite area. They have no connection with the rural communities contained in Wannon.

Over a number of redistributions Wannon has moved east, taking in communities which have different interests to those of the rural Western Districts. In this proposed redistribution a number of communities serviced by Geelong - and which have a much stronger connection with that city - are being moved



Image of Wannon as conceived as a rural division at the 1901 election.

out of a southern Geelong seat (Corangamite) and are being placed in a rural division (Wannon), which has a different nature, largely made up of service communities for surrounding agricultural properties.

The Liberal Party is concerned at the dilution of historic rural representation in Victoria should the Division of Wannon be allowed to drift beyond the Western District and into the Greater Geelong area, becoming over time - should this trend continue - a peri-urban seat with rural additions, rather than a distinctly rural seat.

To address this, the Liberal Party proposes that the eastern boundary of Wannon shared with Corangamite be returned to its location per the existing boundary of the division. This best reflects the divide in the Victorian community.

To accommodate the growth projected by the AEC for the areas proposed in their May report to be moved out of Corangamite, the southern boundary of Ballarat could be moved further south to take in Inverleigh by using the boundary of the Golden Plains LGA. This may push the population tolerances, but this is acceptable within the commission's requirements.

To accommodate this, the Liberal Party proposes that Stawell should be part of Wannon.

Stawell is similar in character to many of the communities which already make up Wannon, and most crucially functions largely as a single community of interest with Ararat so it is crucial they be in a single seat. Stawell has moved in and out of Wannon over many redistributions indicating that the AEC has historically understood that the northern border of Wannon is the most sensible to adjust.

If Mallee requires population to meet tolerance it is proposed this be taken from Nicholls.



The townships of Stawell & Warrnambool, which the Liberal Party proposes are similar communities naturally fitting together in Wannon, along with Ararat. Photo: Visit Victoria.

Division of Menzies

Background

Due to the proposed abolition of Higgins, the consequential change to Melbourne's eastern suburbs is severe and warrants review. The Liberal Party is concerned that the commission's proposed boundaries are not aligning eastern metropolitan Divisions along more clearly defined communities of interests. The proposed boundaries offend natural orientation, LGAs, and demographic communities of interest.



The Eastern Freeway, which physically divides communities in Melbourne's eastern suburbs.

The proposed boundaries upend the historical orientation of Menzies. The Division of Menzies has a character which largely runs east-west, following key lines of transport, notably the Eastern Freeway and Belgrave-Lilydale train lines, as well as key arterial roads, bike tracks, and bus routes. This alignment is also facilitated by natural features such as the Yarra River, and Ruffey Lake Park, and local LGAs.

The AEC has historically ensured that this east-west flow was a key aspect of boundaries of Menzies. For the first time this division is now rotating anti-clockwise around another seat to align north/east to south/west, connecting communities with little in common, and dividing others with natural alignment.

Divisions in eastern Melbourne have had consistent and long-standing connections to LGAs. These connections include Higgins with Stonnington, Menzies with Manningham, Kooyong with Boroondara, Deakin with Maroondah, Chisholm with Whitehorse & Monash, and Aston with Knox.

We submit that the commission has not placed sufficient weight on LGA connections and recommends re-visiting the proposed boundaries to see if these communities of interest can be better aligned in these divisions.

Proposed Changes

The Division of Menzies is a seat historically based entirely on the Manningham LGA, running east-west between the Yarra River and the Eastern Freeway. From time to time, it was supplemented by marginal extensions north, east, or south, but the electorate always overlapped with Manningham. This proposal presents a radical and unprecedented departure from that orientation.

The commission's proposed boundaries would remove significant portions of Manningham LGA from the electorate and add large areas far south of the Eastern Freeway, including areas with no historic or contemporary association with Menzies.

In the context of metropolitan Melbourne, the distance between Menzies' northernmost community in Warrandyte and the proposed southern boundary of Menzies, running along Eley Road a few hundred metres from Deakin University's Burwood campus, reflects poor

alignment of communities of interest, and means of transport within the proposed Division of Menzies.

The Liberal Party objects to the extent of the Division of Menzies' southern sprawl and recommends that the Division have its southern most boundary moved north. Moving the boundary back *at least* as far as Canterbury Road would serve to better align communities of interest in the Divisions of Chisholm and Menzies.

The dominant physical communities of interest in Menzies all orientate east-west: Manningham LGA, the Yarra River, the Eastern Freeway, lines of transport, and key parks such as Ruffey Lake Park (Melbourne's largest park). These changes would significantly alter the character of Menzies, split existing communities of interest into different electorates, and combine in the electorate disparate and unrelated communities.

Additionally, there are demographic communities of interest which are not aligned in this draft proposal.

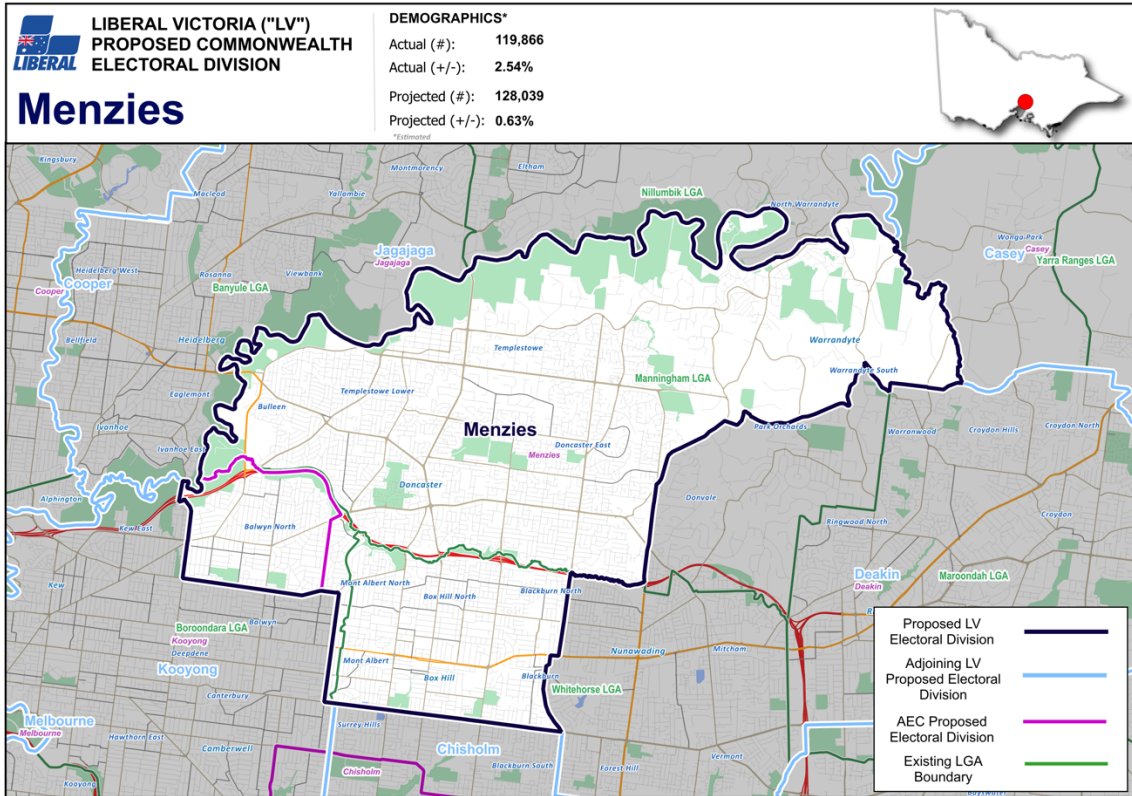
The 2021 ABS Census notes five significant ancestries within Menzies: Chinese (26.7%), English (20.8%), Australian (18.5%), Italian (8.4%), and Greek (6.6%). It also has the largest Iranian diaspora of any division in the House of Representatives. The Liberal Party contends that these communities of interest should be reflected in the final boundaries.

The Melbourne Chinese diaspora is significant and stands out in the eastern suburbs. It is important to recognise that it is clearly geographically divided into two groups (one orientated north in Menzies, and the other south in Chisholm), as recognised in the existing boundary between the two seats on Whitehorse Road. This is self-evident in the heat map in Figure 1.

The Liberal Party contends that each of these communities will be better aligned under our proposed boundaries, outlined below.

The Liberal Party proposes moving the draft boundary between Menzies and Chisholm north to Canterbury Road.

The Liberal Party also proposes extending the electorate west to unite the suburb of Balwyn North (already partially in Menzies on the commission's draft), with new boundaries of Belmore Road and Burke Road, as displayed in Map 1.



Map 1: Proposed boundaries of Division of Menzies

These changes would better align the Chinese, Italian, and Greek diaspora in Menzies. North Balwyn has concentrations of each diaspora which have existing identities with Manningham based clubs and shops. This would also prove more consistent with an east-west orientation. Figures 1-3 demonstrate these communities.

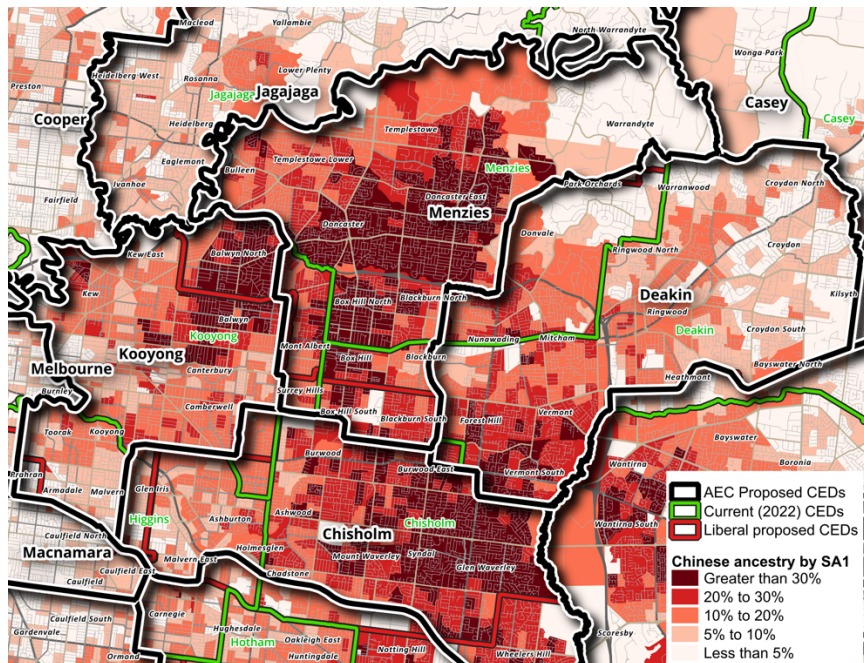


Figure 1: Chinese Ancestry.

The Chinese diaspora forms two district groups north and south of Canterbury Road, with the northern group centred on Doncaster (including Doncaster Shoppingtown) naturally extending into Balwyn North. Uniting this northern group in Menzies, and the southern group

in Chisholm (including the Glen Shopping Centre), utilising the clear natural boundary of Canterbury Road, best serves this community of interest.

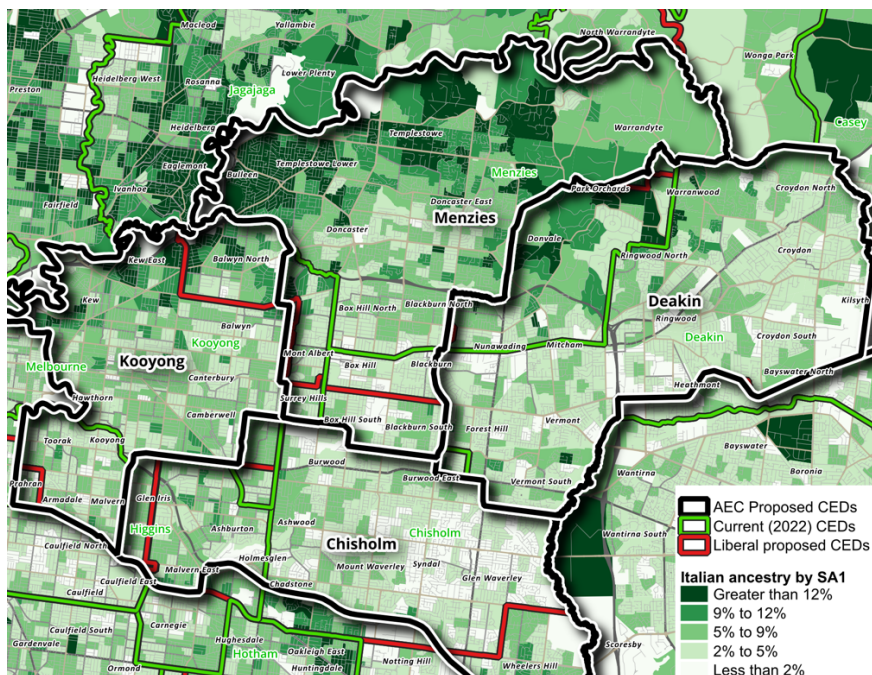


Figure 2: Italian Ancestry

The Italian community is centred on the suburb of Bulleen (20.1%), with continuing high density in Templestowe Lower (12.1%) and Balwyn North (9.1%). This community is centred on the Veneto Club in Bulleen, which was founded in the 1960s to preserve Italian traditions in Melbourne. Uniting this Italian community of interest in Menzies is recommended.

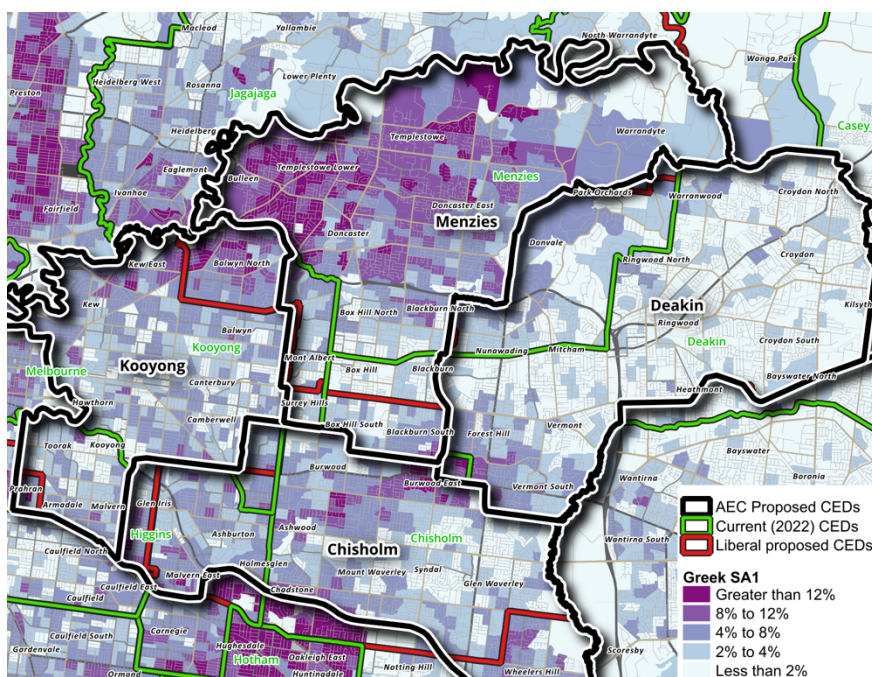


Figure 3: Greek Ancestry

Balwyn North contains a strong Greek community of interest (8.1%), which is similar to the communities in Bulleen (12.7%), Templestowe Lower (11.7%), and Templestowe (9.5%). Collectively, Manningham LGA residents have Greek ancestry of 8%.

In contrast, the Division of Kooyong has Greek ancestry of only 2.7%, the majority of these in Balwyn North. The Greek diaspora community of interest is best united together in the Division of Menzies.

There is also a significant Iranian community in Balwyn North, which is connected to the Menzies community, but has no connection to the Kooyong community. This is displayed in figure 4.

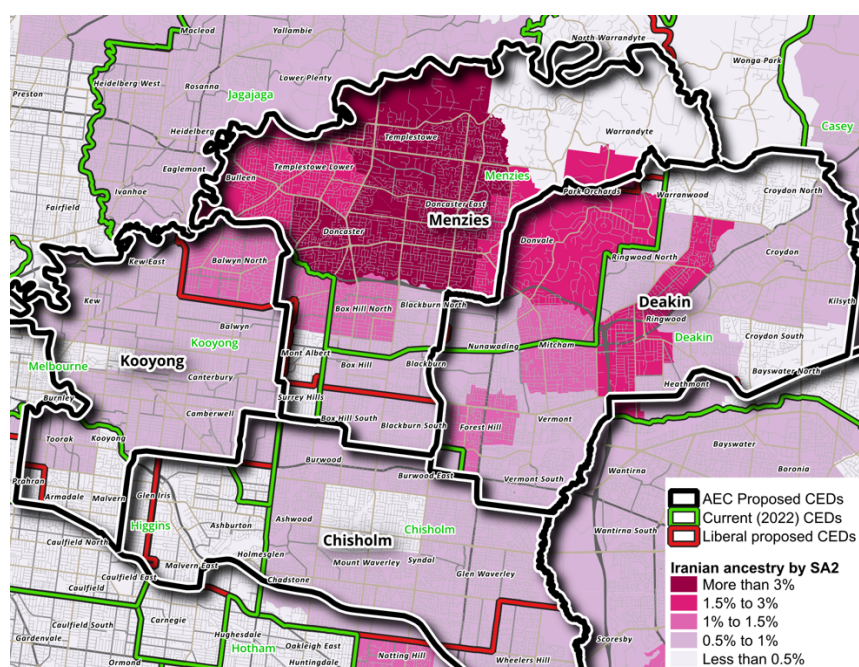


Figure 4: Iranian Ancestry

The selection of Burke Road and Canterbury Road as boundaries reflects their recognised status as natural boundaries, which divide the eastern suburbs of Melbourne east/west and north/south respectively.

The Liberal Party will be outlining further changes to ensure population numbers are correct in the section “Divisions of Kooyong & Chisholm”.

This three Division rotation serves as a discrete change that better aligns LGAs in Divisions, better matches community orientation, reflects extremely strong physical natural boundaries, and also ensures that communities of interest are best reflected by the proposed Divisions.

City of Manningham & Menzies

Menzies and Manningham are synonymous. This is founded in tradition, orientation east-west, geography, demography, and clearly identified communities of interest. The Liberal Party would strongly object to any further parts of Manningham being removed from Menzies.

Division of Deakin

The Liberal Party objects to the portion of Burwood East proposed to be added to Deakin (east of Blackburn Rd and north of Burwood Highway), and suggests it be retained in Chisholm, as per Map 2.

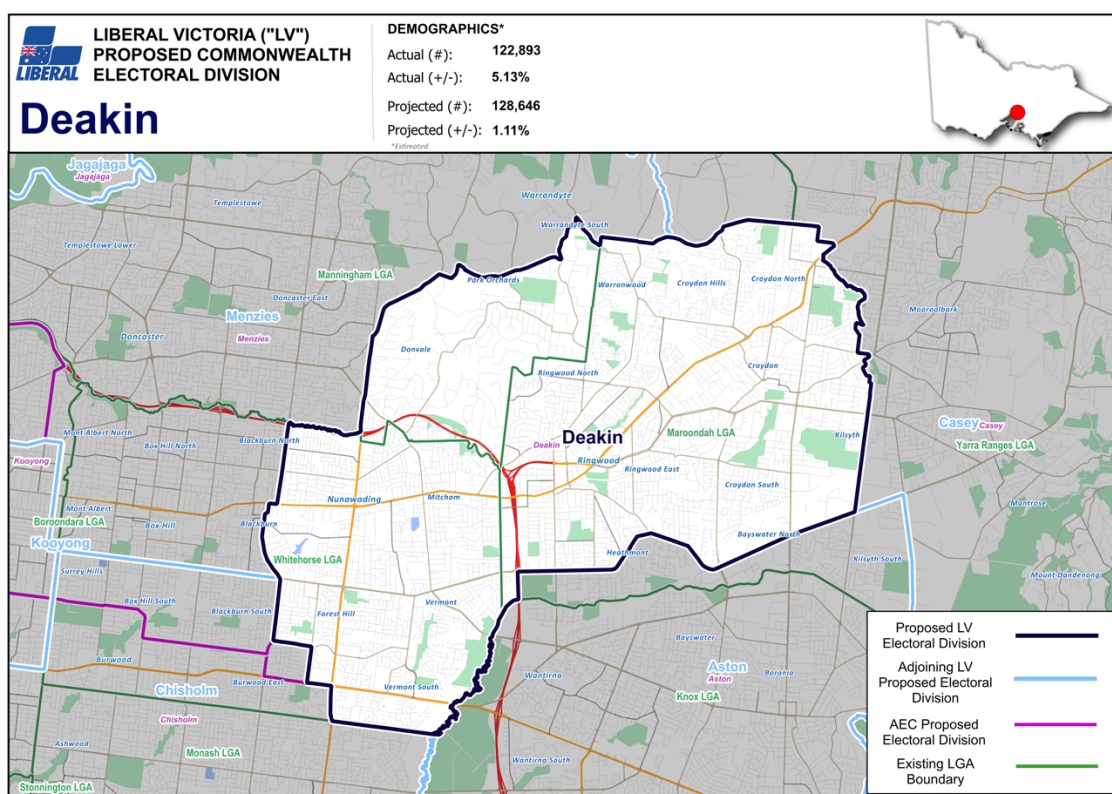
This change was proposed in 2021, and was rejected following a significant number of community objections.

The Liberal Party contends that adding just 1,548 electors from a suburb of 8,088 (less than 20%) is an unnecessary complication to a successfully existing boundary.

Dividing suburbs should be avoided wherever possible, and reversing this change will allow for the entirety of the Burwood East locality to remain in a single division (Chisholm).

This would also avoid an unnecessary transfer of electors and increase the number of electors retained in the same division.

The Liberal Party proposes no other changes to the Division of Deakin.



Map 2: Proposed boundaries of Division of Deakin

Division of Aston

The Liberal Party supports the decision to retain Aston as an electorate based on the Knox LGA.

The Liberal Party notes that the Dandenong Ranges form a very strong natural boundary on Aston’s eastern border. These communities in the Yarra Ranges LGA – along with the Casey LGA – have no connection with the suburban communities of Knox.

That Liberal Party recommends that any final boundaries for Aston do not attempt to cross the Dandenong Ranges.



The Dandenong Ranges, which form a strong natural boundary east of Aston.

Divisions of Kooyong & Chisholm

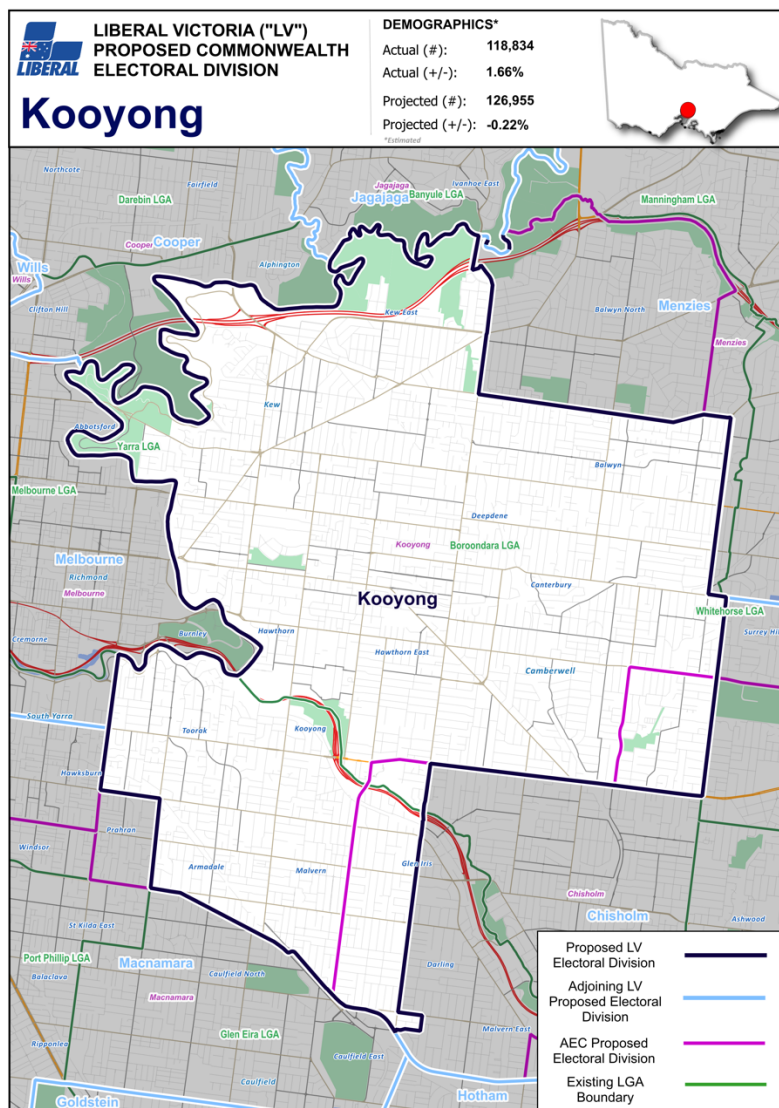
The Liberal Party supports the Division of Kooyong remaining as a division based on the Boroondara LGA.

In addition, the Liberal Party seeks to reduce the number of Divisions taking in the Stonnington LGA from five to four, by transferring the proposed Division of Hotham’s share of Stonnington to Chisholm.

The Liberal Party suggests that the portion of Prahran proposed to be in Kooyong is better placed in Macnamara (cf “Divisions of Macnamara & Melbourne”).

The Liberal Party suggests that Balwyn North north of Belmore Road proposed to be in Kooyong is better placed in Menzies (cf “Division of Menzies”).

To compensate for the removal of these suburbs, the Liberal Party suggests that the Tooronga Road boundary between Kooyong and Chisholm be moved entirely to Burke Road, that the suburb of Camberwell be united in Kooyong - continuing the proposed boundaries at Toorak Road and Warrigal Road – and that the Union Road boundary be moved to the Boroondara LGA boundary. These changes are reflected in map 3.



Map 3: Proposed boundaries of Division of Kooyong

Burke Road is one of the most significant natural boundaries in Melbourne, and part of the divide between the “inner” and “outer” suburbs in the east.

The LGA boundary is also a more natural reflection of the community, and allows better facilitation between local and federal representation.

Camberwell and Kooyong have the similar median ages (43 and 40), comparable median weekly household income (\$2,457 in Camberwell and \$2,332 in Kooyong, compared to \$1,832 in Chisholm), comparable monthly mortgage repayments (\$3,000 in Camberwell and \$2,936 in Kooyong, compared to \$2,400 in Chisholm), and similar median weekly rent (\$486 in Camberwell and \$451 in Kooyong). These are economically and demographically closely linked communities.



The #72 Tram to Camberwell.

The Camberwell community is also linked to the rest of the proposed Division of Kooyong via the important #72 tram line, which links Malvern and Camberwell.

There are similar ties to Kooyong in the Glen Iris area west of Burke Rd. Glen Iris and Kooyong have the same median age (40), comparable median weekly household income (\$2,491 in Glen Iris and \$2,332 in Kooyong, compared to \$1,832 in Chisholm), comparable monthly mortgage repayments (\$2,830 in Glen Iris and \$2,936 in Kooyong, compared to \$2,400 in Chisholm), and near identical median weekly rent (\$450 in Glen Iris and \$451 in Kooyong). These are also economically and demographically closely linked communities.

This Glen Iris area is also part of the historic #6 tram line, which runs through the proposed Division of Kooyong, including the Malvern Tram Depot, and terminates in Glen Iris.

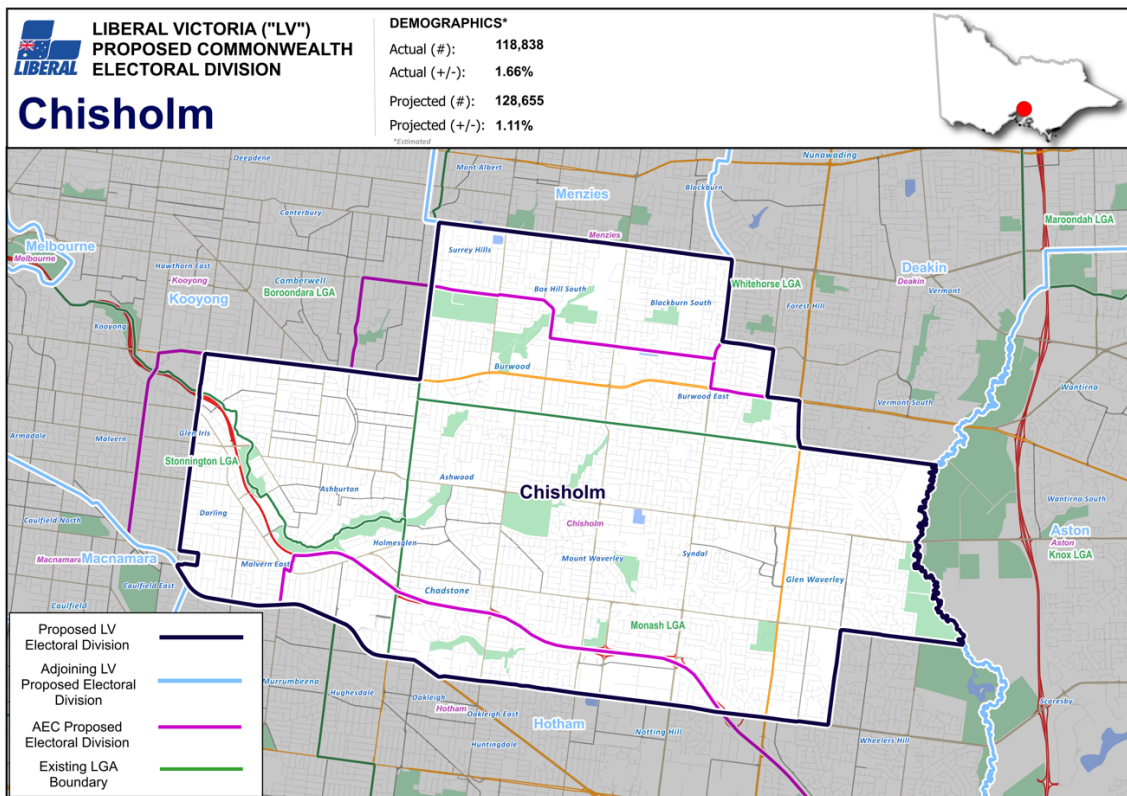


The #6 Tram departing the Malvern tram depot, heading to Glen Iris.

Kooyong and Chisholm are both more sensible electorates with Burke Road used as the boundary, and with more of Glen Iris and Camberwell in Kooyong. Balwyn North in Menzies, and Prahran in Macnamara.

Removing this Glen Iris area from Chisholm allows the electorate to take back voters south of Canterbury Road (cf “Division of Menzies”).

The Liberal Party proposes that Chisholm’s southern boundary with Hotham be moved to Ferntree Gully Road, excluding Wheelers Hill (following View Mount Road and Waverley Road), as depicted in map 4.



Map 4: Proposed boundaries of Division of Chisholm

This unites more of the Monash LGA community in Chisholm.

This would also make the Division of Chisholm an electorate based on the Monash and Whitehorse LGAs, containing similar suburbs, and neatly representing the Chinese community south of the Eastern Freeway, and the significant Greek community in the Monash LGA.

The suburb of Wheelers Hill would remain aligned with the suburb of Mulgrave.

Division of Casey

The Liberal Party commends the commission for retaining the Division of Casey, and for continuing to base the seat in the Yarra Valley community, sitting in the valley between the Yarra Ranges and the Dandenong Ranges. This is one of the most clear and distinct communities of interest in Victoria.

The Liberal Party does not object to the addition of part of Pantom Hill & St Andrews to the Division of Casey.

However, the Liberal Party maintains the view that there is a significant physical boundary between the Shire of Yarra Ranges and the Shire of Nillumbik which divides communities of interest.

The Liberal Party would strongly object to the Division of Casey growing further into Nillumbik Shire at this time, or in the future.

The Liberal Party suggests retaining Casey in the proposed form when designing the final boundaries.



The Yarra Valley, which forms the basis of the Division of Casey

Division of McEwen

The Liberal Party commends the commission for retaining the Division of McEwen, and for retaining the character of that division as a seat which very neatly follows the boundary of suburban Melbourne, excluding the higher density growth corridors, but including multiple peri-urban areas.

McEwen is served by major south-north roads, including the Hume Freeway, Northern Highway, and Calder Freeway.

The division is also linked by an historic network of east-west roads, including, in part, Wallan-Whittlesea Road, Kilmore-Lancefield Road, and Gisborne-Kilmore Road. As these names suggest, this network of roads is explicitly designed to link these communities nestled outside of northern suburban Melbourne.

This is also an area with very distinct needs in relation to commuting, development, and access to essential services (most notably fire, police, and medical services), and is best represented by a single Member of Parliament.

The Liberal Party suggests retaining the proposed boundaries for McEwen when designing the final boundaries.

Divisions of Macnamara & Melbourne

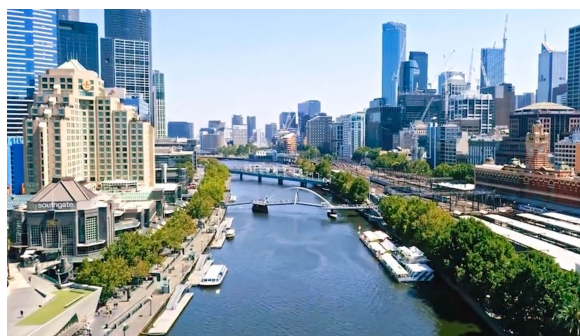
The Liberal Party supports the Division of Melbourne crossing the Yarra River, as noted in our original suggestion to the commission.

However, the Liberal Party is concerned that the specifics of these changes following the abolition of Higgins stretch the Division of Melbourne too far south of the Yarra into areas without connection to the Melbourne LGA or Melbourne CBD, and that a better solution would best reflect communities of interest.

Accordingly, the Liberal Party suggests:

- That the areas in the Division of Macnamara north of the West Gate Freeway be transferred to Melbourne. This takes an area physically divided from Macnamara by the Freeway, and unites it in Division of Melbourne areas accessible to each other by foot, road, rail, and tram, which are already part of the Melbourne LGA.
- That the areas bounded by Toorak Rd, Punt Rd, and Malvern Rd be transferred from Melbourne to Macnamara, uniting a recognised community, and reflecting the clear natural boundary of Punt Road; and
- That the areas south of Malvern Rd, and west of Orrong Rd, be transferred from Kooyong into Macnamara. This would unite the entire Prahran-Windsor community in one division, rather than splitting it over three divisions, as presently proposed.

This suggestion unites the city-fringe areas around Southbank, South Wharf, and Docklands with the Melbourne CBD. These areas, connected by numerous road, rail and foot bridges across the Yarra, share a very similar character and demography. This change also simplifies boundaries by removing the Yarra River as a northern boundary of Macnamara.



The linked Melbourne CBD & Southbank communities.

This suggestion would move significantly more of the Melbourne LGA into the Division of Melbourne, and match the southern boundary of the Melbourne LGA into the Division of Melbourne as near as practicable.

The overwhelming majority (78%) of dwellings in the city of Melbourne are flats or apartments. The high-rise city fringe areas of Southbank and South Wharf share this profile, with 98% of dwellings being flats or apartments.

The proposed Division of Melbourne has a median age of 33. Under the AEC's current proposal Macnamara's median age is 38. The southern city fringe areas, with a median age of 36, are best with the Division of Melbourne.

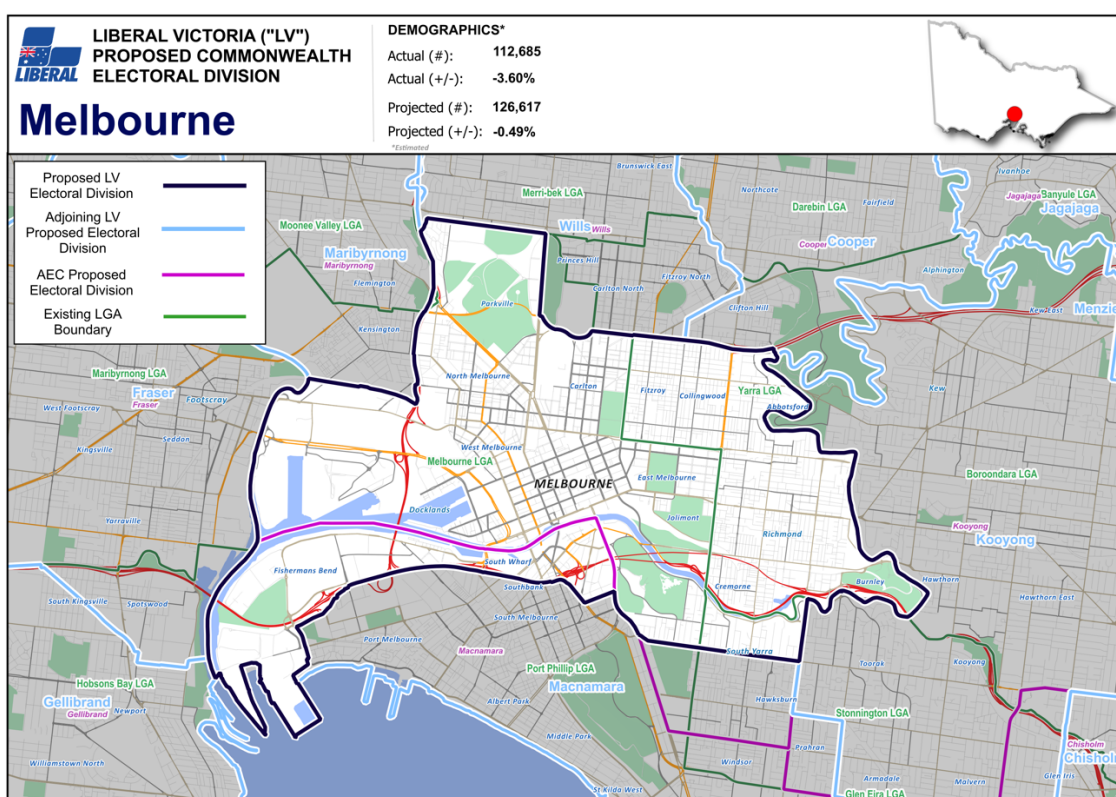
The Liberal Party's suggestions unite Prahran and Windsor, a key community of interest centred around the vibrant nightlife of Chapel St's Windsor-end, and in close proximity to the

bayside and the culture of St Kilda. It is very dissimilar to the suburban, leafy Kooyong electorate. However, under the draft boundaries, this area is split into three divisions: Melbourne, Macnamara, and Kooyong.

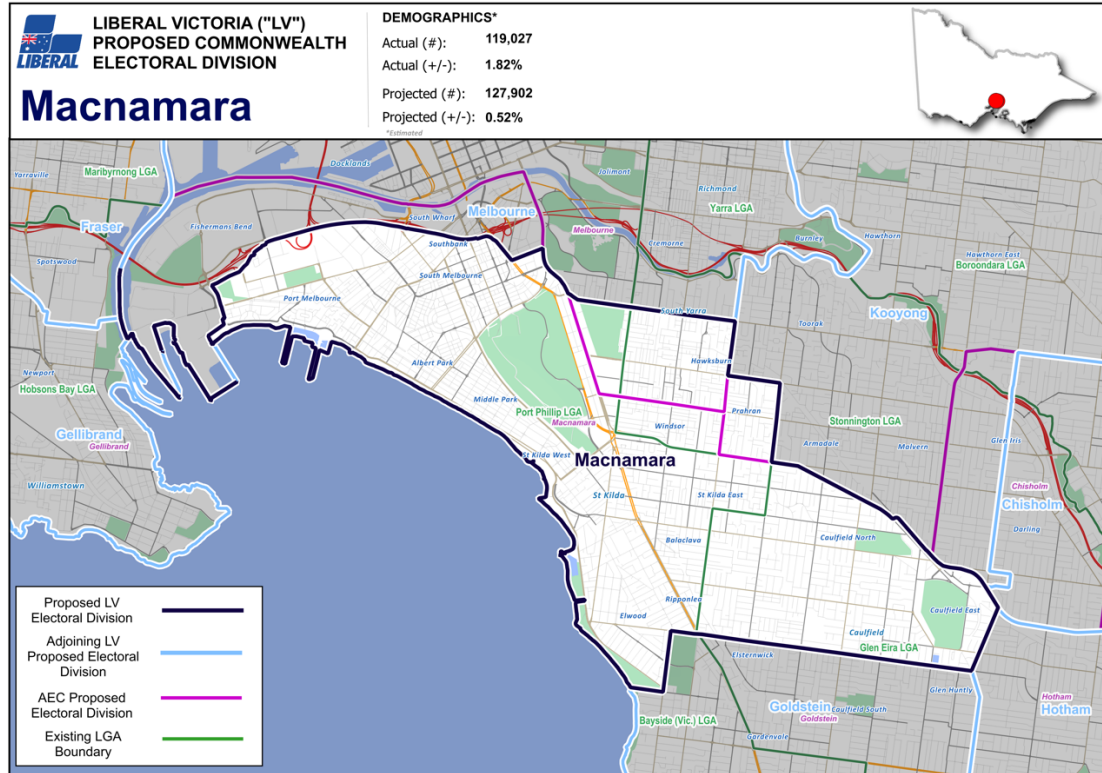
Importantly, at a time when there is rising anti-Semitism in the community, this suggestion would also unite over 600 people of Jewish faith into the division with the most Jewish residents anywhere in Australia: Macnamara.

Uniting the Prahran-Windsor area in one electorate also unites together a large LGBT community, and places them in the same division as the strong St Kilda LGBT community, providing united representation in the Division of Macnamara, which hosts the Midsumma Festival and Melbourne’s Pride March.

These boundaries are shown in maps 5 and 6.



Map 5: Proposed boundaries of Division of Melbourne

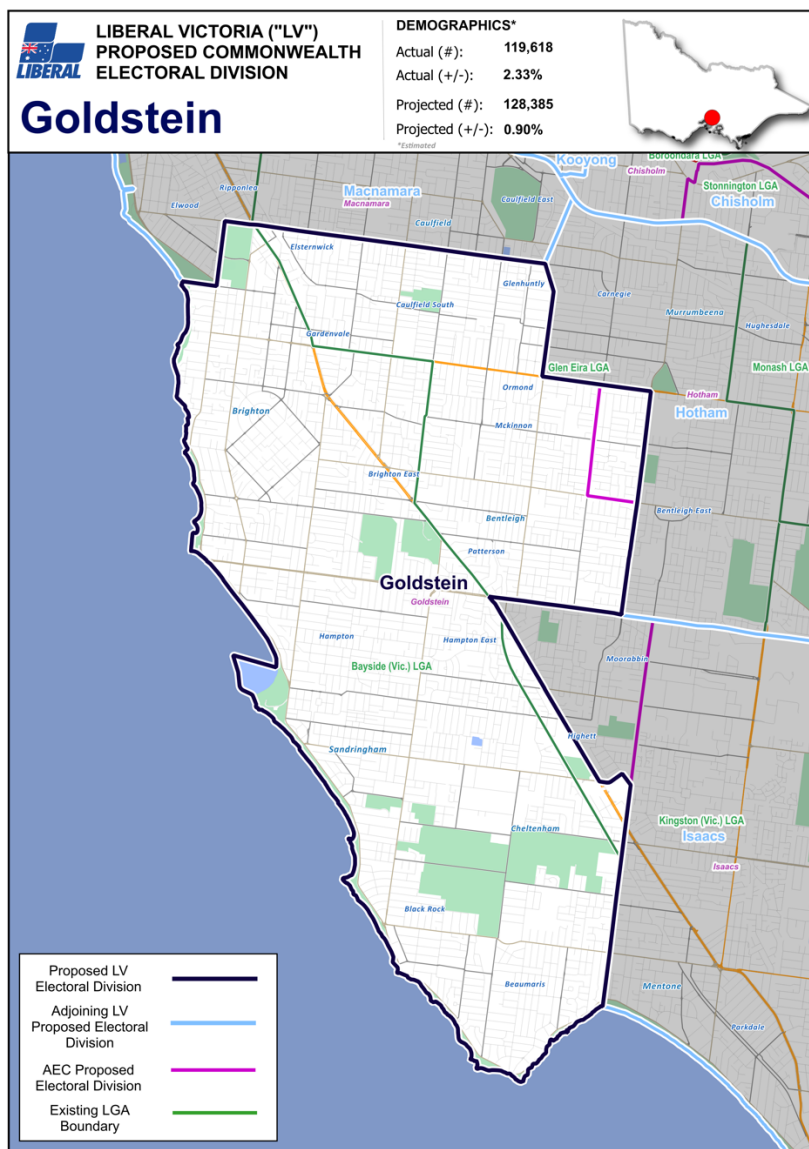


Map 6: Proposed boundaries of Division of Macnamara

These changes ensure that both Macnamara and Melbourne remain in quota. The proposed changes related to Kooyong in the “Division of Menzies” and “Divisions of Kooyong & Chisholm” sections balance the population requirements.

Division of Goldstein

The Liberal Party suggests that the Division of Goldstein would best represent a community of interest by removing to the greatest extent possible the Kingston LGA area from the division (The Liberal Party proposes the strong natural boundary of Nepean Highway be used), and adding additional voters from the Glen Eira LGA between North Road and South Road, by making East Boundary Road a continuous boundary, as per map 7.



Map 7: Proposed boundaries of Division of Goldstein

The Kingston LGA has no connection with the Bayside LGA, which is the heart of the Division of Goldstein. However, there is already a significant segment of the Glen Eira LGA in Goldstein, and the Liberal Party suggests that this is the better area from which to gain the voters necessary.

The Liberal Party also notes that electors in the Moorabbin area of Kingston LGA would under the commission’s proposal be moving electorates for the third occasion in less than ten years. Noting the commission’s intent to provide stability to electors, returning this Kingston LGA “wedge” to the Division of Isaacs would support this intent.

Divisions of Dunkley & Flinders

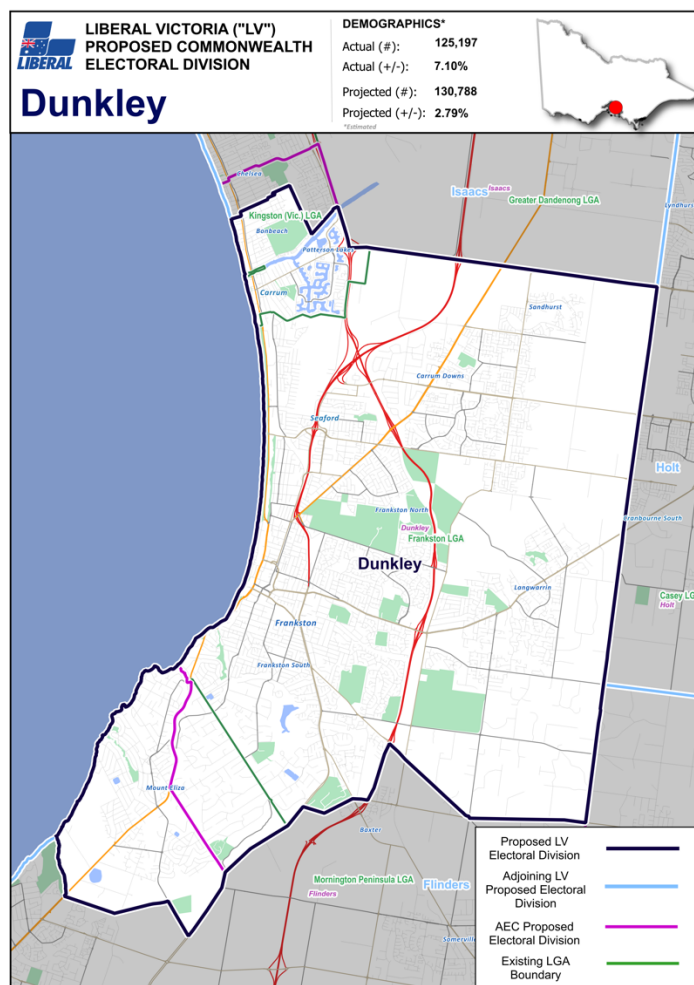
The Liberal Party objects to the decision to split the suburb of Mount Eliza in two by transferring part of the suburb from the Division of Dunkley to the Division of Flinders. Mount Eliza has been a consistent part of the Dunkley electorate and has strong links to the Frankston area.

Mt Eliza is a strong, close-knit community which should remain wholly within the Division of Dunkley. Splitting it unnecessarily divides a strong community of interest.

In determining whether to place the united community of Mt Eliza within the Division of Flinders or the Division of Dunkley, the Liberal Party notes that residents in Mt Eliza have a much stronger connection to the city of Frankston than they do to the remainder of the Mornington Peninsula. Residents in Mount Eliza shop in Frankston, are linked to the local sporting clubs (notably the Frankston Football Club), and rely on the Frankston Railway Line, the Frankston Highway, and the Peninsula Link Freeway to commute.

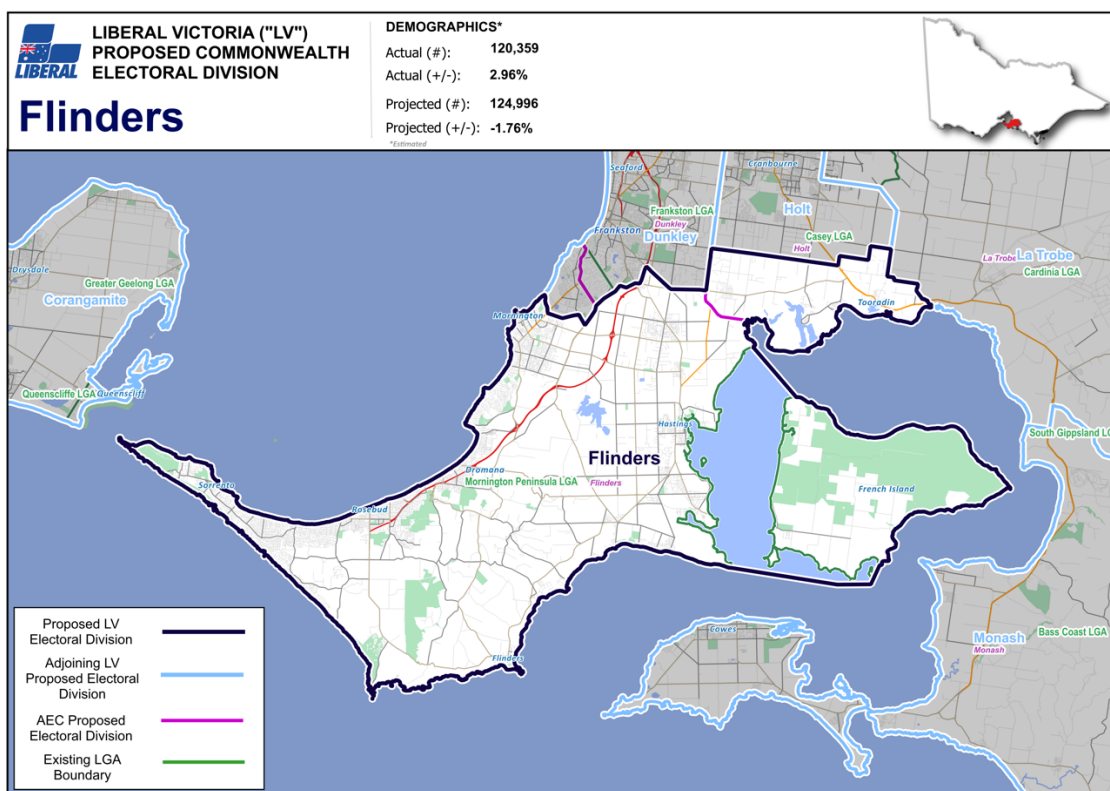
The entire suburb is orientated towards the Frankston suburbs, and not to the more rural communities of the Mornington Peninsula, and the Division of Flinders.

Accordingly, the Liberal Party suggests the transfer Mount Eliza from Flinders back to Dunkley, as per map 8.



Map 8: Proposed boundaries of Division of Dunkley

To compensate Flinders, the Liberal Party suggests the suburbs of Pearcedale and Tooradin be transferred from Holt to Flinders, as per map 9.



Map 9: Proposed boundaries of Division of Flinders

Unlike Mount Eliza, these suburbs have been represented by Flinders in the recent past, and are keeping in the character of Flinders as a division which represents the Western Port area. Indeed, there is sense in the division which represents French Island and Crib Point also representing the Western Port shores around Blind Bight.



Blind Bight; a natural continuation of the coastline represented by Flinders.

Division of Isaacs

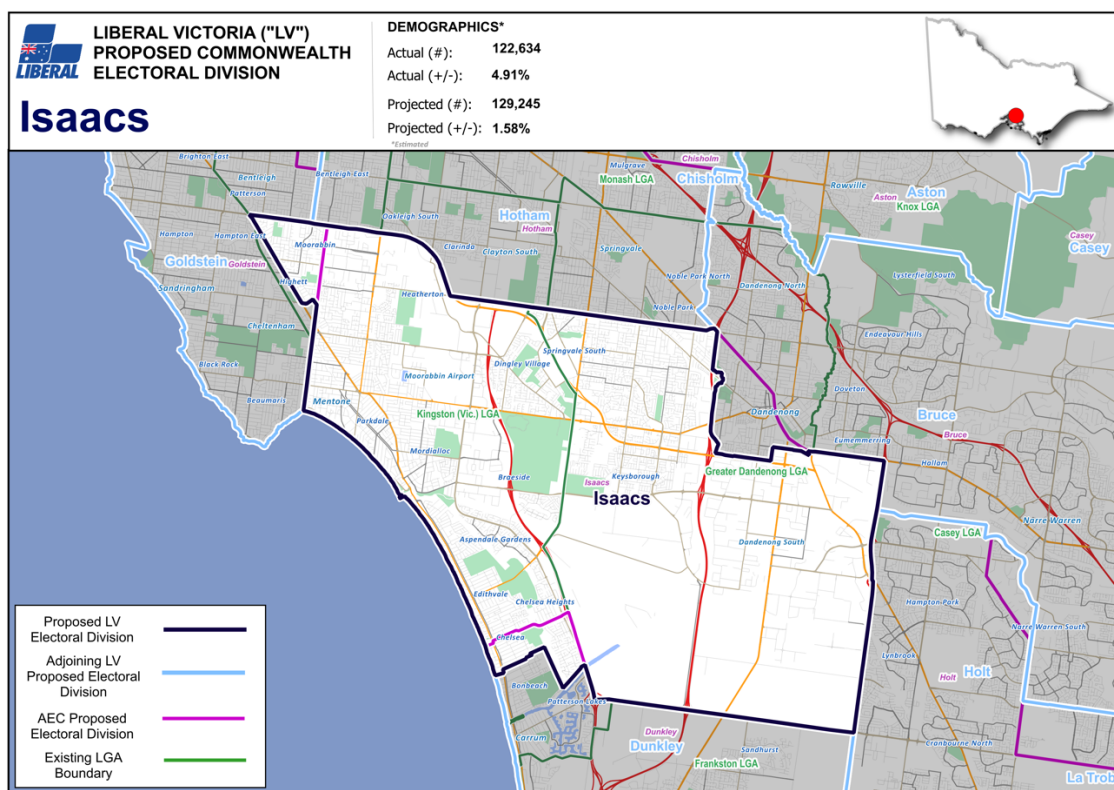
The Liberal Party suggests that the Division of Isaacs should take on additional voters from the Kingston LGA, reflecting this community of interest in the south-east of Melbourne.

The Liberal Party proposes that the north-west boundary of Isaacs be extended to the Nepean Highway and South Road, uniting more of Kingston LGA in Isaacs (cf “Division of Goldstein”).

The Liberal Party suggests Chelsea and Chelsea Heights in the Kingston LGA be returned to Isaacs from Dunkley (cf “Division of Dunkley”).

In return, the Liberal Party proposes that the parts of the suburb of Dandenong proposed to be in Isaacs (in the LGA of Greater Dandenong) be transferred to Bruce.

This proposal (shown in map 10) better aligns LGAs and communities of interest in the south-east of Melbourne.

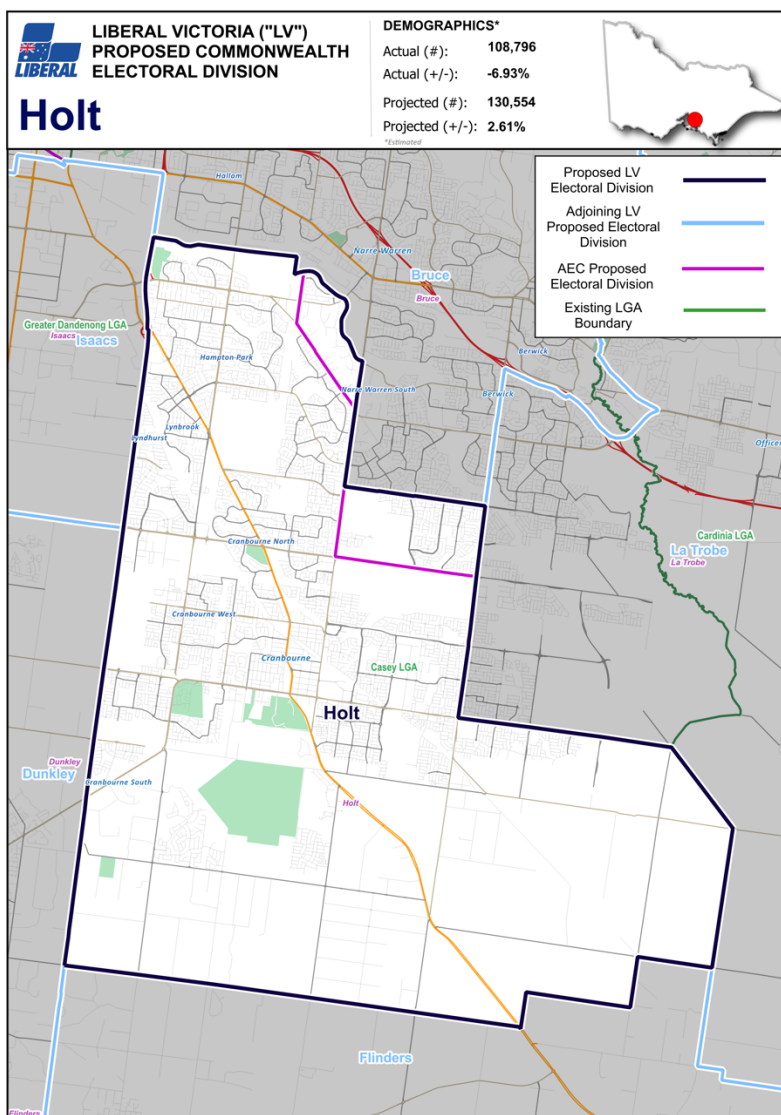


Map 10: Proposed boundaries of Division of Isaacs

Divisions of Holt and Bruce

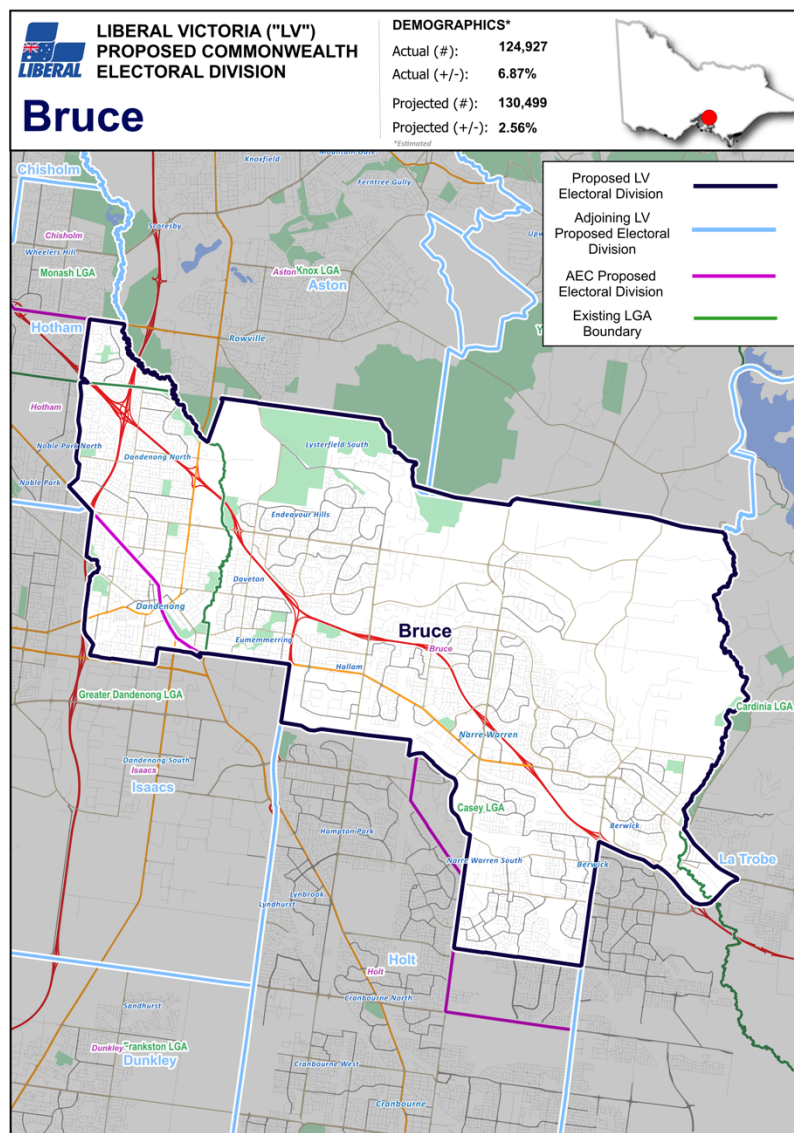
In order to better reflect the communities of interest in Flinders and Dunkley, the Liberal Party suggests that Cranbourne North is returned from the Division of Bruce to the Division of Holt, as per map 11.

This would ensure that Holt is a division based on the growth suburbs of the Casey LGA, uniting the entire Cranbourne community in a single electorate.



Map 11: Proposed boundaries of Division of Holt

Map 12 shows the proposed changes to Bruce outlined above and in “Division of Isaacs”.



Map 12: Proposed boundaries of Division of Bruce

Division of La Trobe

The Liberal Party supports the proposed boundaries of the Division of La Trobe, encompassing the entire boundaries of the unique community of interest of Cardinia LGA, plus a segment of Berwick in the Casey LGA as required by population criteria.

The Liberal Party understands that rapid population changes in the growth corridor around Berwick makes ongoing adjustments in that area necessary, and supports the present decision of the commission.

Divisions of Gorton, Hawke, and Fraser

The Liberal Party is concerned by the proposed boundaries along the western growth corridor of Melbourne.

The Liberal Party objects to the changing of the north-east boundary between Hawke and Gorton from the LGA boundary to the Calder Freeway. Whilst the freeway may seem like the more natural boundary on paper, in fact those Brimbank LGA residents north-east of the Calder Freeway can only be reached from the Gorton side of the Freeway, and are accordingly connected to the rest of the Brimbank LGA community. They have little-to-no physical connection with the Hume LGA areas in Hawke into which they have been placed.

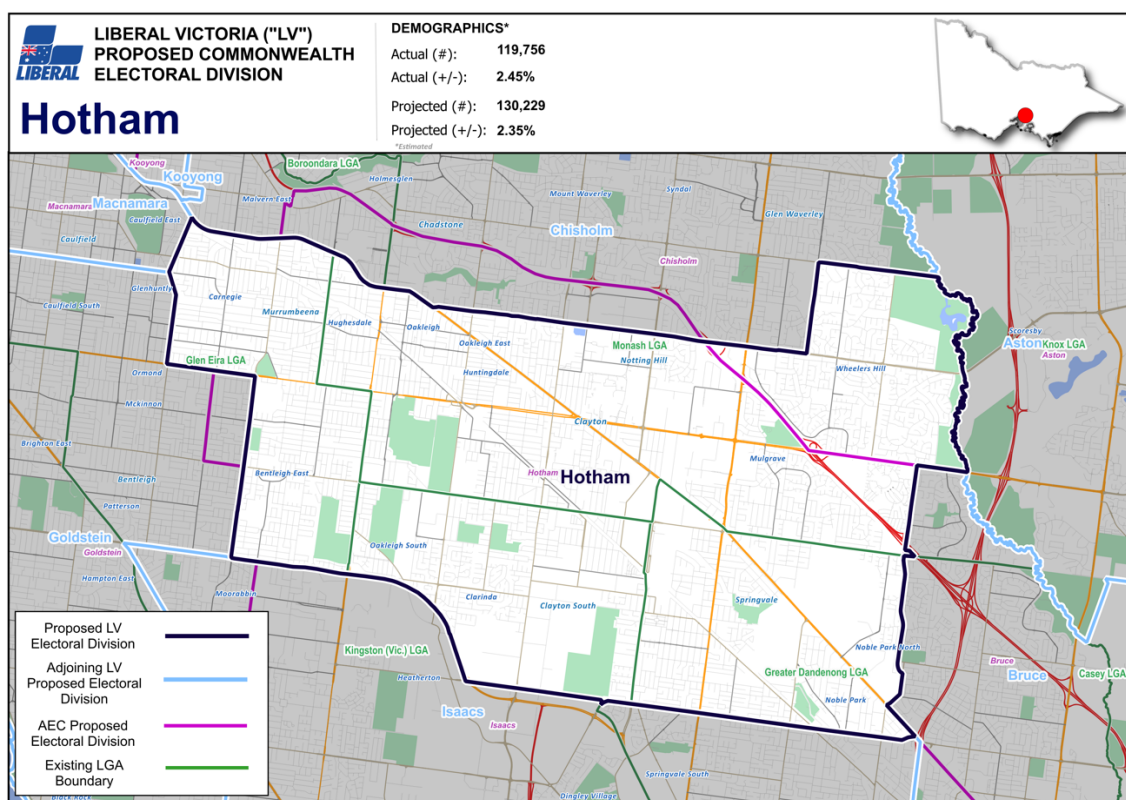
It is suggested that Keilor North be returned to the Division of Gorton.

It is suggested that the Deer Park suburb would be better served if united with the rest of the Brimbank LGA community in the Division of Fraser.

It is suggested that the entirety of the Hillside suburb would be better served if united in the Division of Gorton.

Division of Hotham

Notwithstanding the Liberal Party’s advocacy for the abolition of the Division of Hotham should Higgins be retained, map 13 displays the Liberal Party’s proposed boundaries for Hotham as outlined in “Division of Goldstein” and “Divisions of Kooyong & Chisholm”.



Map 13: Proposed boundaries of Division of Hotham

Conclusion

The Liberal Party commends the work of the commission, especially in attempting to cause the minimum disruption to electors as possible, this being the third election in a row requiring a redistribution in Victoria.

The Liberal Party has focused this set of objections on the eastern and south-eastern suburbs; this reflects the consequential results from the proposed abolition of the Division of Higgins for those areas of Melbourne.

Where the Liberal Party has proposed changes, it has been to better align communities of interest, notably LGAs and multicultural communities. In each case the Liberal Party contends that these are minor changes to boundaries, but with significant benefits for the community.

The Liberal Party has attached to this report our shape files for those divisions we have outlined changes to, and a list of SAIs in each division.

The Liberal Party submits these objections for the AEC's consideration.