



# Objection 501

Dr Monique Ryan MP

3 pages



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

BY EMAIL: FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au

Dear Redistribution Committee,

**Proposed redistribution of Victoria into electoral divisions May 2024 (the “proposed redistribution”)**

As the Independent Federal Member for the Division of Kooyong (“Kooyong”), I welcome the opportunity to respond to the proposed redistribution.

I note that written objections can support or disagree with the proposed redistribution and that the final determination of the electoral divisions and boundary names will be made by the augmented Electoral Commission on Thursday 17 October 2024.

**Prior Comments**

My suggestion to the Redistribution Committee of 4 December 2023 was that the borders 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 with the proposed abolition of the division of Higgins, boundary changes, as part of the greater redistribution, must now impact Kooyong.

**Comments on proposed redistribution**

As a neighbouring division, the proposed abolition of the division of Higgins creates a need for significant changes to the boundaries of Kooyong.

The Redistribution Committee proposes to transfer 31,430 projected electors in Armadale, Kooyong, Malvern, Toorak, and part of Prahran, from the division of Higgins to the proposed new division of Kooyong.

I welcome the prospect of representing new constituents in Armadale, Kooyong, Malvern, Toorak, and Prahran. I was born at Cabrini Hospital, educated in Toorak, and my parents continue to reside in Malvern. I know these communities well and would be honoured to serve them as the Member for Kooyong.

When division boundaries are altered in this way, it is important that (whenever possible) communities of interest are united or improved. I am confident that this will be the case for the proposed new inclusions in Kooyong. There are already solid and very longstanding links between the communities of interest comprised by Armadale, Kooyong, Malvern, Toorak, and Prahran by virtue of them having been identified and in part responsible for the co-location of these communities within the division of Higgins.

There are, similarly, very strong community links between the existing and proposed new parts of Kooyong. Whilst many could be listed here, perhaps most notable are those generated by the significant numbers of students attending an array of local public and independent schools, and the community and sporting clubs that are supported by the families of those students — together representing thousands of residents. Many students from local primary schools in the proposed expanded area of Kooyong — such as Malvern Primary, Malvern Central, Armadale Primary, and Toorak Primary — go on to attend secondary school within the proposed new boundaries of Kooyong. The sporting clubs draw from dozens of local primary and high schools and already provide important community connections throughout the entirety of Kooyong. Many of those students go on to attend university together, continuing to develop their lifelong bonds.

It is also already the case that the vibrant local restaurant and retail precincts of High St, Armadale; Toorak Rd, Toorak; and Glenferrie Rd, Malvern — to name a few — are well-frequented and well-known to all those living in Kooyong. These areas will continue to facilitate strong community links and will be thriving social and economic hubs for a long time to come.

Geographically, too, it is noteworthy that the entirety of Glenferrie Road and Tooronga Roads will be contained within Kooyong. These are major linking roads between the existing and proposed areas of Kooyong, and their inclusion within one division should be regarded as uncontroversial. The thousands of schoolkids who catch the Glenferrie Rd tram every day can attest to the continuity of communities in these adjoining electorates.

However, it is also the case that the inclusion of Armadale, Kooyong, Malvern, Toorak, and parts of Prahran will lead to an excess of total projected electors in Kooyong. This

means that the Redistribution Committee has proposed further alterations to the boundaries. They are as follows.

- 7,247 projected electors from Kooyong would be reallocated to the proposed division of Chisholm including part of the localities of Camberwell and Glen Iris; and
- 14,599 projected electors from Kooyong would be reallocated to the proposed division of Menzies, including Mont Albert and Mont Albert North, and parts of the localities of Balwyn, Balwyn North, and Surrey Hills.

I am very disappointed that the 21,846 Kooyong projected electors from parts of Camberwell, Glen Iris, Mont Albert, Mont Albert North, Balwyn, Balwyn North, and Surrey Hills will no longer be situated within Kooyong. I know that many individuals in those suburbs have been upset by the prospect of no longer residing in Kooyong. Many have volunteered for, or supported me, and have expressed dismay that they will no longer be represented by the person they elected. I'm sure the Redistribution Committee understand the impact of these redistributions on voters – an impact which reflects how invested voters are in our strong, resilient democratic processes.

I have been very proud to serve the people in these communities and would be sad to no longer have the chance to do so because of the proposed redistribution.

### **Conclusion**

Whilst I maintain that a redistribution could occur such that the borders of Kooyong remain unchanged or undergo only very minor changes, I do accept that difficult decisions must be made. Given that it has been determined by the Redistribution Committee that the Division of Higgins is to be abolished, in order to facilitate an orderly and logical redistribution meeting the guidelines of the AEC, I accept that the current proposal is reasonable.

Accordingly, so as to give effect to the proposed Victorian redistribution, I do not object to the suggestions noted above regarding changing the boundaries of Kooyong.

With all best wishes,



Dr Monique Ryan, MP  
Member for Kooyong