



Objection Number 3

Erik S. Dober

3 Pages

From: Dober, Erik S. [edober@optusnet.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 16 August 2010 7:05 AM
To: VIC Redistribution
Subject: Victorian Redistribution
Attachments: 2010-08-17 - Letter - Erik Dober.pdf

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached an objection to the proposed redistribution of Victoria 2010.

Regards,

ERIK S. DOBER

PO Box 152
Craigieburn VIC
Australia. 3064

Phone: (04) 333 44 319
Email: edober@optusnet.com.au

Redistribution Secretariat
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 9867
Melbourne VIC 8060
Australia

Monday, 18 August 2010

RE: New District of Burke

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to the Commission as a long-time resident of Craigieburn, VIC with regard to the proposed re-introduction of the Federal District of Burke.

I am personally excited at the prospect of seeing Craigieburn move to a seat which will hopefully attract greater attention from the two major political parties in the hope that we will no longer be neglected. Being an exceptionally safe Labor seat, I feel there has been little interest in our needs.

I do, however, have some concerns to which I would be pleased to alert to the Commission.

1.0 POPULATION

I am mindful that there has been a significant effort to create greater population equality amongst the districts. I look to the Broadmeadows, Roxburgh Park, and Epping areas which have largely reached their peak in terms of development. However, there is still *much* growth that can occur in Bulla, northern and western Craigieburn, Sunbury and throughout much of the proposed district.

According to AEC predictions, McEwen and Calwell each have particularly significant size problems for equal numbers. Bendigo is also overpopulated as a district. My concern is that a very large chunk of the population growth that would be found in Calwell has now been moved to Burke (in particular, Sunbury and Craigieburn). It is unlikely that major growth will still occur in Broadmeadows or Roxburgh Park. Greenvale has seen much of its growth already – with further growth likely to be closer to Bulla.

It is therefore my argument that overtime Burke will become overpopulated whereas Calwell's will see little growth. Calwell will be too small by comparison. Craigieburn has moved District twice over the last ten years (with Burke being a third time). Before changing the Burke district, keep the foreseeable issues in mind so as to reduce future changes. Citizens will be more politically aware if they are confident I knowing exactly what and who they are voting for. Making changes is tiresome and confusing.

2.0 STREET

I am concerned that streets are being commonly used as electoral boundaries. It means that who one votes for depends on which side of the street one lives on. I take issue with the following boundaries:

2.1 Somerton Road Boundary (Burke – Calwell)

2.2 Findon Road Boundary (Burke – Scullin)

Where there is a large residential presence on roads, street district boundaries should be used as little as possible. Limiting this usage will also limit the residents' confusion as to whom they are voting, as well as the disinterest in the democratic process altogether.

3.0 DISTINCTION OF TOWNS

The motivations for the proposed Scullin boundary are unclear to me. There will be large amounts of growth in this area and the need to include a random portion of Epping seems quite unnecessary and sufficient to invoke confusion. Epping is distinct from all other areas of Burke in its urban nature, local government compilation, and size. It seems quite unreasonable to include it in the District. I would recommend moving this boundary north of Epping to run along Lehmann's Road (little to no residential population) and connecting to Plenty Road through the current green zone. There is then a clear distinction between South Morang and Epping as the electoral boundary rather than some of Epping.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Move Calwell boundary north to the green corridor boundary of Craigieburn and Roxburgh Park.
- 4.2 Move Scullin boundary north (or leaving this area in McEwen) so that the boundary is essentially continuing to run parallel with Bridge Inn.

I do hope these concerns are useful to your work and I hope, together, we can create a District of Burke that may result in convenience and efficiency for its peoples.

Yours sincerely,



Erik S. Dober