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**Objection Number 6**

**Dr Mark Mulcair**

**5 pages**

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**From:** Mark Mulcair [markmulcair@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 August 2010 12:01 PM  
**To:** VIC Redistribution  
**Subject:** Objections to Victorian Redistribution 2010  
**Attachments:** Victorian Objectons.docx

Dear Committee Members,

Please find attached my Objections to the proposed Victorian Redistribution 2010.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

Dr Mark Mulcair

## **OBJECTIONS TO THE VICTORIAN REDISTRIBUTION 2010**

In general, I think the Committee has done a good job. Although the proposals are very different from my original submission, abolishing Murray and re-creating Burke has certainly improved the community of interest of seats in northern and western Melbourne, and the Committee has also been able to draw fairly logical boundaries in rural Victoria.

The two main objections I have are with some of the specific arrangements in Melbourne's north, and the transfer of Endeavour Hills to Aston. The remainder of the objections are relatively minor, involving small changes to unite suburbs or straighten boundaries.

### **1) Burke/Scullin/McEwen/Jagajaga/Batman:**

While I support the general thrust of the Committee's proposals in this area, I have a problem with a couple of specifics:

- 1) The South Morang area is very oddly placed in a Craigieburn/Sunbury based division, and would be a far more logical fit with Epping and Mill Park in Scullin. These areas form a very awkward appendage to Burke.
- 2) The proposed boundary between Jagajaga and Scullin splits Diamond Creek and Wattle Glen, and results in Hurstbridge being split three ways.
- 3) The rural areas beyond Kangaroo Ground and Diamond Creek have very little in common with the predominantly suburban Jagajaga, and fit far better in McEwen.
- 4) Areas east of the Plenty River have very little connection to the remainder of Scullin.

I would suggest the Committee consider the following changes.

Firstly, those parts of Whittlesea council proposed to go into Burke should instead go into Scullin. South Morang and Wollert have very strong links with the remainder of Scullin and are a more logical fit there than in Burke.

Scullin could then shed all of its share of Nillumbik, both its existing component and the proposed transfers from McEwen. Its share of Plenty and Diamond Creek would go into Jagajaga, while Yarrambat, Wattle Glen and Hurstbridge should go back into McEwen. I suggest using Kurrak Road, Yan Yean Road, Ironbark Road, Black Gully Road, Broad Gully Road, the Diamond Creek suburb boundary, Reynolds Road, and Ingrams Road as the boundary between McEwen and Jagajaga in this area. This would unite Plenty and Diamond Creek with their focal point of Greensborough in the one division.

Jagajaga in turn returns those parts of Wattle Glen, Hurstbridge, Kangaroo Ground and beyond to McEwen. I believe these more rural areas fit better with McEwen than with Jagajaga. I also suggest that Research and Warrandyte North be placed in McEwen, as both have links to the Kangaroo Ground area and are more rural than the rest of Jagajaga.

The boundary in this area would basically run along the line of Reynolds Road, which serves as the Eltham/Research suburb boundary.

Jagajaga also returns the 2000 electors in Darebin council to Batman. While I understand the logic of transferring this area to Jagajaga, it still seems more sensible to have Darebin council united in Batman.

Burke then gains the southern part of Mitchell Shire from McEwen, including the towns of Wallan, Kilmore, Wandong and Heathcote Junction. Although this does split Mitchell Shire, areas like Wallan are increasingly becoming commuter towns, and arguably fit better in an urban/semi-rural division like Burke than in McEwen. The Hume and Northern Highways plus the railway would provide strong links with the Craigieburn area, and there are also links across the mountains to parts of Macedon Ranges Shire, including Woodend, Gisborne, and Lancefield.

I believe all four of my proposed divisions would be superior to those proposed by the Committee. All would have a strong, clear focus: Scullin based on the urbanised parts of Whittlesea, Jagajaga based on Banyule and the more urban parts of Nillumbik, McEwen entirely rural, and Burke straddling the urban/rural divide north-west of Melbourne.

Each transfer involves around 11-12,000 electors, leaving all divisions within tolerance.

## **2) Aston/Holt/LaTrobe:**

I would strongly object to detaching the Endeavour Hills area to Aston. This area has no connection to the remainder of Aston; while it may look geographically close to Rowville and Lysterfield on a map, it is in fact completely cut off from these areas by Churchill and Lysterfield National Parks. These two parks form a clear barrier to suburban expansion of Rowville and Endeavour Hills, with the result that Rowville looks north to the remainder of Knox (in Aston), and Endeavour Hills looks south to Hallam and the remainder of Casey Council that are currently in Holt. As such, the existing boundary through the parks is an extremely strong and obvious divide between Aston and the divisions to its south.

The Committee's justification for this move, citing supposedly "similar character" between parts of Knox and the Dandenong Ranges, is extremely weak. Only the very eastern fringe of Knox around The Basin and Upper Ferntree Gully could be regarded as close in character to the Dandenongs towns. In contrast, Bayswater, Boronia, and Ferntree Gully itself are standard outer suburbia more in character with the remainder of Aston (note that parts of these suburbs are already included in Aston). Certainly any alleged connection with the mountain towns is not so overwhelming as to justify detaching Endeavour Hills to a Knox-based division.

Note also that the strong growth in Latrobe is in the south in Casey and Cardinia LGAs, so it is inevitable that Latrobe will move southwards in the near future, shedding all its share of Knox and becoming an entirely south-eastern division. So the Committee will still need to address this issue at subsequent redistributions if it does not begin moving Latrobe out of Knox now.

I recommend transferring all of Bayswater and the bulk of Boronia into Aston, as per my original suggestion. Latrobe would then move westwards into Holt to gain the balance of Berwick and more of Narre Warren South, using Narre Warren-Cranbourne Road and Glassocks Road as boundary. This would result in approximately 16,500 electors transferring from Latrobe to Aston, and 18,000 from Holt to Latrobe, leaving all divisions well within tolerance after the other changes proposed by the Committee.

### **3) Maribyrnong/Wills/Melbourne:**

I would recommend a slight rotation of these three divisions clockwise, to better reflect community of interest:

Maribyrnong should gain the balance of Moonee Valley council (Strathmore North and Strathmore Heights) from Wills. The Committee's proposals leave this area cut off from the remainder of Wills by Moonee Ponds Creek. Transferring it to Maribyrnong unites Strathmore in one division and reduces the number of divisions into which Moonee Valley is split.

Secondly, the boundary between Wills and Melbourne in Fitzroy North should be moved south to Park Street and the former railway reservation (as per my original submission). Miller Street is a minor local street that would be a confusing boundary in the area, whereas Park Street and the reservation would simply be a continuation of the existing boundary and a clear divide.

Thirdly, I suggest reverting to the existing boundary between Maribyrnong and Melbourne rather than detaching a small part of Ascot Vale. Union Road is not a particularly strong boundary, and the proposal would split the Ascot Vale strip shopping centre down the middle. In contrast, the existing boundary along Maribyrnong Road and the river is strong and clearly identifiable.

These three transfers would involve a few thousand electors, and leave all divisions well within tolerance.

### **4) Batman/Jagajaga:**

The proposed boundary along Waterdale Road splits Ivanhoe, and in fact runs right through the middle of Ivanhoe Shopping Centre. I suggest a better boundary between the two divisions would be to use Waiora Road, Upper Heidelberg Road, and Banksia Street, all of which are suburban boundaries. This would unite all of Heidelberg West, Heidelberg Heights, and Belfield in Batman, and all of Ivanhoe in Jagajaga. The numbers would balance almost exactly, leaving both divisions well within tolerance.

### **5) Goldstein/Higgins:**

Since the Goldstein/Hotham boundary is proposed to run entirely along the railway line, I suggest it is more logical for the Goldstein/Higgins boundary to continue along the railway line rather than deviating onto Grange Road.

This would avoid voter confusion and provide a strong, continuous eastern boundary for Goldstein. Around 2000 electors would be transferred to Higgins, which both divisions can easily accommodate.

#### **6) Chisholm/Higgins:**

The proposed boundary along the Glen Waverley railway line leaves a small number of electors (bordered by the railway line, Warrigal Road, and Gardiners Creek) cut off from the rest of Higgins. These electors should be accommodated in Chisholm by moving the boundary from the railway line to Gardiners Creek.

#### **7) Corio/Lalor:**

The boundary between these two divisions is proposed to follow the Geelong Ring Road, but at the northern end it deviates to follow Heales Road. It would seem more logical to simply continue following the freeway until Cummins Road. Only a small number of electors would be involved.

#### **8) Calwell/Burke:**

I suggest using Oaklands Road (which is the Bulla suburb boundary) instead of Wildwood Road as the boundary. This allows all of Bulla to be united in Burke.

#### **9) Bendigo/Mallee:**

Given that Loddon Shire must remain split between Mallee and Bendigo due to numerical constraints, I would suggest at least uniting all of Loddon (South) in Bendigo. Towns such as Bridgewater and Inglewood are geographically close to and have strong links with the Bendigo area, and would fit well with the rest of the division of Bendigo. This transfer would also bring both Bendigo and Mallee closer to quota.

#### **10) Naming of Divisions:**

The proposed division of Mallee now extends well beyond the traditional “Mallee” region into north-central Victoria, almost as far east as Shepparton. In addition, it has lost a chunk of its inland component around Horsham and the Goldfields and is now more focussed on the Murray River. For these reasons, I suggest the Committee give serious thought to renaming this division “Murray” instead of Mallee.