



Objection Number 10

Keith Baillie, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Campaspe

5 pages

KB.km

19 August 2010

Redistribution Secretariat
Australian Electoral Commission
8th Floor, Casselden Place
2 Lonsdale St
Melbourne Vic 3000
vicredistribution@aec.gov.au



Lifestyle & Opportunity

Cnr Hare & Heygarth Streets,
Echuca VIC 3564
PO Box 35 Echuca VIC 3564
Tel: 1300 666 535
(03) 5481 2200
Fax: (03) 5481 2290
Email: shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au

www.campaspe.vic.gov.au
ABN 23 604 881 620

Dear Redistribution Secretariat

Objection - Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in Victoria

The Shire of Campaspe is a local government authority within the current Federal electorate of Murray. Under the proposed redistribution, the Shire of Campaspe would be included within the reconfigured Mallee electorate.

The Shire of Campaspe requests that the following items be taken into consideration in relation to the proposed redistribution.

Murray River Group of Councils

The Shire of Campaspe is one of six Councils that are members of the Murray River Group of Councils, which includes Mildura Rural City Council, Swan Hill Rural City Council, Gannawarra Shire Council, Loddon Shire Council, the Shire of Campaspe and Moira Shire Council. The Group is based around the common interests of the Murray River, tourism and irrigated and dry land agriculture. Accordingly, the proposed redistribution has merit in that it brings together most of the Councils within the Group, however excludes Moira Shire Council that was previously within the Murray electorate along with the Shire of Campaspe and Loddon Shire Council.

It is also of note that the proposed Mallee electorate covers a large geographic area that may present logistical difficulties for the elected member to adequately consult with their constituents. It is recognised however that many electorates cover a large geographic area and that distance is only one factor to be considered.

The Shire of Campaspe supports the proposed incorporation of Murray River Group of Council members together in the one electorate in recognition of our shared interests, but recommends the inclusion of Moira Shire, being the only Group member outside the currently proposed electorate.

Mallee Electorate Name

Given its proximity to an extensive length of the Murray River, the Shire of Campaspe recommends the Mallee electorate be renamed Murray River. This would increase the relevance and recognition of the electorate for the majority of its constituents and externally. It is recognised that this same principle applies to people who identify with the Mallee region, however with the inclusion of further river communities it is suggested the net balance of interest has changed.

If the name Murray River cannot be adopted, it is recommended that a name other than Mallee be chosen as it bears no relevance to river communities and has the potential to diminish the region's identity, image and brand due to its inconsistency with a river environment.

Bendigo Growth Corridor

The Shire of Campaspe also notes that while recognising its shared interests within the Murray River Group of Councils, it also has a strong relationship to the growth corridor to the south, from Echuca through Bendigo to Melbourne. This growth corridor continues to develop and may provide the basis for future electorate considerations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Yours faithfully



KEITH BAILLIE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

From: Kaye Mason [k.mason@campaspe.vic.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 27 August 2010 4:08 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Cc: Carol Howell; Frank Oliver; Greg Toll; Judith OFarrell; Keith Baillie; Kevin Simpson; Marion Riley; Neil Pankhurst; Neil Repacholi; Peter Williams; Sandy Ennis; Sally Jordan
Subject: Addendum to Shire of Campaspe Objection
Attachments: Addendum to Campaspe Objection to electoral boundary.pdf

Dear Redistribution Secretariat

Council would like to add some supplementary comments to its objection dated 19 August 2010.

Please find attached addendum for your information.

Regards

Kaye Mason
Executive Assistant
CEO & Councillors
Shire of Campaspe
(03) 5481 2202
(03) 5481 2290
k.mason@campaspe.vic.gov.au

KB.km

27 August 2010

Redistribution Secretariat
Australian Electoral Commission
8th Floor, Casselden Place
2 Lonsdale St
Melbourne Vic 3000
vicredistribution@aec.gov.au

Dear Redistribution Secretariat

Re: Addendum to Shire of Campaspe Objection

Council would like to add some supplementary comments to its objection dated 19 August 2010.

Modification and Retention of Murray Electorate

Council does not support the abolition of the Murray Electorate. Council believes the Murray electorate could instead be modified by adding local government areas from within the Murray River Group of Councils. This approach would maximise the community of interest relating to irrigated agriculture.

If the Murray electorate cannot be retained, Council views it as critical that an electorate name synonymous with the Murray River be adopted. A Murray River name is fundamental to the respect and recognition of the culture, heritage and identity of communities along the river.

Bendigo Growth Corridor – Supporting Information

Council highlighted in its submission the importance of the growth corridor to the south, from Echuca through Bendigo to Melbourne. I now include supporting information that addresses the criteria used by the Redistribution Committee, particularly community of interests (including economic, social and regional interests) and the means of communication and travel within the electorate.

The Victorian Government has designated Bendigo as a Provincial Centre, and Echuca as a Regional Centre. Major rail and road links connect Echuca to Bendigo and in turn Melbourne. Additionally, Bendigo fulfils the role as centre for Victorian Government services for the Shire of Campaspe. With a travel time of only one hour, many Shire of Campaspe and City of Greater Bendigo residents commute daily for employment and education, and regularly for purposes such as shopping and health services.

It should also be noted that the southern portion of the Shire of Campaspe has strong historical links to Bendigo and the Goldfields tourism region, and today these communities look to Bendigo as their nearest large centre.

...part of the Murray River Group of Councils



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It is projected that Bendigo's population will double in the next 25-30 years, to be supported with corresponding infrastructure investment. The Australian Government has also recognised Ballarat-Bendigo-Echuca as one of only seven innovation growth corridors under the Enterprise Connect program

Growth along the Bendigo-Echuca transport corridor will enhance Bendigo's role as a Provincial Centre, and further develop the community of interests between the City of Greater Bendigo and the Shire of Campaspe. Well developed rail and road transport links between these communities allow residents in both centres to take advantage of these opportunities.

Accordingly Council highlights that shared community of interests and key transport links support the inclusion of the Shire of Campaspe in an electorate aligned to Bendigo.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Baillie', written in a cursive style.

KEITH BAILLIE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER