



Objection Number 30

Justin Lamond

3 pages

From: justinlamond
Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2010 1:25 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Subject: Objection to Victorian Redistribution Proposal
Attachments: Vic Redist.pdf

Objection to part of Victorian Redistribution proposal attached.

Regards

Justin Lamond

26 August 2010

Redistribution Committee for Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission
PO Box 9867
Melbourne Vic 8060

Objection to Proposed Redistribution: Deakin / Chisholm Boundary

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to object to the proposal made in the recent Redistribution proposal for Victoria that Blackburn Road be the western boundary of the electorate of Deakin. This results in the suburb of Blackburn being split down the middle with the eastern half in Deakin and the western half in Chisholm. The justification for this being that Blackburn Road is a "highly recognisable major thoroughfare".

By splitting the suburb of Blackburn in two, the Redistribution Committee have failed to recognise the community of interest that exists within the area. By recommending a boundary that follows Blackburn Road, the Committee are dividing between two federal electorates cohesive local civic, sporting, school and church communities that serve all of Blackburn and contribute to the strong community of interest. The proposed boundaries will also make the exercise of democracy more difficult as local politicians often campaign outside Blackburn Station or in the South Parade shopping centre (both proposed to be in Chisholm), but heavily used by community members from east of Blackburn Road. In future, these heavily trafficked and convenient locations will effectively not be available as the potential audience will be split between two electorates.

My specific objection relates to that part of the boundary north of Canterbury Road and extending through the suburbs of Blackburn and Blackburn North. South of Canterbury Road, Blackburn Road is a major arterial road (dual carriageway) and effectively forms the boundary between the suburbs of Forest Hill, to the east, and Blackburn South to the west. However, north of Canterbury Road, Blackburn Road straddles the suburb of Blackburn, has two lanes only and has considerably less traffic. It has more of the character of a suburban main road than a major arterial. The character of one side of the road is indistinguishable from the other. This change of nature in Blackburn Road can be easily viewed using the Street View feature of Google Maps. North of the railway line, where Surrey Road forms the proposed boundary, there is no definable difference of character between one side of the road and the other.

The Redistribution Committee describes boundary determination themes as being “suburb boundaries, along with major roads, rivers and freeways, where community interests could be preserved and numerical requirements met”. In the case objected to here, the Committee have misunderstood the nature of the road chosen as the boundary and ignored the community of interest that exists. Successful local campaigns such as the purchase of additional land (with funding from all three levels of government) for the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary may not have been successful if the whole suburb of Blackburn had not been within a single constituency at each level of government.

The current western boundary of Middleborough Road is the easily recognisable boundary between the suburbs of Blackburn and Box Hill. It is also the boundary between the Victorian state electorates of Mitcham and Box Hill, and forms a ward boundary within the City of Whitehorse. It was also the boundary between the former Cities of Box Hill and Nunawading. A recent review of the ward boundaries within the City of Whitehorse rejected a proposal using Blackburn Road as a ward boundary on the basis that a community would be split across two wards.

From what I can ascertain, Blackburn has been within the boundaries of Deakin since its formation in 1937, so it can be shown that the suburb of Blackburn has a long association and strong identification with the electorate of Deakin.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Redistribution Committee to review and reconsider the proposed boundary proposal and include all the suburb of Blackburn within a single electorate.

Yours sincerely,

Justin Lamond