



---

**Objection Number 35**

**Peter Johnston, Chief Executive Officer, Macedon Ranges Shire  
Council**

**5 pages**

---

**From:** Stephen Mahon [smahon@mrsc.vic.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 August 2010 4:39 PM  
**To:** VIC Redistribution  
**Subject:** Submission to Victorian Federal Electorates Redistribution  
**Attachments:** ElectoralRedistVictoriaAug2010.docx

Dear Sir / Madam

Please find attached a submission from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council regarding the Federal Electorate Redistribution.

Regards

Stephen Mahon  
Manager Council & Customer Services  
54 220 352

**Our Ref:** 03/09/01  
**Contact:** Stephen Mahon

26<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Australian Electoral Commission  
P.O. Box 8967  
Melbourne, Vic 8060

Sent via e-mail [vicredistribution@aec.gov.au](mailto:vicredistribution@aec.gov.au) on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Dear Sir / Madam

**Re: Victorian Federal Electoral Redistribution Submission**

I refer to the proposed Victorian Federal Electoral Redistribution currently on exhibition.

Council considered the proposed redistribution at its Ordinary Council Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2010 and resolved that it support the exhibited proposal insofar as it relates to the Macedon Ranges on the basis that;

1. It supports Council's previously adopted view that municipal districts should be maintained wholly in State and Federal electorates, and
2. It is consistent with the Redistribution Committee for Victoria's publicly stated strategy of recognising the boundaries of municipal districts as being reflective of community of interests, and as such the whole Macedon Ranges Shire district should be included in a single division.

I have attached for your information a copy of the report presented to Council.

In the meantime, should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Mahon, Manager Council & Customer Services on ph:54 220 352.

Yours sincerely

**Peter Johnston**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Copied to Federal Members for Bendigo and McEwen and Municipalities of Hume, Greater Bendigo and Whittlesea

9. CX.1 PROPOSED FEDERAL ELECTORAL DIVISIONS FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN VICTORIA

Officer: Stephen Mahon, Manager Council & Customer Services

File Ref: 03/09/01

Council Plan Relationship:

**Relates to Outcome ' Democratic Governance ' – By promoting representative democracy that ensures Council conducts its affairs openly with integrity, is accountable and reflective of best practice governance and management**

**Attachment: Plan of Proposed Electoral Divisions as they relate to the Macedon Ranges**

Synopsis:

**The Redistribution Committee of Victoria ( RCV ) has placed on public exhibition the proposed new boundaries for the 37 Federal Electoral Divisions in Victoria that will take effect at the next Federal elections – ie scheduled for 2013**

**The proposal as it relates to the Macedon Ranges changes the current situation that has the Shire divided between two (2) divisions with approx 6000 voters in the area north of Carlsruhe and including Kyneton and Malmsbury being part of the Bendigo Division and the remainder of the Shire ( approx 22000 voters ) being included in the McEwan Division. The proposal is that the Macedon Ranges in its entirety be included in the Division of Burke, with the balance of the Division comprising part of Hume City Council ( Sunbury and Craigieburn ) and part of Whittlesea Shire Council ( Yan Yean )**

**This report presents an analysis of the proposed changes as they relate to the Macedon Ranges and seeks Council's endorsement of the issues to be included in a formal submission to the RCV from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.**

Officer Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorses the issues identified in this report for inclusion in a formal submission to the Redistribution Committee of Victoria from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.
2. Forward a copy of Council's submission to the Federal Member's for Burke, Bendigo and McEwen and the Municipalities of Hume, Greater Bendigo and Whittlesea.

9. CX.1 PROPOSED FEDERAL ELECTORAL DIVISIONS FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN VICTORIA

Background:

The Redistribution Committee for Victoria is an independent Committee established pursuant to the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 ( the Act ) whose task it is to ensure that the electoral divisions, as far practicable, distribute voters across the electorate in accordance with the Act.

The legislation that governs this federal redistribution is similar to the legislation that applies to the electoral boundaries for the State and Local Government, namely :

- The number of electors per division should be within a permitted range of 10% above or below the quota. The quota and for electoral Divisions in Victoria as at 1<sup>st</sup> February is 94040 ie

Number of Divisions into which Victoria is to be distributed	37
Number of electors in Victoria as at 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2010	3, 479, 476
Quota for Victoria	94,040
Permissible max number of electors ( +10% ) in a division	103, 444
Permissible min number of electors ( -10% ) in a division	84, 636

This principle is fundamental to the notion of ‘ one vote one value ‘

- Subject to this 10% plus or minus test due consideration is given to;
- Community of interests within the proposed electoral division including economic, social and regional interests
- Means of communication and travel
- The physical features of the proposed electoral division, and
- The boundaries of existing divisions

The Proposal and its impact on the Macedon Ranges Shire Council

As stated in the synopsis to this report the proposed change as it relates to the Macedon Ranges changes the current situation that has the Shire divided between two (2) divisions with approx 6000 voters in the area north of Carlsruhe and including Kyneton and Malmsbury being part of the Bendigo Division and the remainder of the Shire (approx 22000 voters) being included in the McEwan Division.

The proposal is that the Macedon Ranges in its entirety be included in the Division of Burke, with the balance of the Division comprising part of Hume City Council (Sunbury and Craigieburn) and part of Whittlesea Shire Council (Yan Yean)

A plan of the proposed changes as they relate to the Macedon Ranges is attached.

The proposed change is significant for this Shire simply as it changes the current Federal Electoral Divisions the Shire is in so markedly. Interestingly when the last redistribution occurred in 2002 this Council advocated strongly that the splitting of the Shire between McEwen and Burke was undesirable. This position was based primarily on the ‘community of interest’ argument.

#### Recommended Council Position

**It is recommended that Council formally respond to the RCV on the basis of supporting the exhibited proposal insofar as it relates to Macedon Ranges on the basis that:**

- 1. It supports Council's previously adopted view that municipal districts should be maintained wholly in State and Federal electorates, and**
- 2. It is consistent with the RCV's publicly stated strategy of recognising the boundaries of municipal districts as being reflective of community of interests, and as such the whole Macedon Ranges Shire district should be included in a single division.**

#### Conclusion

**It is recommended that Council's formal submission which is required by the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2010 reflect the views expressed in this report and be copied to the current Federal Member for Burke, Bendigo and McEwen and the Municipalities of Hume, Greater Bendigo and Whittlesea**