



Objection Number 36

Susanne Bennett and Annabel Harwood

3 pages

From: Annabel Harwood [Harwoa@gvgs.vic.edu.au]
Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2010 4:53 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Cc: Bennett, Richard; Bennett, Susanne
Subject: Objection to redistribution of Murray electorate
Attachments: electorate of Murray.docx; Harwood, Annabel.vcf

Dear Ms McMullen and committee members,

We would like to record an objection to the proposed redistribution involving our electorate of Murray. Please find attached our reasons for our objection.

With regards

Susanne Bennett and Annabel Harwood

Annabel Harwood
Year 5, IT and SET
ahh@gvgs.vic.edu.au



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Susanne Bennett,
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and
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Pine Lodge
Vic, 3631

Thursday, 26 August 2010

Ms Jenni McMullan,
State Manager for Victoria,
Australian Electoral Commission,
GPO 9876
Melbourne, Vic, 8060

Dear Ms McMullen and committee members,

We would like to record an objection to the proposed redistribution involving our electorate of Murray.

Our reasons are as follows:

In our Murray electorate, our community is facing a number of issues which are region specific and extremely complicated so we need Federal representation to ensure our primary production requirements are understood in Canberra. We are currently well serviced by our member who is focussed on our local, rural issues and understands their complexities. We are facing many current issues such as:

- Challenging the WTO over NZ apple imports
- Water buy back problems
- Water security
- Dairy farmers income crisis
- Irrigation job losses
- Climate change, water loss and irrigation challenges
- The Murray Darling Basin plan and its implications for our region
- Food bowl Modernisation Project
- Locust plague
- Sustainability in Agriculture for our region

These issues and many more are irrelevant to urban communities but vitally important for us. Splitting the electorate would dilute the opportunity we have to be fully represented since a portion of our representative's time would need to be spent attending to urban matters.

It appears that the adjustment of boundaries would result in one less rural seat and one more urban seat. This is an unacceptable change for our electorate. It is already very difficult to have rural issues understood and considered in Canberra and this proposed change has not demonstrated how it will improve this situation. We contribute to the food production for the city, our primary production industry helps to feed Australia as well as our global neighbours. We deserve to be represented as a rural electorate.

The proposed electoral change is an example of how rural communities are not seriously valued for their contribution, nor shown true consideration. Merging us into an urban electorate would mean that it would be much harder for us to gain accessible rural representation at a Federal level. In light of the recent election results, regional centres have shown that they want to be heard with respectful representation. Hence I urge you to consider the election results before making a reduction in federal representation for our rural area.

Our final point is that if the proposed electoral boundaries are adopted, the irrigation system of GMW would be dissected, so breaking up the community who share this interest. I can't believe that this would be a deliberate act to divide our community or to dilute opportunities for community action, but there is a real risk for us that this could happen.

In summary, we strongly object to the proposed changes to our electoral boundaries and urge your organisation to reconsider.

With regards from

Susanne Bennett (0358 288238)

and

Annabel Harwood (0358 288212)