



Objection Number 37

Keppel and Helen Turnour

2 pages

From: Helen & Keppel Turnour [turnour@mcmedia.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2010 4:56 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Subject: 2010 Proposed Redistribution of Victoria into 37 Electoral Divisions

Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 9867
Melbourne Vic. 8060

Thank you for sending us a copy of the Report of the Redistribution Committee relating to the above.

Your presentation booklet and maps are very good and useful in considering the Report.

We do not have the facts, figures and details available to your committee so could not attempt to study or comment on all the 37 proposed electorates.

Our greatest concern relates to the area of Victoria where we have lived for most of our lives, currently within the electorate of Murray, and under the Redistribtuion Committee's proposal, the electorate of McEwen.

In this area the Redistribution Committee have very much failed in their stated objective "wherever possible to unite community of interests and use clearly identifiable features as divisional boundaries."

Greater Shepparton which, under your figures, will have a projected enrolment of 40,500 on 17.06.2014, is currently the major centre in Murray, and in the Redistribution Committee's proposal, will be the northern part of McEwen.

Greater Shepparton is the heart of the Northern Victorian Irrigation Area and commercial centre of this area known as the Food Bowl of Northern Victoria.

Under the Redistribution Committee's proposal, this very productive important irrigation area will be divided up into three electorates - Mallee, Indi and McEwen, with the heart of it, Greater Shepparton, being thrust into McEwen which in its proposed format will extend south over the Great Dividing Range to Marysville and Whittlesea which have absolutely nothing in common or community of interest with Greater Shepparton.

In trying to solve this most illogical part of the redistribution, we suggest the following which only effects six of the proposed electorates in the above redistribution.

Our proposal does not change any of the proposed electorates shown on the map sheet 2 of 2.

The six electorates we suggest could be looked at, are on sheet 1 of 2 and are Wannon, Mallee, Indi, Bendigo, Burke and McEwen.

The total projected enrolment on 17.06.2014 for these six electorates is 610,563, the average of which is 101,760.

Wannon has the highest projected enrolment for 17.06.2014 (2.98% above average) and Mallee the third highest (2.4% above average of 101,222).

Wannon could lose North Grampians and/or perhaps half of West Wimmera (both presently within Mallee) and these be added back to Mallee, then take Campaspe out of Mallee. To bring Mallee up to the required number, add on from the west side of Bendigo being south of Loddon and more appropriate to the east side of Mallee than Campaspe. This would create projected enrolments for Wannon just over 102,000 and Mallee approx. 103,000.

The existing electorate of Murray would remain to cover the Northern Victoria Irrigation area and would include Greater Shepparton, Campaspe, northern part of Bendigo, western part of Moira and Strathbogie making a total projected enrolment of approximately 100,000.

Indi under the redistribution proposal has a projected enrolment of 101,473, only .25% over the average. Under our proposal it would gain the east side of Moira, retain Mansfield which is currently part of it, and extend into Murrindindi

(adjacent to Mansfield, now part of McEwen). Our proposed Indi would have a projected enrolment of approx. 99,000.

McEwen would be in the centre of Victoria as shown on map (sheet 1) less Murrindindi, Mansfield, Strathbogie and Greater Shepparton, but adding on Hume (part Craigieburn and Sunbury) giving a projected enrolment of approx. 102,000.

The remaining area of our recast six electorates would be the remaining part of Bendigo and Burke and could be named either Bendigo or Burke with a projected enrolment of approx. 103,000.

While we do not have access to the Local Government Areas and enrolment figures for these, we believe the above projected enrolment figures for our proposed six electorates to be fairly accurate and well within possibilities.

The Redistribution Committee's proposed Electorate of McEwen has the heart of the irrigation area in it's north, and in the south, an area where the population relates more to the Melbourne metropolitan area.

The joining of the south east part of Bendigo and part of Burke follows the Calder Highway and takes in communities also more associated with the Melbourne metropolitan area than the Mallee - Murray area to the west and north. We believe our suggestion for Bendigo/Burke and McEwen fit in better as communities of interest similar to Ballarat, Casey and McMillan.

As stated earlier in this submission, the present Electorate of Murray covers a very important and unique part of Victoria. To divide it up is completely contrary to the objectives.

We believe the redistribution of Electoral Divisions as we are suggesting, would serve the population well by better uniting community of interests.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment, for which we have given considerable thought and concern.

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