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**Objection Number    38**

**Peter Williams**

**2 pages**

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**From:** Peter Williams [p.williams@campaspe.vic.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 August 2010 8:53 PM  
**To:** VIC Redistribution  
**Subject:** electoral boundaries objection  
**Attachments:** Objection to the Australian Electoral Commission electoral redistribution in Victoria 2010.doc

Dear AEC,  
I have attached my objection to the electoral boundaries review.  
regards  
Peter Williams

To The Australian Electoral Commission

Objection to the Victorian Electorate redistribution 2010

To Whom it may concern,

I wish to lodge my objection to the proposed redistribution of electoral boundaries in Victoria. In particular I wish to object to the abolishment of the electorate of Murray.

I recognise that there are challenges in drawing electoral boundaries in regions such as ours where there is relatively sparse population however in my opinion it is essential that as much as possible the closest communities of interest are maintained. This has not been achieved with the proposed redistribution.

In defining the closest communities of interest there are always challenges and in our region this is complicated by the distances that separate communities. For example it is about five hours travelling time between Kyabram and the South Australian Border and even though we do have a common connection to the Murray River there is little interaction between our communities.

Whereas the historical transport connections were along the River nowadays the main transport connections are southward and so the residents of Mildura, Swan Hill and Echuca generally travel southwards to Melbourne and or Bendigo and do not pass through each others area.

The strongest community of interest that exists in our region nowadays is that based on irrigated agriculture and in particular flood irrigation. The Local Government areas with the strongest history of flood irrigation are Campaspe, Gannawarra, Moira and Shepparton. In the proposed redistribution these are being divided into 3 different electorates.

The four Shires and their communities are united by their involvement in flood irrigation and there are multiple layers of connections between these communities that bind them together strongly. Placing these communities in 3 different electorates will weaken their communities and lead to less responsive representation for those communities.

Clearly an expanded electorate based on the present Murray Electorate would be in the best interest of our communities.

Should an expanded Murray Electorate not receive your support there is another alternative worthy of consideration and that is based on the developing community of interest around the growth corridor through central Victoria from Melbourne, Bendigo and up to Echuca.. An electorate that linked Echuca and the greater Campaspe Shire with parts of the City of greater Bendigo would be well worth consideration and is very much preferred to being added to the Mallee electorate.

Should you persist with the current proposal then at the very least the Mallee electorate should be renamed either Murray or Murray-Mallee.

Peter Williams  
3 Freeman Street  
Echuca, Vic, 3564