



Objection Number 39

Blair Trewin, ALP – Secretary Ivanhoe Branch

3 pages

From: blair_trewin@ekit.com
Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2010 9:10 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Subject: Objection to Victorian federal redistribution
Attachments: 2010 Victorian redistribution submission.doc

Please find attached an objection by the ALP Ivanhoe Branch to the proposed Victorian redistribution.

Yours sincerely,

Blair Trewin
Secretary



AUSTRALIAN
LABOR
PARTY

Ivanhoe Branch

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26 August, 2010

Redistribution Secretariat,
Australian Electoral Commission,
GPO Box 9867,
Melbourne VIC 8060

Re: Federal electoral redistribution in Victoria

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Ivanhoe Branch of the Australian Labor Party wishes to make an objection to the proposed redistribution in Victoria, with respect to the Division of Jagajaga and surrounding Divisions. Details of our objection, and an alternative proposal, are on the following page.

Yours sincerely,

Blair Trewin
Secretary
Ivanhoe Branch

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ALP Ivanhoe Branch objection to Victorian federal redistribution

The ALP Ivanhoe Branch wishes to object to the proposed new boundaries of the Division of Jagajaga. In making this objection, we accept the following general propositions as outlined in the draft redistribution:

- That a number of middle-suburban Divisions, including Jagajaga and Batman, need to increase in enrolment in order to meet the population criteria in the Electoral Act.
- That, to the extent that they do not coincide with strong geographical boundaries, local government area (LGA) boundaries are not as strong a delineator of a community of interest in large urban areas as they are in rural and regional areas.

We believe, however, that the Commission has unnecessarily divided a community of interest by proposing to move the western boundary of Jagajaga east to Waterdale Road. The existing western boundary, along Darebin Creek, is a strong geographic boundary, with only three road crossings linking the proposed addition to Batman to the remainder of Batman; this geographic boundary is accentuated by the fact that along most of this section of Darebin Creek, the western side is occupied by commercial or industrial land uses for a distance of at least 500-1000 metres, with little or no residential land.

In contrast, Waterdale Road is not a strong geographic boundary, with community facilities, schools and local shopping centres servicing areas on both sides of the road, especially in the West Heidelberg area. Both sides of Waterdale Road are also included in the state electorate of Ivanhoe, and in the Olympia Ward of the City of Banyule.

Our alternative proposal, which we believe would avoid dividing communities of interest whilst still allowing the population criteria to be met, is as follows:

- Retain Darebin Creek as the western boundary of the Division in the Ivanhoe/West Heidelberg area.
- Adopt the proposals of the draft redistribution for parts of Greensborough and Macleod to be added to Jagajaga.
- Increase Batman's population to the required quota by adding those parts of Bundoora which are not currently in the electorate, northwards to the Metropolitan Ring Road (gaining some areas from Scullin, and some from Jagajaga). We note here that while Mahoneys Road is a strong geographic boundary between Batman and Scullin in the western part of those electorates, its extension is a far weaker boundary further east, with the Metropolitan Ring Road being a much stronger boundary.
- Remove such northeastern parts of the proposed Jagajaga to the extent necessary to reduce it to quota (once West Heidelberg and West Ivanhoe are added back in), and instead include these with Casey. We accept that the Hurstbridge area has closer links with the Eltham area than it does with Yarra Glen and Healesville, but note that Hurstbridge and Yarra Glen are currently within the single electorate of McEwen. We do not believe that areas should be moved from Jagajaga to the new McEwen given the rural character of the latter electorate.
- Making smaller adjustments to other boundaries of Scullin and/or Casey if required to bring those electorates within quota after the changes above.