



Objection Number 78

Peter L. Twomey

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FAX (03) 9285 7169**REDISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL
ELECTORAL BOUNDRIES IN VICTORIA****2010 PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF VICTORIA INTO ELECTORAL DIVISIONS**

by Peter L. Twomey
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As a resident of the Goulburn Valley within the Northern Victoria Food Bowl, I hereby state my objection to the proposed redistribution of the existing Division of Murray by obliterating it and allocating the remnants into the three adjoining Divisions of Mallee, McEwen and Indi.

Shepparton is the central core of the Northern Food Bowl which extends along the Murray River along the north from Echuca to Cobram and down to Murchison in the south. The current shortage of voters in Murray could be adjusted by including the Nagambie district in Murray. Indi could be compensated by restoring parts of it's existing Division including Mansfield.

It appears ludicrous to have towns such as Kyabram and Echuca shifted from Murray into Mallee, and Cobram into Indi, when there are no community connection with public transport, shopping centres or education etc. The proposed boundary between Mallee and Wannon should recognise that while Mallee may have a slow population growth rate, in contrast to Wannon which includes thriving towns such as Hamilton, Warrnambool, Ararat, Port Fairy and Portland.

While, the Electoral Commission must comply with the 1918 Commonwealth Electoral Act in any redistribution, there are important factors that require full consideration when the rural electorate centred on Shepparton, which is located 160 km from Melbourne, is combined with an outer-suburban metropolitan district without any direct survey of the opinions of the residents involved.

With vast differences between the community values and lifestyles between the residents of the northern and the southern sectors of the proposed McEwen Division, ethical and equity values must rank as important in the final decision of the Australian Electoral Commission.

Peter L. Twomey 27 August 2010

