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**Objection Number 88**

**Bob Holschier, Immediate past president, S and DDC.**

**3 pages**

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**From:** Bob Holschier [bobh@mcmmedia.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 August 2010 2:28 PM  
**To:** VIC Redistribution  
**Cc:** Stanhope Business Centre  
**Subject:** Proposed abolition of Murray Electorate  
**Attachments:** Submission re electorate.doc

**Categories:** Red Category

Please find attached a submission objecting to the proposed abolition of the Murray Electorate

# *Stanhope & District Development Committee Inc.*

Managers of the Stanhope Business Centre  
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The Redistribution Secretariat  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Dear Sir/Madam

25<sup>th</sup> August 2010

It has been of great concern for the Stanhope & District Development Committee Inc. (S&DDC) to learn of the intention of the Redistribution Committee for Victoria to divide the electorate of Murray between the electorates of McEwen, Mallee and Indi.

With regard to the Stanhope District, part of an extensive irrigated region supporting various farming pursuits, but in particular the Dairy Industry, the move to the electorate of Mallee would be very detrimental to the future of this district.

If this move was to eventuate, the Stanhope District would be on the very eastern boundary of a huge electorate extending to the South Australian border in the west. This would place us at a great disadvantage as this district has very little in common with the dry areas of the Mallee and consequently would probably be ignored by any elected member if he/she is based in a town or city considerably west of the eastern boundary, which is more than likely eg. Mildura, a days travel from Stanhope, or possibly Swan Hill, where the current member is based, which is still a considerable distance from Stanhope. This problem also exists for our neighboring towns, Kyabram and Rushworth, where there is a concentration of population which requires easy personal access to our federal member.

Regarding the abolition of the Murray electorate, this is difficult to understand. The electorate of Murray has been well served by a very stable representation since 1949. During some sixty years the electorate of Murray has been represented by only three long serving, distinguished members:

- 1949 – 1971. The late Sir John McEwen, who held a variety of ministerial positions, was leader of the Country Party (Nationals) and following the death of the Prime Minister Harold Holt, was appointed Prime Minister of Australia for a short period. Sir John McEwen was a resident of the Stanhope District for more than 50 years.
- 1971 – 1996 Bruce Lloyd represented the electorate of Murray with distinction being appointed to many important positions, both in opposition and in government.
- 1996 – The present Dr Sharman Stone has represented the electorate of Murray with distinction. She has held important shadow ministries in opposition and secretarial positions in government. Dr Stone has recently been re elected as Member for Murray with a substantial increased majority.

These three representatives of the constituents of the electorate of Murray have always been easily accessible, very approachable and extremely involved in all aspects of the Murray electorate. This is the result of the Murray electorate, although not small in area, being very compact and has much in common across the whole of the electorate, which makes it much easier for constituents to make personal contact with their parliamentary representative and vice versa.

2/-

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2.

According to recently released figures of the number of voters in the four electorates involved in this redistribution program, it appears to us the number of eligible voters in each of them is somewhat similar.

- INDI. 92,956 enrolled voters
- MALLEE 89,840 enrolled voters.
- McEWEN 115,783 enrolled voters
- MURRAY 90,218 enrolled voters.

This indicates to us, there be no reason to abolish the electorate of Murray, a stable, well represented and compact electorate, for the inclusion of the proposed electorate of Burke, which is much closer to the outer metropolitan area of Melbourne and probably with a population expanding at a much greater rate than any of the four involved electorates, which have been severely affected by drought for the past decade and in need of close personal representation in the Federal Parliament of Australia.

In conclusion, the S&DDC has been overwhelmed by local support for this submission. Therefore, we strongly urge the Redistribution Committee to reconsider any move towards the abolishment of the Murray electorate.

On behalf of the Stanhope & District Development Committee and the residents of the Stanhope district,

I am yours faithfully

Bob Holschier  
Immediate past president S&DDC.

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