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**Objection Number 90**

**Rod Hagen**

**4 pages**

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**From:** Rod Hagen [rodhagen@netspace.net.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 August 2010 3:11 PM  
**To:** VIC Redistribution  
**Cc:** Rod Hagen  
**Subject:** Objection to proposed redistribution of Federal electorates in Victoria with specific regard to the treatment of Hurstbridge township.  
**Attachments:** McEwen redistribution.pdf; ATT00001.txt

I wish to lodge an objection with respect to the proposed Victorian redistribution of Federal electorates.

The redistribution unfortunately "splits" representation of the township of Hurstbridge into three different electorates, with possible negative consequences for the proper representation of its residents.

I am not a member of any political party, merely a concerned resident.

The details of my concerns, and a suggested variation to overcome the problems, are contained in the attached pdf document entitled "McEwen redistribution.pdf"

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27<sup>th</sup> August 2010

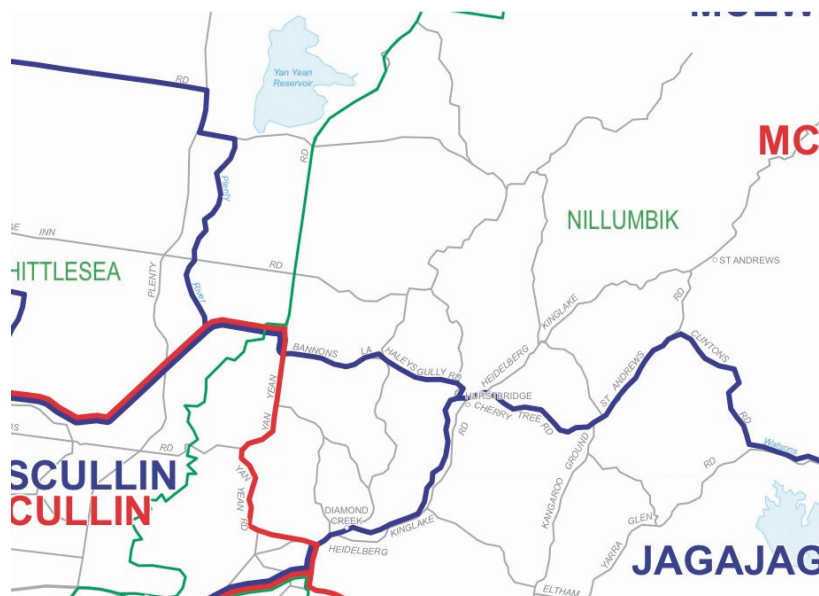
Mrs Jenni McMullan  
Australian Electoral Officer and State Manager for Victoria  
Australian Electoral Commission

**OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION IN VICTORIA, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO A PORTION OF THE McEWEN PROPOSALS IN THE VICINITY OF HURSTBRIDGE**

Dear Mrs McMullan

The proposed redistribution of Victorian electorates will create significant problems for the proper representation of the people of Hurstbridge, on the north eastern outskirts of Melbourne, and for others in vicinity of nearby Doreen .

Hurstbridge currently lies wholly within the Federal electorate of McEwen. The proposed re-distribution splits the town into three different electorates - McEwen, JagaJaga and Scullin. The area concerned is shown in the following extract of the redistribution map.



Under the new proposal the Hurstbridge police station, sports ground and railway station will be in the electorate of JagaJaga, the school and fire station in McEwen, and a significant percentage of the population of the town (living in the Meander Rd, south side of Haleys Gully Rd area) who make use of these services will be in Scullin.

As a former Hurstbridge Primary School and Eltham High School school council member I know how difficult it can be on occasion for schools when having to deal with a diverse range of political identities, and in this case if the proposal goes ahead most of the students will actually be living in different electorates from the primary school they attend!

A more rational division would be to place the boundary between Jaga Jaga and Scullin along the line of Wilson and Broad Gully roads (which together run from the Heidelberg / Kinglake Rd to the east of Wattle Glen railway station, north to join Haleys Gully Rd at the the Haleys Gully Rd, Bannon's Lane junction).

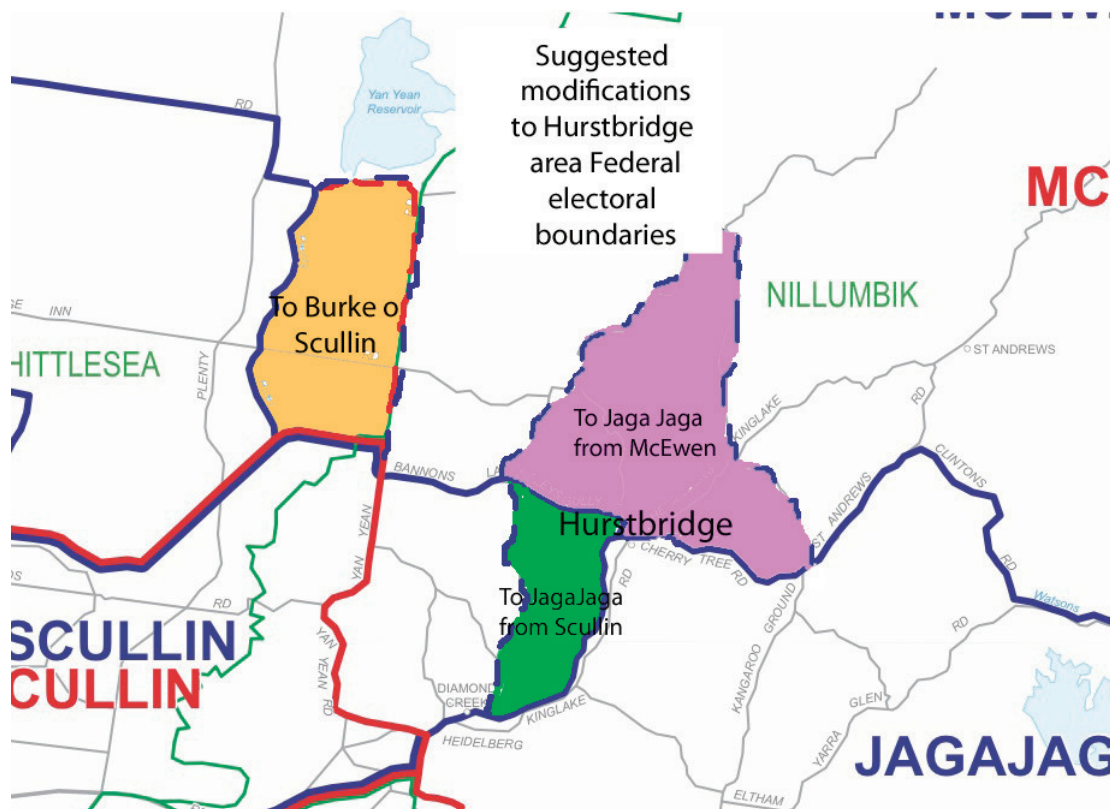
To include the effective social population of Hurstbridge within the one electorate would also require a modification of the boundary between Jaga Jaga and McEwen.

If my suggested boundary between JagaJaga and Scullin was accepted, then a continuation of this line from the Broadgully Rd / Haleys Gully Rd junction north along Bannon's Lane North to Doctor's Gully Rd, then east to Arthur's Creek Rd, and east again along Mine Rd to its junction with the Cottles Bridge / Strathewen Rd, then south following Red Shirt Gully Rd, to the Kangaroo Ground / St Andrews Rd, would ensure that both Hurstbridge, and the hamlet of Panton Hill as well, were not "split" between different electorates.

Hurstbridge, in my view, has far more in common socially with adjacent areas in Jaga Jaga than it does with the rural parts of central northern Victoria. Most of its residents work either in the Melbourne CBD or in Melbourne suburbs, to which it is connected by the suburban rail network. Children from Hurstbridge, when they reach high school, generally head to Diamond Creek or Eltham or St Helena High Schools.

Medical facilities etc used by its residents are primarily in Greensborough, Eltham and Heidelberg. Many other similar forms of connection by usage also occur. By locating all of the township and its immediate catchment area in Jaga Jaga it would ensure that the members of our community have a single clear path when it comes to political representation at the Federal level.

The following map indicates my suggestions for amendment:



In the Doreen area, consideration should also be given to including the areas south of Yan Yean Reservoir between the proposed boundary on the Plenty River, and Yan Yean Rd in the new electorate of Burke, or, failing that, in Scullin. This area is essentially an extension of the new suburban housing divisions on Plenty Rd, and has very little in common with McEwen as currently proposed. Yan Yean Rd actually provides a more meaningful boundary in this situation, as planning constraints prevent the development of housing subdivisions on its eastern side, but allow them on its western side.

Yours sincerely

Rod Hagen