



Objection Number 94

**Danielle Green MP, Member for Yan Yean
Parliamentary Secretary for Police & Emergency Services**

4 pages

From: Rosalyn.Buchanan@parliament.vic.gov.au on behalf of
danielle.green@parliament.vic.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 27 August 2010 3:44 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Subject: Submission on the Proposed Redistribution of Federal Seats
Attachments: DOC270810 AEC submission 270810.pdf

To the AEC

Please find attached my submission on the proposed redistribution of Federal seats in Victoria.

Regards,

Danielle Green MP, Member for Yan Yean
Parliamentary Secretary for Police & Emergency Services

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Danielle Green MP

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vicredistribution@aec.gov.au,

I write as a Doreen resident and as the State Member for Yan Yean. Yan Yean is an outer suburban/rural interface electorate experiencing rapid growth and is based in the north of Melbourne.

Yan Yean comprises the northern areas of the City of Whittlesea and the Shire of Nillumbik. Yan Yean was deeply impacted by the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires particularly the localities of Whittlesea, Humevale, Kinglake West, Arthurs Creek, Strathewen, St Andrews and Christmas Hills.

Representation of these impacted communities in their recovery at Local, State and Federal level is I believe crucially important particularly in the next five to ten years.

I note in the Commission's Report that in rural areas local government boundaries have been primarily used in determining the boundaries for the new Federal Divisions but not for areas in the Melbourne Statistical Division. I would make a plea on behalf of bushfire affected communities that as far as possible that these communities not be transferred to divisions with population centres far remote from their local government administrative headquarters.

For example the bushfire affected areas within the City of Whittlesea remain in McEwen, while the most of the balance of this municipality is split between Scullin and Burke. The fire affected areas of the Shire of Nillumbik remain in McEwen or are transferred to Casey while the balance of the municipality is transferred to Jagajaga and Scullin.

Since the fires I have seen that the communities in the Shire of Nillumbik and the northern part of the City of Whittlesea are definitely homogenous and connected to each other through this tragedy. Consequently, the contention made by the Commission's Report that urban communities are not as concerned about electoral boundaries as rural ones does not hold true for these communities.



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It should be noted that all the communities within my electorate of Yan Yean are mostly urban in nature but they retain community characteristics and connectedness more often seen in rural areas. For example residents have a much higher rate of volunteering than the rest of the Melbourne Statistical Division, in particular the whole area's fire services are still maintained wholly by volunteer brigades of the Country Fire Authority.

For example the township of Hurstbridge, which still hosts a Community Services Hub and other volunteer services for bushfire survivors will I believe be significantly disadvantaged by being divided between the divisions of McEwen, Scullin and Jagajaga. I would seek on their behalf for Hurstbridge to be included in a single division.

Similarly, the township of Diamond Creek which was the location of the largest Relief Centre in the Shire of Nillumbik and suffered the death of some of its traders in the fires and saw many of its students at Diamond Valley College who reside in fire affected areas deeply affected, will not be well served by having the boundary of the Jagajaga and Scullin divisions bisecting the town including the shopping centre along Main-Hurstbridge road. It is correct that in the previous divisional boundaries a small part of Diamond Creek was in the division of Scullin while the majority was in McEwen, this area contains newer estates and it can be argued that it has more in common with the neighbouring suburbs of Greensborough and St Helena.

I would seek on behalf of Diamond Creek residents that as close possible adherence to keeping the township together in the one division similar to the existing boundaries be considered.

For Christmas Hills I seek for this fire affected community to be included in one division and not divided between the divisions of Jagajaga, McEwen and Casey as is proposed.

In the non fire affected areas in the City of Whittlesea within the Yan Yean electorate I would seek a reconsideration of where these boundaries are proposed so that these communities not be split between the divisions of Scullin, Burke and McEwen as the



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boundaries do not pay adequate attention to the existing communities of interests.

For example the growing area of Doreen in the City of Whittlesea shares a postcode and community facilities with Mernda but Doreen is proposed to be included in the rural division of McEwen while Mernda is to be in the urban division of Burke.

Further the growing areas of North Epping and Wollert to the west of South Morang and Mernda have a great deal in common with these growing suburbs but are to be separated between the established division of Scullin and curiously South Morang and Mernda are to be plucked out the middle of the City of Whittlesea and placed in the division of Burke.

I note that the Commission Report consulted with it's own Divisional Returning Officers who I have a lot of regard for. However, I would hope that there would be some significant reappraisal of the commission's service to the growing suburbs in my electorate, since the conduct of the recent Federal Election where staffing and ballot paper provision at the polling booths of Laurimar and Epping Views was way below community expectations and demand. This is further illustrated in the massive increases in voting at these two booths but also in the neighbouring booths of Doreen, Yan Yean and Mill Park Lakes.

In conclusion, thank you for the opportunity to make comment on the Commission's draft boundaries and look forward to some adjustment of divisional boundaries that better respect the communities of interest in Yan Yean.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Danielle Green'.

Danielle Green MP
Member for Yan Yean
Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services