



The Federal Redistribution 2010
Victoria



Objection Number 101

**Sharman Stone, Federal Member for Murray
Adrian Falsetta, Shepparton Liberal Party Branch President
William Parsons, Chairman Murray Federal Electorate Conference**

2 pages

The Australian Electoral Commission
The Redistribution Committee for Victoria
GPO Box 768G
Melbourne Victoria 3001

To whom it may concern

We wish to submit a very strong protest about the proposed abolition of a rural representative in federal parliament, with the Murray electorate exchanged for the new metropolitan seat of Burke.

It has always been difficult for a rural and regional voice in Australia to be heard and with one less rural voice in Parliament the task will be even more difficult.

We would like to point out that the proposed new boundaries for Mallee create an enormous seat which will be very difficult for one member to serve given some of the most dense population will be found in the far east of the electorate in the shire of Campaspe.

The new boundaries proposed also break up the community of interest of irrigated agriculture in Northern Victoria. We appreciate that there had been a reduction of the Victorian population across Mallee, Murray and Indi. However, given the State did not have to add or remove an electorate, we repeat, it is most disappointing that the AEC has proposed such a drastic redrawing of the boundaries which results in the removal of a rural seat in Federal Parliament and replaces it with the outer metropolitan seat to be called Burke.

Should the new boundaries go ahead, however, I strongly suggest that the current names of the substantially re-shaped seat of Mallee and McEwen be changed. The name of Mallee-McEwen would far better suit the seat of Mallee which, with its re-drawn boundaries, would include the old parts of the electorate originally served by Sir John McEwen and his farm property. Much of the new area of the proposed new Mallee is not in fact Mallee country e.g. Echuca, Rochester, Kyabram and Pyramid Hill.

The new seat of McEwen would be better called Goulburn- Highlands. This name better describes the region given there is no connection between the area currently called McEwen and its proposed future with Sir John McEwen. It makes great sense to re-organise these names to better reflect the communities of interest.

We have consulted with constituents in the McEwen electorate who feel very strongly that the new name of Goulburn –Highlands better describes their region since much of the electorate is within the Goulburn Murray Catchment and includes the Highlands. The State Legislative Council seat of Central Highlands was abolished sometime ago.

We urge you to consider this submission.

Yours sincerely

Sharman Stone Federal Member for Murray
Adrian Falsetta, Shepparton Liberal Party Branch President
William Parsons, Chairman Murray Federal Electorate Conference