



Objection Number 108

Maureen Turnbull

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27th August 2010

Redistribution Secretariat
Australian Electoral Commission
8th Floor
Casselden Place
2 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne 3000.

Dear Sir/Madam

Attn: Redistribution Committee for Victoria

I wish to register strong objection to the abolition of the Federal Division of Murray and the proposal that the Loddon Shire, in its entirety, be transferred to the Federal Division of Mallee.

Under the current proposal, the creation of one of the State's largest electorates would be to the detriment of rural representation. Given the tyranny of distance, it is inconceivable that the representative for Mallee would be able to give fair representation to all electors within the proposed boundaries, that we have received from the member of the Federal Division of Murray for many years.

However, should Murray be abolished, it would be more practicable for Loddon Shire to become part of the Bendigo Electorate. Bendigo is now the leading regional service centre and lifestyle liveability region for a large area of northern Victoria, and has commonality of purpose and community of interest with Loddon.

The projected population growth of Victoria in the next ten years will create further problems for rural representation. As Melbourne grows, so will redistribution, and if the current system continues the rural electorates will become massive, with little if any representation being afforded to electors.

There has been a suggestion that the existing boundaries could be reconfigured with little effort, within population tolerances, to eliminate the need for the redistribution of the Murray Electorate.

I ask that the decision to abolish the Federal Division of Murray be reconsidered or alternatively, Loddon becomes part of the Federal Division of Bendigo.

Yours sincerely,

Maureen Turnbull