



Objection Number 114

Harbhajan Bhatti

2 pages

25 August 2010

The Redistribution Committee for Victoria
GPO Box 768G
Melbourne Victoria 3001



Dear Committee Members,

As a registered voter in the Federal Victorian electorate of Murray I wish to object to the abolition of the seat and the redrawing of electoral boundaries that would result in electors in this community being split up and distributed amongst three other Federal seats.

I wish to point out that the electors in Murray share common community interests and make the following points.

1. The economy across the electorate of Murray is largely based on irrigated agriculture served by a single system.
2. This irrigated agriculture includes the production of dairy products, fruit, vegetables and livestock.
3. The rural economies in the current and future seat of McEwen do not share these interests and industries. Whilst they may be considered to be rural there is no irrigated agriculture, there is no easy transport lines of communication and this region is becoming increasingly urbanised. This urbanisation will result in the creation of two very different types of communities within a single electorate.
4. The communities do not interact as they do in the electorate of Murray i.e. through sporting clubs and competitions where towns and districts compete on a regular basis.
5. There is little social interaction between the northern Victorian towns and those south of the Divide and I feel that this lack of commonality has not been considered in the proposed redistribution.

6. The electors in the Campaspe Shire cannot be well served by a member that lives and works in Mildura or Swan Hill some hundreds of kilometres away and with totally different types of country.
7. By abolishing Murray and replacing it with "Burke" we lose a regional voice in Federal Parliament. This would make the voice of regional Australia even less likely be heard. Such a lessening can only disadvantage rural and regional citizens of this country.
8. I feel that the Committee should reconsider the proposal to abolish the seat of Murray and argue that it would be far more desirable to adjust the boundaries of the existing seats to ensure that regional Australia is fairly represented.

Signed

H. Bhatti

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