



Suggestion 44

Jarrold Lappin

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I am writing to express my concern and frustration regarding the current electoral division boundaries that impact the outer northern suburbs, specifically Doreen, Mernda, South Morang, Wollert, Donnybrook, and Kalkallo. The existing electoral divisions, notably the split between Scullin and McEwen, as well as the intricate division within Mernda, appear to deviate from the principles outlined in the Victorian redistribution guidelines.

According to the guidelines, careful consideration should be given to the community of interests within the proposed federal electoral division, encompassing economic, social, and regional aspects. It is perplexing to note that the existing boundaries do not adequately reflect the shared community, demographic, and historical ties binding these communities. This division leads to situations where families may reside in one side of a town yet access community services, public transport, and high schools located in a different electorate.

There is also a perplexing division between Donnybrook and Kalkallo, neighbouring communities situated on the same side of the Hume Highway off Donnybrook Road, sharing common interests and challenges. Yet, they find themselves separated between the Federal Electorate of Cadwell and McEwen.

Furthermore, the guidelines highlight the significance of considering means of communication and travel within the proposed federal electoral division. In the outer northern suburbs, a notable absence of major roads connecting these areas to other parts of McEwen exacerbates the disconnect between the towns.

The rationale behind linking parts of the Whittlesea Council area with small portions of four other council areas, such as Gisborne in Macedon, remains challenging to comprehend. This contradicts the fundamental principle of preserving shared economic, social, and regional interests. For example, the split of Wollert along Craigieburn Road East, separating it between the Federal Electorate of Scullin and McEwen, lacks clarity.

Even more perplexing is the division of Mernda by back roads (Cravens Rd and Bridge Inn Rd), intensifying the confusion and again separating it between the Federal Electorate of Scullin and McEwen. It would be more logical to keep Wollert together in Scullin and the entirety of Mernda together in McEwen. Mernda and Doreen should be kept together as sister towns, sharing facilities and the same postcode, benefiting from a more cohesive and representative electoral division aligning with their shared resources and community services. Additionally, Mernda and Doreen should be reunited with South Morang, given their common economic, social interests, and experiences in communication and travel.

As a resident of this area, I firmly believe that Doreen, Mernda, South Morang, Wollert, Donnybrook, and Kalkallo constituents deserve better representation by the Australian Electoral Commission, providing them with a cohesive community that shares common interests, demographics, and goals. The current electoral boundaries do not adequately represent this reality and create an unnecessary and confusing division.

Kind regards,

Jarrold Lappin