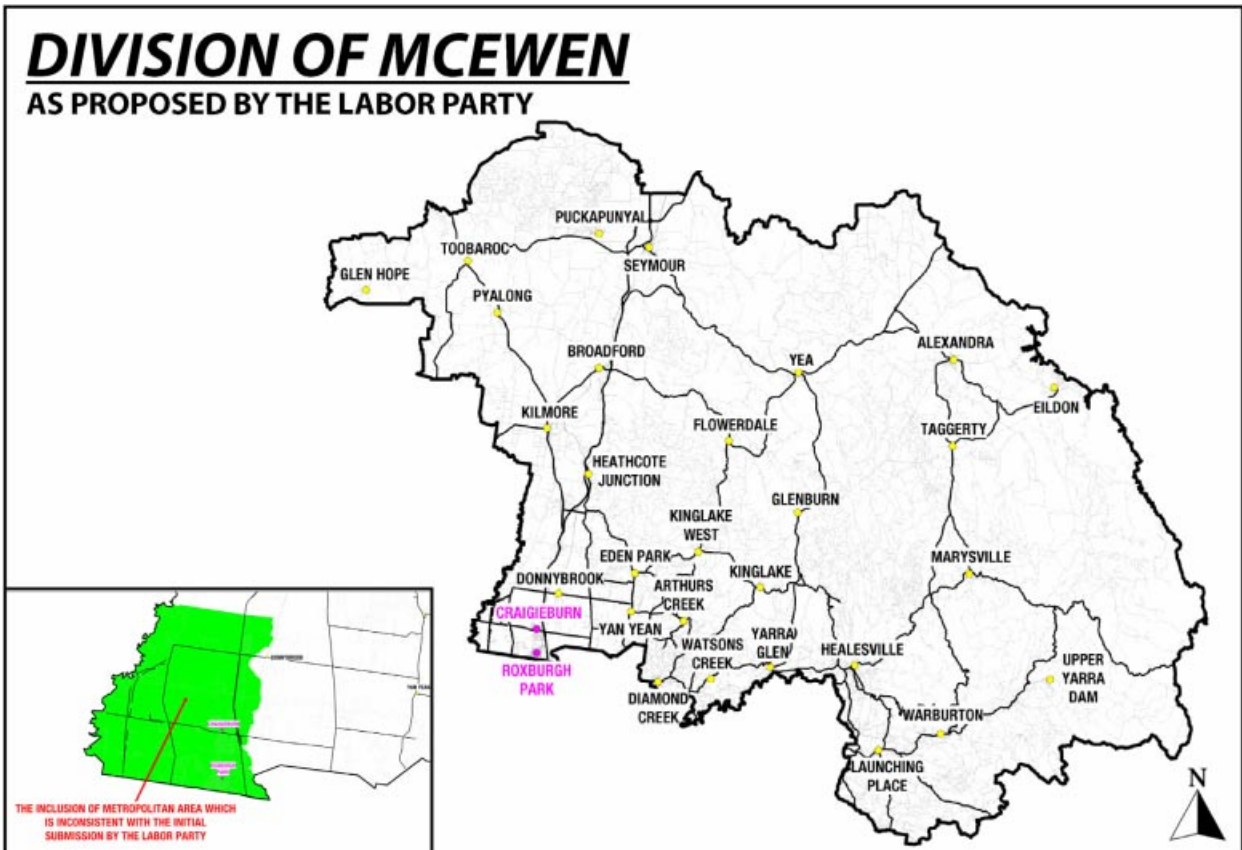
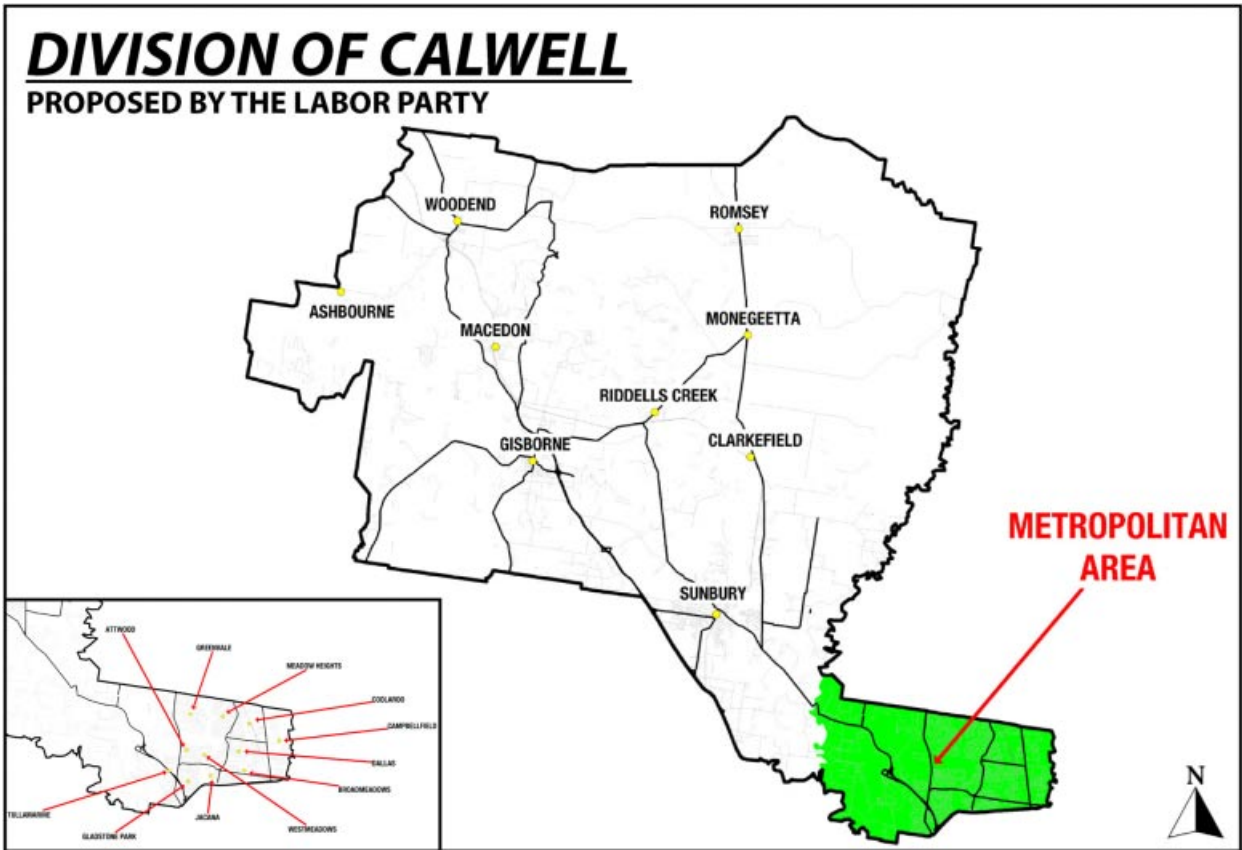
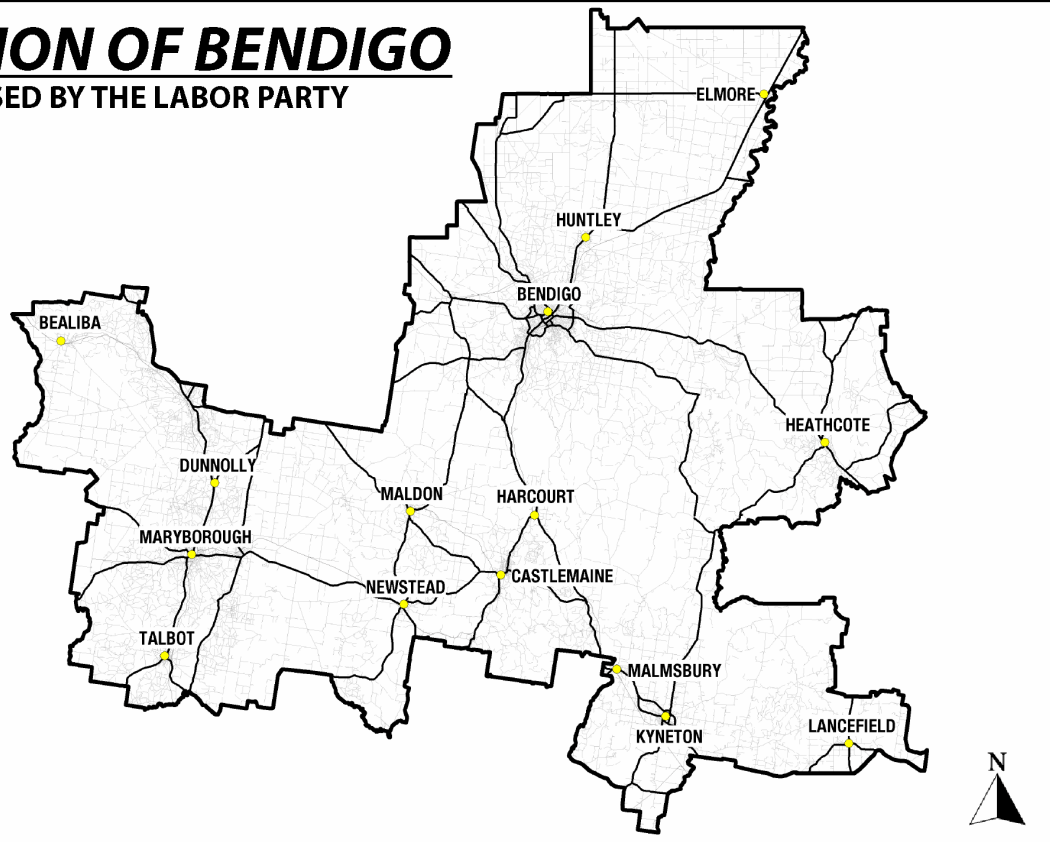


Calwell/McEwen/Bendigo:



DIVISION OF BENDIGO **AS PROPOSED BY THE LABOR PARTY**



The Labor Party has continually made numerous references to the benefit of utilising local government boundaries to define community of interest when constructing boundaries for Federal Divisions in their Objections Submission to the proposed Victorian Federal electorate boundaries document.

Yet the ALP rejects this when it objects to the Redistribution Committee's decision to remove Craigieburn from McEwen and unite it with the other outer northern suburban areas within Calwell. The Commission has redrawn Calwell so that it is identical to the City of Hume's local government boundary. One would assume this would please the ALP as in their submission they have stated that:

"The Committee's reliance on municipal boundaries is sensible and supported." - Objections to proposed Victorian Federal electorate boundaries, General Strategy chapter, page 1.

and

"As already stated, municipal boundaries are useful boundaries and do provide a basis for community of interest to be defined." - Objections to proposed Victorian Federal electorate boundaries, Metropolitan Melbourne chapter, page 5.

It is also interesting to note that the ALP's own local Federal Member for Calwell, Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP, stated in the Hume-Moreland Leader on October 1 2002, that:

"The AEC (Australian Electoral Commission) has obviously opted for municipal boundaries because Calwell mirrors the boundary of Hume Council. I have a good relationship with Hume Council and don't feel I will inherit an area that will be unrelated or unknown".

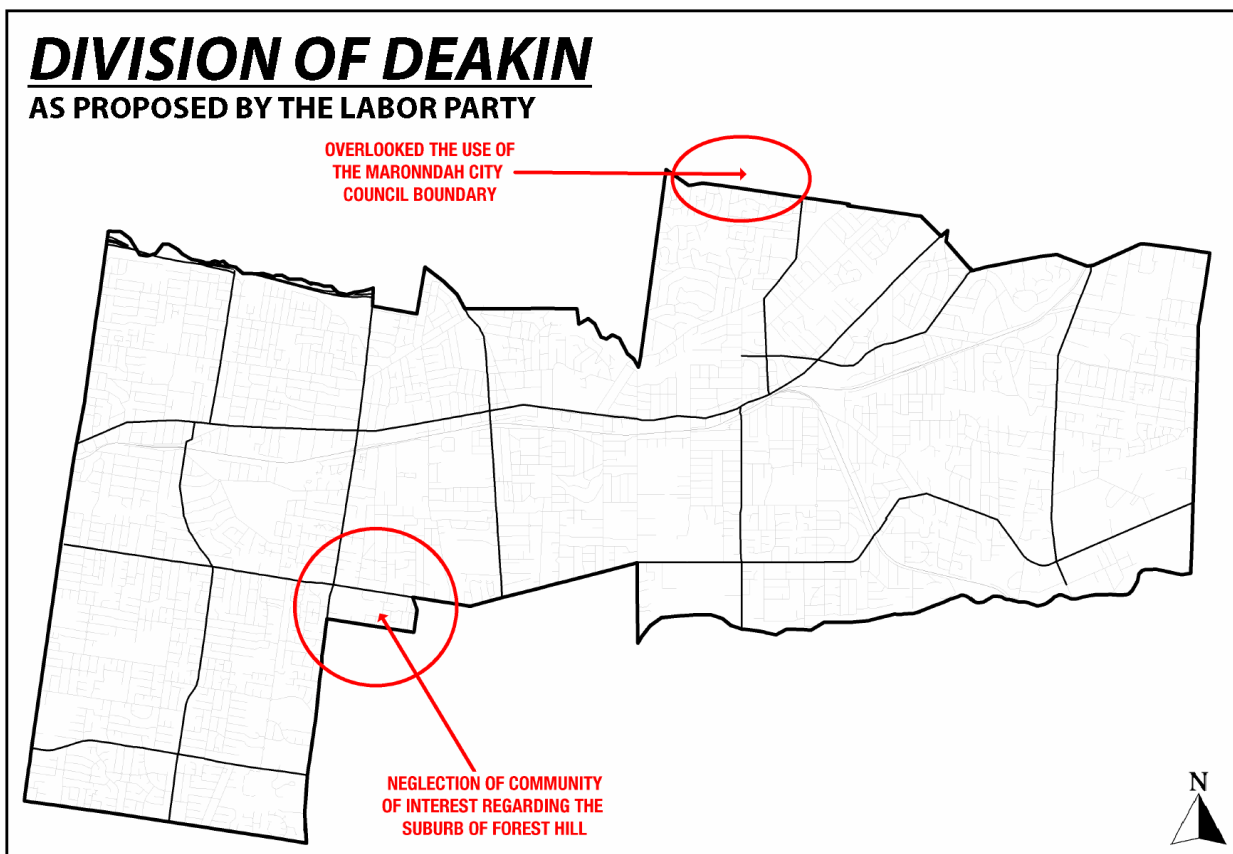
It is clear that the ALP's Objections Submission is trying to achieve something other than community of interest, when it ignores the Member for Calwell's view that the area surrounding Craigieburn is not "unrelated" to the areas being uniting with the new draft boundaries proposed by the Committee.

Both past Redistribution Committees and the current Redistribution Committee for Victoria have agreed in principle that McEwen should be a rural Division. The ALP seeks to overturn this principle by proposing that not only should McEwen return to the existing boundary to include the metropolitan

area of Craigieburn, but now it should also include the metropolitan suburb of Roxburgh Park at the expense of the regional areas in the Macedon Ranges Shire. The suggestion for the inclusion of Roxburgh Park was not part of the ALP's initial submission and one must question why they would add such a suggestion at this stage. These particular outer northern suburbs share no community of interest with the rural centres and townships such as Healesville, Marysville, Kinglake, Whittlesea, Broadford and Seymour.

The Redistribution Committee must be commended for the decision to remove Craigieburn from McEwen in the draft boundaries handed down. This has allowed the redrawing of Calwell to be identical to the City of Hume's local government boundary, a decision endorsed by the Federal Labor Member for Calwell, Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP.

Deakin:



The Labor Party have stated in their submission that:

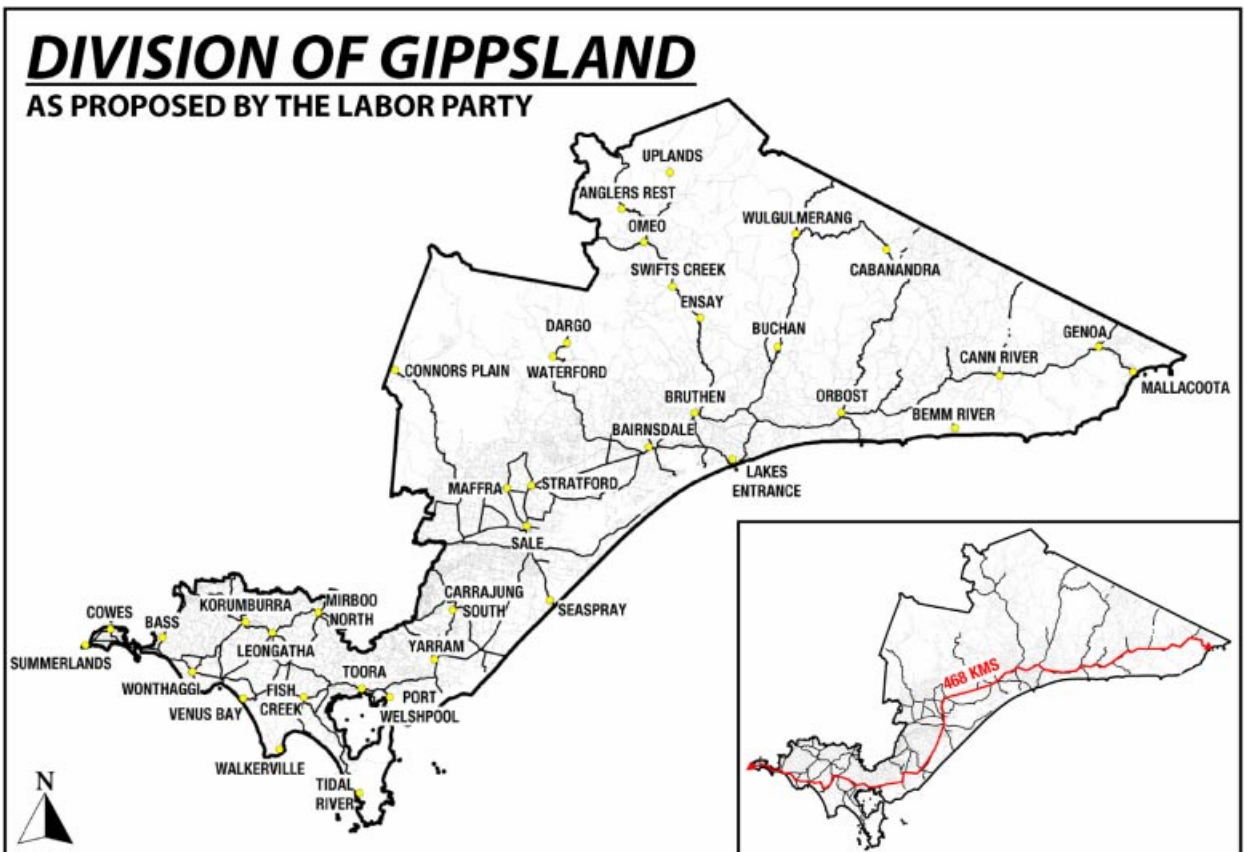
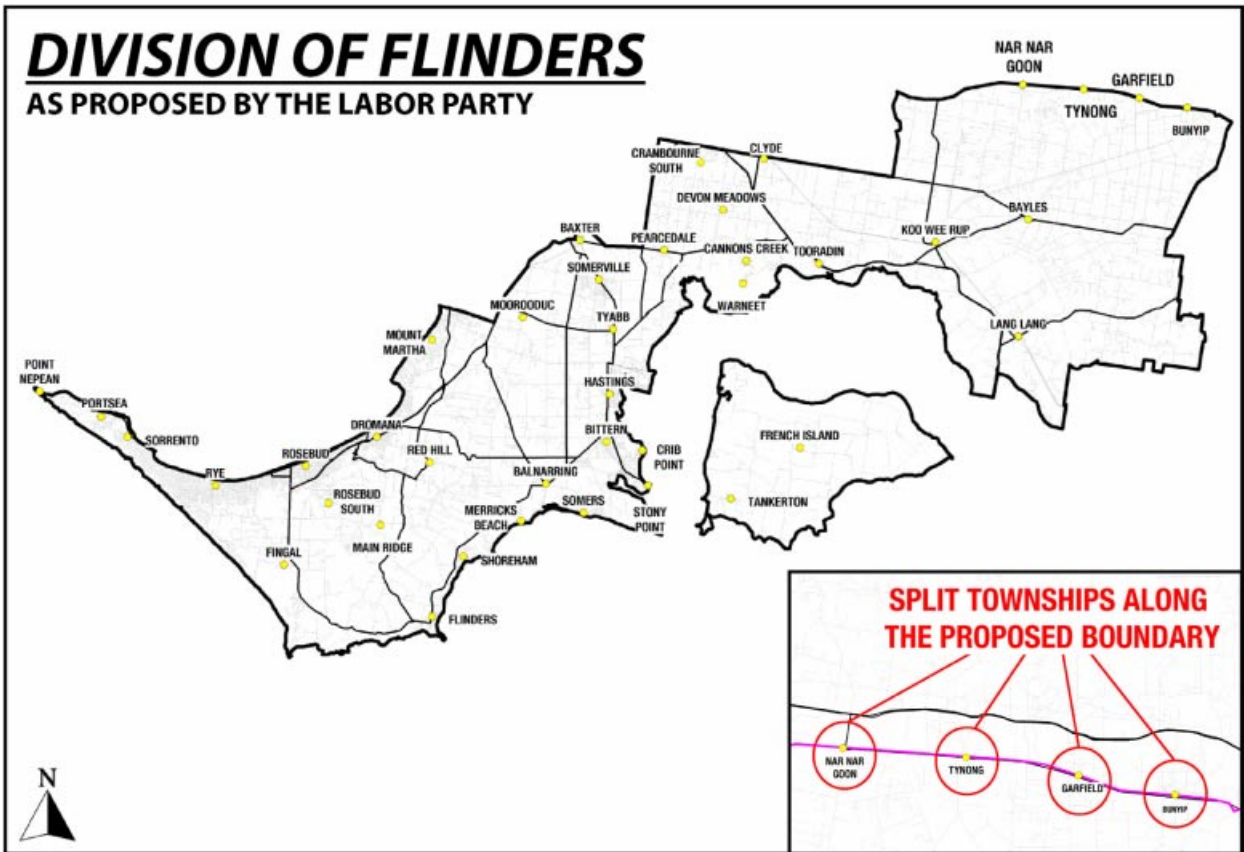
“As already stated, municipal boundaries are useful boundaries and do provide a basis for community of interest to be defined.” - Objections to proposed Victorian Federal electorate boundaries, Metropolitan Melbourne chapter, page 5.

In the Labor Party’s proposed Division of Deakin by the Labor Party this argument has been overlooked in two key areas.

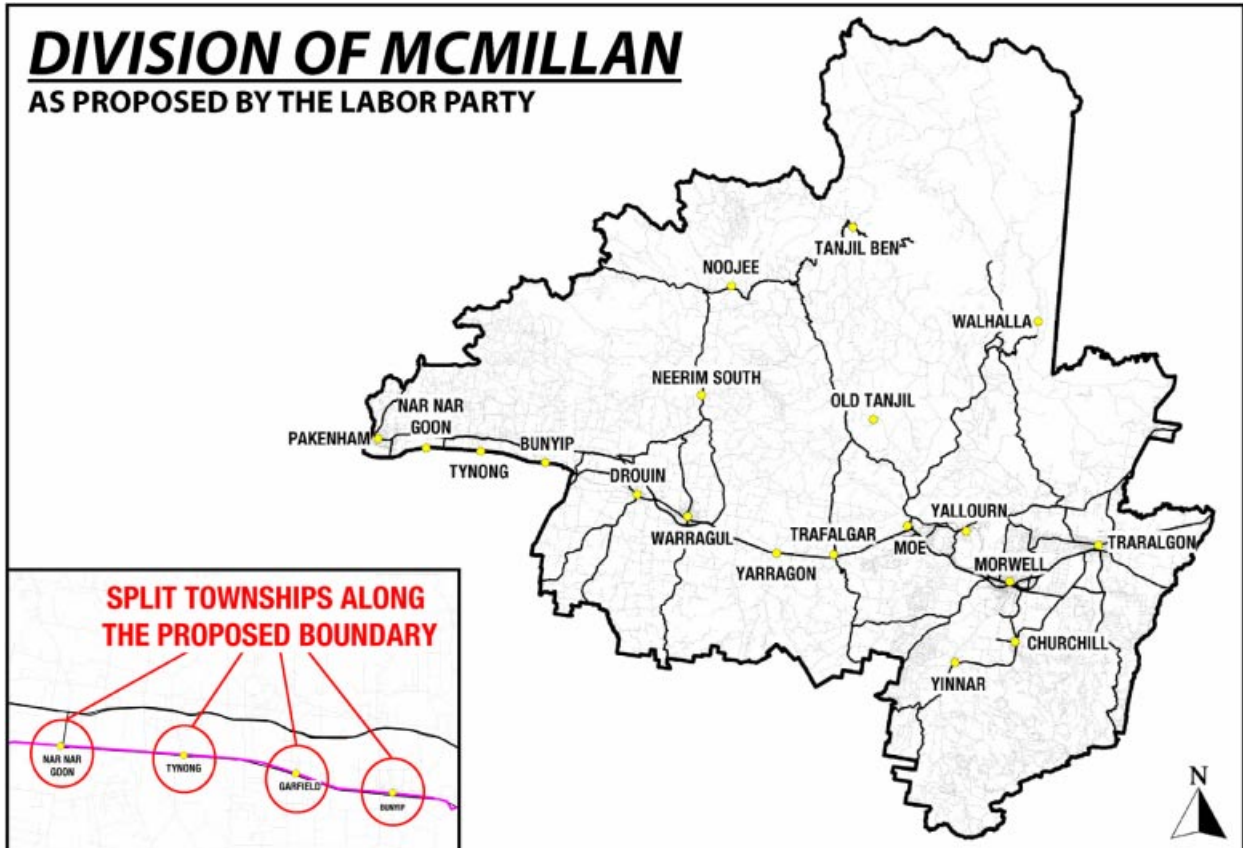
While the ALP correctly objects to the proposed northern boundary that splits the suburb of Ringwood North, it is therefore not logical that they have not proposed moving this boundary slightly further north to the Maroondah City Council boundary along Williams Rd as is supported by the Maroondah City Council themselves. This would only result in a further transfer of 526 electors between Menzies and Deakin, an amount both Divisions are able to sustain.

The inclusion of one suburban block (CCD 2361305) east of Springvale Rd and south of Canterbury Rd from the suburb of Forest Hill, is an anomaly in the draft boundaries, which is not corrected in the proposed changes offered by the ALP. The use of Stevens & Husband Roads unnecessarily separates neighbours, divides the local shops and the key catchment areas of the Parkmore Primary School and St Timothys Catholic Centre. With the suggested northern change offered by the ALP, this one CCD can easily be accommodated in the Division of Aston.

It is also worth noting that Charles Richardson supports both these changes.



DIVISION OF MCMILLAN **AS PROPOSED BY THE LABOR PARTY**



The ALP Objections Submission to the proposed Victorian Federal electorate boundaries has countless arguments supporting the strengthening of community of interests throughout Victorian's regional areas. They propose changes which include the uniting of the Loddon Shire into the Division of Murray (page 2), changes relating to the Macedon Ranges Shire (page 2) and an argument about the Bass Coast Shire (page 3), which are all based loosely around a community of interest argument.

However, in their endeavours to achieve their desired political outcome in the Gippsland region, the ALP has completely disregarded any community of interest argument with the proposed boundary between Flinders and McMillan. The towns of Nar Nar Goon, Tynong, Garfield and Bunyip have been split in half by the use of the railway line as a proposed boundary. In turn, it isolates parts of these local communities from Pakenham with which they share a strong community of interest.

The ALP Objections Submission to the proposed Victorian Federal electorate boundaries also suggests that the Division of Gippsland should run from the tip of Phillip Island in the west to Mallacoota and the NSW border in the east, a total distance of over 460kms. A single electorate covering this much territory is clearly undesirable. Its sheer size and lack of any sense of community among its residents would make effective representation unnecessarily difficult.

The Liberal Party still believes that the most workable solution to enhance the community of interest throughout the Gippsland region is to include Morwell along with Traralgon in the electorate of Gippsland. This achieves the dual aims of boosting Gippsland's population whilst not isolating the communities of Morwell and Traralgon. Both these towns are linked with other regional centres in Gippsland by the Princes Highway, and serve as major commercial centres for those living in outlying rural areas. This minor enhancement would also remove the need for any further changes to Flinders.

It is also worth noting that the initial submissions of Charles Richardson and the National Party as well as the objection submission by Charles Richardson do not support the lengthy coastal version of Gippsland proposed by the ALP.

The ALP's lack of thought for the community of interest argument of these townships can only be explained by a combination of the desire to achieve their preferred political outcome in McMillan and to allow the Member for McMillan to continue to reside within his electoral boundaries (Christian Zahra resides in Traralgon).

What the ALP has failed to recognise is that for 35 years, between its creation in 1949 and the Redistribution of 1984, McMillan ran from its existing northern boundary to the coast (including Wonthaggi and its immediate surrounds), and excluded Traralgon to the Division of Gippsland.

Other Suggested Changes to Divisions:

In their Objections Submission, the ALP proposes a number of other changes to Divisions namely Bruce, Dunkley, Holt, Isaacs and Murray.

Bruce/Holt/Isaacs

The ALP has suggested some minor boundary realignments between the Divisions of Bruce, Holt and Isaacs which the Liberal Party agrees would further strengthen community of interest and allow for more definable boundaries.

Dunkley/Flinders

The objection and change proposed between Dunkley and Flinders has been forced on the ALP by the changes they have made to the Flinders/McMillan boundary highlighted by the Liberal Party earlier in this submission. Due to the population tolerances that are needed to be achieved, this change becomes impossible to make once the changes to the Flinders/McMillan boundary have been rejected.

Murray

The ALP has proposed that a small portion of the Loddon Shire should be reunited with the remainder of the shire present in the Division of Murray. The Liberal Party agrees in principle with this suggestion, provided that it is a transfer of population between Bendigo and Murray only. Both of these Divisions would be able to sustain the change and would allow for one less municipal boundary in regional Victoria to be split.

Submissions relating solely to the inclusion of the Gannawarra Shire into the Federal Division of Murray

There are sixteen objections submissions relating to Gannawarra Shire asking for it to be included into the Federal Division of Murray.

The submissions received by the Commission have discussed local residents concerns ranging from broad acre irrigation issues to business links with areas within the Federal Division of Murray to the east.

The Redistribution Committee has proposed altering the north eastern boundary between Murray and Mallee in their draft boundaries, a boundary that has existed between these Federal electorates for 25 years. This boundary was determined at the 1977 Redistribution for Victoria and has remained as a clear and definite community of interest barrier. It was also re-established (with a very minor alteration) as a clear local government boundary at the LGA restructures of 1995 and previously to this event, it had remained a boundary between the communities of Swan Hill and Kerang for nearly 132 years.

The Liberal Party would have no objection if the augmented Electoral Commission is able to find a solution which would allow the entire Gannawarra Shire to remain in Murray provided it did not cause major change to a number of Divisions.

Submissions relating solely to the inclusion of the Mansfield and its surrounds into the Federal Division of McEwen

There are four objections submissions relating to Mansfield and its surrounds asking for it to be included into the Federal Division of McEwen.

The draft boundaries for McEwen suggested by the Redistribution Committee to transfer the southern portion of the Delatite Shire which includes Mansfield and the surrounding district with Benalla in Indi, is in direct contrast to the local residents wishes as indicated by submissions received, as well as recently legislated changes made to the Delatite Shire by the Labor State Government.

The augmented Electoral Commission should be made aware that over the last three years, public meetings have been held with local residents who have fought a long battle with the Labor State Government to separate themselves from Benalla and the other areas of the Delatite Shire within the Federal Division of Indi. These local residents have made their position clear that they see no affinity of community of interest with Benalla and do not want to be part of a shire that includes Benalla.

On Monday, July 22 2002, Premier Bracks issued a media release stating in part that:

The Bracks Government will accept the views of an independent panel and create two new shires based on the existing Delatite Shire, the Premier, Steve Bracks, announced today.

Mr Bracks said the creation of two new shires, one based in Mansfield and one in Benalla, had the overwhelming support of the local community.

"The community has pursued this change despite the financial cost of establishing the new municipalities," Mr Bracks said.

"We made it clear from the beginning that for Delatite Shire Council to become two separate municipalities it must have broad community support, it must be affordable, and that there must be a sustainable future for each of the municipalities.

"The Panel has closely examined the sociological, demographic, geographic and economic issues and the Government has accepted its findings that the split is warranted."

Delatite Shire has only just recently won the right to separate into two separate shires from the Labor State Government which will create a new local government area called Mansfield and will come into effect as of January 1st, 2003. Any decision to move Mansfield and the surrounding high country region into a Federal Division with Benalla would not be welcomed or accepted by these local communities as their entire argument for the splitting of the Delatite Shire was that the Mansfield area has a much stronger community of interest argument with other communities located within McEwen.

Submissions relating solely to the inclusion of the Traralgon and its surrounds into the Federal Division of McMillan

There are nine objections submissions relating to Traralgon and its surrounds asking for it to be included into the Federal Division of McMillan including one from the Member for McMillan, Christian Zahra, who also resides in Traralgon.

Although the Liberal Party acknowledges the views of people within the local community of Traralgon, these submissions do not take into account any ramifications to the other Divisions such as Flinders, Gippsland, Isaacs or La Trobe.

Prior to the release of the draft boundaries for Victoria, the Redistribution Committee had a difficult task to redraw electorate boundaries for 37 Divisions across the state that were both practical and adhered to legislative tolerances and parameters as set out in sub-section 66(3)(b) of the Act.

The Liberal Party has offered extensive suggestion in relation to the Gippsland region in its initial submission and subsequently in both our objections submission as well as this document. We still believe that the most workable solution to enhance the community of interest throughout the Gippsland region is to include Morwell along with Traralgon in the electorate of Gippsland.

Submissions relating solely to the inclusion of the Macedon Ranges Shire into one Federal

There are three objections submissions relating to Macedon Ranges Shire asking for it to be included into one Federal Division.

One cannot question the positive outcome if in a perfect world all 78 municipalities were included in their entirety within one Federal Division. Unfortunately due to the legislative tolerances and parameters as set out in sub-section 66(3)(b) of the Act, this proves to be an extremely difficult task. The Redistribution Committee has endeavoured to achieve this outcome wherever possible, but with the dispersion of population throughout Victoria, there are occasions when 'fault lines' (regions where rural Divisions meet metropolitan Divisions), make this task difficult such as the area within the Macedon Ranges Shire.

If the augmented Electoral Commission were to try and achieve an outcome in which the Macedon Ranges Shire was to be located in one Federal Division, it would surely cause at least one or maybe more municipalities to become split between other electorates. In the draft boundaries handed down by the Redistribution Committee for Victoria, they were able to respectively accommodate forty-five boundaries of a municipal district entirely within a single Division. Only eight rural boundaries of a municipal district could not be accommodated within a single electoral Division which in the overall redistribution process is an extremely positive outcome.

Other submissions

There are a number of other submissions dealing with local, rather than statewide issues.

Submission 15

Objection submission fifteen requests the Commission to retain the current Division of Burke with minor adjustments or to place the locality of Sunbury in its entirety in the Division of McEwen. Prior to the release of the draft boundaries for Victoria, the Redistribution Committee had a difficult task to redraw electorate boundaries for 37 Divisions across the state that were both practical and adhered to legislative tolerances and parameters as set out in sub-section 66(3)(b) of the Act. Although the Liberal Party acknowledges the view of the Sunbury Residents Association, this submission does not take into account any ramifications to the other surrounding Divisions, the extensive population tolerances they must adhere to or the major changes that would need to occur to a number of Divisions.

Submission 19

Objection submission nineteen supports the Redistribution Committee's decision to place the entire City of Greater Shepparton into the Division of Murray, which the Liberal Party also supports.

Submission 20

Objection submission twenty requests the Commission to adjust the boundary between La Trobe and Holt so that the Monash University Berwick Campus would be located in the same Division as the Berwick CAD. The Liberal Party supports this submission on the grounds that the initial decision on where to build the Berwick campus of Monash University was made with a number of reasons in mind:

- the site is close to the railway station at Berwick
- the site is within walking distance of the Berwick Village shopping centre
- the site is adjacent to the on-off ramp onto the Princes Highway Berwick bypass
- the site is across the road from the recently completed Casey campus of the Chisholm Institute of TAFE college

The Liberal Party believes that the augmented Electoral Commission should adopt a more practical solution which would be to use the Princes Freeway as the boundary between La Trobe and Holt, rather than the railway line and Clyde Road. Additionally, as there are no enrolled electors within the affected part of the CCD, there would be no change in population to either Division.

Submission 21

Objection submission twenty one requests the Commission to make further change to the draft boundary between Deakin and Menzies to improve community of interest. The Liberal Party supports the submission by the Maroondah City Council in part regarding the transfer of the area south of Williams and Oban Roads from Menzies to Deakin. In our own Objections Submission, we have discussed in depth, the splitting of the homogenous community of Ringwood North.

Submissions 22,23,24

Objection submission twenty two, twenty three and twenty four are all identical and request the Commission to make changes regarding the suburbs of Altona, Altona Meadows, Seabrook and Laverton and reunite them within the Division of Lalor. Although the Liberal Party acknowledges the views of the Ballestrino family, these submissions do not take into account any population transfer ramifications that changes would have on other Divisions.

Submission 26

Objection submission twenty six requests the Commission to retain the current north west boundary of Wannon. The Liberal Party supports the decision by the Redistribution Committee to remove the region surrounding Dergholm as it now allows the entire Shire of West Wimmera to reside in the Division of Mallee.

Submission 38

Objection submission thirty eight requests the Commission to transfer the rural centre of Seymour from McEwen to Indi. The Liberal Party supports this submission on the grounds of the necessary changes we have proposed in detail for the inclusion of Mansfield and its surrounds into McEwen in our Objections Submission.

Submission 39

Objection submission thirty nine requests the Commission rename the Division of McMillan. The Liberal Party maintains its position from our original submission that the current names are well accepted by the community and that changing them may lead to unnecessary confusion.

Submission 46

Objection submission forty six requests the Commission redraw the boundary between the Divisions of Indi and Murray so that that the township of Yarrawonga is relocated to Indi. While the Liberal Party notes the arguments in the submission, we feel that altering the proposed Indi/Murray boundary here would lead to the Commission having to make subsequent detrimental changes in other areas, which would produce an overall greater disruption to community of interest.