



The Federal Redistribution 2010
Victoria



Comment Number 2 on Public Suggestions

Mackenzie Craig

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From: Mackenzie and Robin Craig [llanreath@dodo.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 April 2010 11:36 AM
To: VIC Redistribution
Subject: Victorian Redistribution

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment upon the submissions made in regard to the proposed Victorian Redistribution.

I have been a registered voter in Murray for the last twelve years. Prior to that, as a result of my service in the Army, I was registered and voted in numerous metropolitan, semi-urban and rural type seats right across Australia.

I will confine my comments largely in regard to Murray and its adjoining boundaries.

On balance, I am more in agreement with Craig Rickards proposal than some of the other submissions. I am in complete disagreement with Charles Richardson with the exception of his desire to maintain the integrity of LGA Boundaries, in particular Moira, rather than focussing simply upon CCDs. I suggest that this is more relevant in regional areas and seats, where not only local media but the voters in general are more aligned and familiar with their local member than the "Party Leader". In my experience, this is completely the reverse in urban/metropolitan seats where the focus is more closely aligned with a Party and the "Party Leader".

I appreciate the difficulty in maintaining the "rural" nature of McEwen, that many of the submissions have alluded to. I do believe however, that it is easier to maintain the "rural" nature of Mallee, Murray and Indi than McEwen. In that context therefore, I support those submissions that generally suggest that Mallee, Murray and Indi eastern boundaries all move proportionally easterly, with Indi absorbing the excess from McEwen.

I am therefore in disagreement with the submissions that adopt what I would best described as a "pie chart" type boundary realignment that proposes seats radiating outwards from the outer metropolitan seats. I do not wish to simply suggest a gerrymander realignment but I do not believe that shifting boundaries so as to give "more balance" between various demographic, social, economic and competing interests actually serves the constitutes best interests. Indeed, I find it difficult to imagine how any elected member would be able to effectively and dutifully serve and represent such a seat.

I wish you well in your deliberations.

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