



The Federal Redistribution 2010  
Victoria



---

## **Comment Number 3 on Public Suggestions**

**Dr Mark Mulcair**

**9 pages**

---

**From:** Mark Mulcair [markmulcair@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 April 2010 5:46 PM  
**To:** VIC Redistribution  
**Subject:** Comments on Suggestions for Victorian Redistribution 2010  
**Attachments:** Comments on Suggestions Vic 2010.docx

2/26 Hopetoun Street  
Mitcham VIC 3132  
0407095015  
[markmulcair@gmail.com](mailto:markmulcair@gmail.com)

Dear Committee Members,

Please find attached my Comments on Suggestions for the Victorian Redistribution.

As always you are welcome to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Regards

Dr Mark Mulcair

## **COMMENTS ON SUGGESTIONS FOR THE VICTORIAN REDISTRIBUTION**

The 12 Submissions can be broken up into a number of groups.

- Detailed suggestions for the whole state (#4, 9, 10, 11, 12).
- Other suggestions covering all or part of the state (#1, 2, 7, 8).
- Suggestions relating to specific areas (#3, 5, 6).

### **DETAILED SUGGESTIONS FOR THE WHOLE STATE**

Basically there are two general schools of thought in the Suggestions. The Liberal Party and Dr Charles Richardson propose abolishing a rural seat and creating a new seat based on Melton; whereas Labor, the Greens, and my own submission work within the existing 37 seats. For this reason the general thrust of my submission is very similar to the ALP's.

Despite the differences, there are some points of agreement among the submissions.

- There is general agreement to transfer McEwen's share of Yarra Ranges to Casey.
- There is general agreement (except the Greens) to remove Aston's share of Whitehorse, and to move Aston south-east into Boronia and Ferntree Gully.
- There is agreement between the two major parties and myself to transfer Seaford to Isaacs, Mount Martha into Dunkley, and uniting Bass Coast in Flinders.
- Apart from Charles Richardson, there is agreement that McEwen shed Murrindindi to Indi, and that Strathbogie be transferred to Murray (although the Greens split the shire).
- There is universal agreement that Gippsland remain effectively unchanged (the Liberals transfer a hundred or so electors into McMillan).

There are also several recommendations common to all submissions except my own:

- Both major parties and Charles Richardson propose adding parts of Nillumbik to Casey, which I oppose. Despite the two councils being adjacent, there is almost no connection between them; for the most part they are separated by the Yarra River at a point where there is no crossing of it. Yarra Ranges Shire's community of interest lies along the Yarra Valley toward Lilydale, whereas the rural parts of Nillumbik look back towards Eltham and Greensborough. Nillumbik should remain within Jagajaga, McEwen, or (less ideally) Scullin.
- All three parties and Charles Richardson try to redraw Bruce, Chisholm and/or Deakin as east-west divisions. While I agree that the major communication corridors in this area

run east-west, not north-south, these changes involve a large number of electors and tend to cause undesirable flow-on effects to neighbouring seats.

- I feel that several submissions place undue emphasis on suburban and council boundaries in metropolitan Melbourne. A number of boundaries are proposed to run along minor side streets and split residential areas, purely because they are suburb boundaries.

#### **Submission from Dr Charles Richardson:**

Dr Richardson proposes creating a new Melton-based seat and abolishing a division in a low growth area. I noted that I was unable to make such an arrangement work, and Dr Richardson has certainly made a much better fist of it than by aborted attempts. In particular, Dr Richardson has generally been able to draw logical boundaries in rural areas. The question is whether the abolition of Murray causes too many flow-on effects to other rural divisions; note that major centres of Shepparton, Ararat, and Horsham would all change seats under this proposal.

I personally think that abolishing and creating seats is not necessary at this redistribution. But if the Committee did decide that this was the way to go, I would recommend the proposals of Dr Richardson over those of the Liberals, with the following comments:

- If the Bellarine Peninsula is to be split in the way Dr Richardson suggests, I would recommend Bellarine Highway (as proposed by The Greens) rather than Anderson Road as a clearer boundary in the area.
- It is not clear why Dr Richardson makes the extensive three-way transfer between Batman, Jagajaga and Scullin. Batman and Jagajaga can expand naturally north with small gains from Scullin, with Scullin then gaining the bulk of Epping/South Morang from McEwen. The transfer of Heidelberg and surrounds is not necessary and does not reflect communities of interest.
- As mentioned above, I do not support placing parts of Nillumbik in Casey. In particular, residents of North Warrandyte and Research would be forced to drive through Menzies to reach the remainder of Casey.
- While I understand the attempts to make McMillan an entirely rural division, these proposals cause too many flow on effects to Dunkley and Flinders, with Mount Eliza split and Dunkley forced across the Patterson River. I submit it is more logical for Isaacs, Dunkley and Flinders to expand southwards (as in my Suggestion, plus those from the major parties), not northwards. If, however, the Committee wanted to expand Dunkley northwards, I suggest adopting the Patterson River as a clear boundary, rather than crossing it.

- The proposal to transfer the balance of South Yarra from Melbourne Ports to Higgins has plenty of merit. However, detaching a small portion of Caulfield around the racecourse is not necessary and should be avoided.
- I agree with the general thrust of Dr Richardson's submission in the south-east, although the loss of Balwyn to Chisholm means he is forced to go further than is necessary. The re-arrangement of Bruce and the major changes to Hotham and Isaacs are not really justified given the larger number of electors involved. I recommend leaving Bruce largely as it is, with Hotham only taking as much of Isaacs as is needed to compensate for the losses to Higgins and Goldstein.
- I support the transfer of Aston's share of Whitehorse to Deakin, but again I feel the proposal goes further than is needed; for example, placing a small part of Monash in Deakin makes yet another split of Glen Waverley.

### **Submission from the ALP:**

The general thrust of the ALP's submission mirrors my own, with many proposals almost identical. Overall, I can say that I commend the bulk of the ALP's suggestions, although there are some areas where we disagree:

- While the exchange between Lalor and Gorton provides a neat way of removing Melton from Lalor, it results in an odd boundary between Corio and Lalor, and leaves a small part of Hobsons Bay remaining in Lalor. I submit my alternative in removing Leopold from Corio, and having Corio gain more of Werribee from Lalor, is a better solution than removing Melton.
- The three-way split of the Keilor/Taylor's Lakes area between Gorton, Calwell and McEwen is very messy. In particular, Taylor's Lakes is an extremely awkward appendage to McEwen. If the Committee decided to add Sunbury to McEwen, then Diggers Rest and rural parts of Melton Shire would be a better fit than the Keilor area.
- It would make far more sense for Scullin to push northwards into Epping and South Morang than eastwards into Nillumbik Shire. These rapidly-growing suburban areas fit much better with Mill Park and Thomastown than do the semi-rural towns of Nillumbik.
- There may be a case for transferring Caulfield into Higgins, but Dandenong Road is a very strong boundary in the area, and the ALP's proposal leaves Carnegie split between Higgins and Goldstein. It seems more logical to push further south into Carnegie (since Dandenong Road is already crossed at this point anyway), allowing the boundary to run straight along North Road instead of deviating.

- The decision to transfer Parkdale and Mentone to Hotham would split these suburbs off from Mordialloc and similar coastal communities in Isaacs. It seems far more sensible to transfer Keysborough/Noble Park to Hotham rather than detaching a small section of coastline.
- The ALP's proposal incorporates all of Seaford in Isaacs. I note that under my proposals Isaacs could accommodate all of Seaford instead of splitting it as in my original suggestions. Therefore I recommend Isaacs gain all of Seaford from Dunkley, and to ensure that division remains within tolerance after this loss I suggest following the ALP's proposals for Dunkley.
- The part of Whitehorse Council in Aston is surely a much better fit with Deakin than with Chisholm. The ALP's proposals force a major unnecessary exchange between Deakin and Chisholm in this area.
- The transfer of Seymour to Indi makes little sense, given Strathbogie is proposed to be placed in Murray. Seymour's community of interest lie north or south along the Hume, and since it cannot be accommodated in Murray, it should remain with the balance of Mitchell Shire in McEwen.
- I believe the Officer area is a better transfer to McMillan than Emerald and Gembrook. These two communities fit well with the other Dandenong Ranges towns in Latrobe, while Officer clearly has strong links to Pakenham. As mentioned in my original submission, this arrangement also provides a better spread of growth areas and provides McMillan with a strong growth base.
- As mentioned, a number of the ALP's proposals utilise very minor streets as boundaries (*e.g.* Kooyong/Higgins, Aston/Latrobe, McEwen/Gorton). In particular, I submit my boundaries in Glen Iris and Ferntree Gully/Boronia are much stronger than the ALP's.

### **Submission from The Greens:**

With a few exceptions such as Deakin, Chisholm and the western suburbs, the Greens tend to propose minimal change wherever possible. In a few places, I feel it may have been better to have made a slightly greater change than strictly necessary in order to adopt a stronger boundary.

- A number of Greens' proposals utilise very minor streets that would be poor boundaries. In particular, their proposals through Glen Waverley, Endeavour Hills, Roxburgh Park, and Sunshine West would be very confusing for local residents.
- The use of Elgar Road as the eastern boundary of Kooyong has merit, but as with the other parties' proposals the changes to Chisholm, Deakin and Bruce outweigh the

benefits. Glen Waverley would be further split along minor side streets, and Bruce is forced to detach a small portion of Endeavour Hills, which has no connection to the rest of the division.

- As with the ALP suggestion, I support uniting Carnegie in Higgins rather than a transfer of part of Caulfield.
- The decision to remove Ascot Vale from Melbourne has merit, but the Greens have ignored the more obvious removal of Brunswick. It is also not clear whether Alphington is proposed to be removed (the text implies not, but the map suggests it is). I submit that both of these areas be transferred out of Melbourne before Ascot Vale.
- Like the ALP, the Greens propose removing Melton from Lalor, but the decision to place Sunshine West in Lalor is less logical than the ALP's suggestion of Deer Park. However, I do support their proposals for the Keilor area over the ALP's, as there are no awkward detachments into McEwen.
- The Greens propose unnecessary changes to Batman and Jagajaga which split Watsonia, while their boundary between Jagajaga and Scullin leaves the messy split of Greensborough in place.
- As mentioned, I recommend the Bellarine Highway instead of Anderson Road if the Committee wishes to split the Bellarine Peninsula.
- I do not support splitting Central Goldfields Shire. The flow on effects to Mallee and Murray also force the splitting of Greater Bendigo, Strathbogie and Mitchell councils. If the Committee accepts the Green arrangements for Corio and Corangamite, they are better off following the thrust of Charles Richardson's suggestion for the remainder of rural Victoria.

### **Submission from the Liberal Party:**

The Liberal Party's submission contains no detailed description or explanation of their proposed boundaries, which is surprising given the radical changes they make. In particular, it would have been interesting to understand the logic behind splitting Reservoir, or putting the Upper Yarra Valley in McMillan. There are a range of odd transfers and awkward appendages to seats, which may have been necessary purely for numbers, but it would have been nice to have explained this fully.

Essentially, what the Liberals are proposing is a similar arrangement to Charles Richardson, abolishing a rural seat and creating a new division based on Melton (although they retain the name, 'McEwen' is effectively abolished and a new seat created). However, I believe Dr Richardson's arrangement, particularly in rural Victoria, is far superior to the Liberals' submission.

Overall, I find little to support in the Liberals submission, although some specifics are particularly worthy of comment.

- The decision to detach a small portion of Macedon Ranges to Murray makes little sense, given there is minimal connection between Macedon and the balance of Murray. Macedon Ranges looks north and south along the Calder Highway, and should be placed in Bendigo and/or an outer Melbourne division, not with Shepparton. This arrangement also detaches a portion of Greater Bendigo from Bendigo.
- The Liberals also propose to detach a small portion of Macedon Ranges plus part of Greater Geelong to Ballarat. Under the Liberals' proposals, Macedon Ranges appears to be split four ways (Bendigo, Ballarat, Murray, McEwen).
- Pushing Lalor into northern Geelong has been done in the past, and it does allow the Bellarine Peninsula to be untied in Corio, and Corangamite Shire to be placed in the division of the same name. Taken in isolation, the proposals for these three seats have some merit. However, the flow-on effects to other rural seats under the Liberals' proposal are extensive and messy.
- Splitting Mitchell Shire and detaching the Wallan/Kilmore area to Indi is very messy indeed. There is little connection between Kilmore and the rest of Indi, and this change results in a division stretching from Melbourne's outskirts to the NSW border. Also, since northern Mitchell, Strathbogie, and Benalla are proposed to be placed in Murray, the main connection between the two halves of Indi would require driving for around 150km through Murray.
- It is not clear at all why the Liberals place the Upper Yarra region in McMillan. The community of interest in this region is back along the Warburton Highway towards Lilydale in Casey, not south across the mountains into Pakenham and West Gippsland.
- In theory, uniting Whittlesea in Scullin is logical, with strong links back along Epping and Plenty Roads to Epping and Mill Park. However, the flow-on effects cause major problems for Batman and Wills; the Liberals are forced to draw messy boundaries along minor streets through Thomastown and Reservoir, and to leave the small parts of Moreland City and Alphington in Melbourne.
- While North Warrandyte has connections to Warrandyte itself in Menzies, the Liberals go much further in transferring large parts of Eltham and Research to Menzies. The boundary through Eltham in particular splits the town completely in half along minor streets.
- As previously mentioned, the transfer of South Yarra from Melbourne Ports to Higgins does have merit, although once again the transfers to Goldstein in Caulfield South seem to use minor side streets.



- It is not clear why a small part of Boronia is proposed to be detached to Deakin. The Dandenong Creek is a strong boundary that should not be crossed, and Knox Council should remain split between Aston and LaTrobe alone.

## **OTHER SUBMISSIONS COVERING ALL OR PART OF THE STATE**

### **Submission from Mr Michael Hedger:**

Mr Hedger recommends abolishing two low-growth divisions and creating two new seats in outer Melbourne. As mentioned in my original Submission, I was unable to find a way to abolish one seat without major disruption, so abolishing two seats is likely to cause a significant impact that is hard to justify.

### **Submission from Stephen Hart and Chris Hankin:**

This submission covers rural Victoria, and many of the ideas presented here mirror those in other submissions and have been discussed above. However, there are a couple of proposals that are unique to this submission:

- This submission recommends removing part of Melton from Lalor, but does not specify where it should go. Presumably, Melton would be placed in Calwell or McEwen, neither of which are a natural fit. I note that Melton would be split under these proposals; if it was thought necessary to remove Melton from Lalor, all of Melton Shire should be transferred.
- The transfer of Leopold and the Peninsula to Corangamite is similar to my own suggestions, but Corio would appear to be left well under quota and Corangamite well over quota under these proposals. The losses to Wannon do not seem to bring Corangamite within tolerance, nor do the gains of rural areas from Lalor compensate Corio for its losses.
- I note that many of the proposed boundaries split rural shires by following roads and rivers instead of municipal boundaries. While major roads can make strong boundaries, in rural areas I suggest shires be kept together as much as possible.

### **Submission from the Victorian Nationals:**

Generally the proposals from the National Party follow the thrust of the Liberal submission. What is surprising is the number of rural shires the Nationals propose to split. This would cause considerable voter confusion and I strongly recommend the Committee keep rural shires intact wherever possible.

**Submission from Mr Norm Ellis:**

This submission essentially suggests abolishing Melbourne Ports and creating a new seat in Melbourne's western suburbs. There is certainly a case for including the Southbank area in Melbourne, given its close links to Docklands and the city. However, Mr Ellis goes much further south than this, and as a result is forced to remove Richmond and Abbotsford to Batman. If the Committee wished to cross the Yarra, I would suggest taking in only Southbank and South Wharf, perhaps using the West Gate Freeway as a boundary. This should allow Richmond and surrounds to remain within Melbourne.

**SUBMISSIONS COVERING SPECIFIC AREAS:****Submission from Barry and Enid Young:**

This submission recommends Avoca be placed within Ballarat. I place Avoca in Mallee, where I believe it fits well with St Arnaud and surrounds. If the Committee were planning a redraw of rural Victoria as proposed by Dr Richardson, this suggestion could be accommodated.

**Submission from Craig Rickards:**

I agree that there is a case for removing Loddon Shire to Mallee and uniting Moira in Murray, and I would certainly recommend the transfer of Strathbogie to Murray. However, I do not support the split of Benalla Council; this region should be united in Indi. Mr Rickards' proposals would almost certainly force a split of Mitchell Shire for Indi to gain electors, which I do not support.

**Submission from Peter Twomey:**

The general agreement of all submissions is for Murray (or the division containing Shepparton) to expand south-east into Strathbogie Shire. This is a predominantly rural shire and a does not dilute the rural aspect of Murray.