



The Federal Redistribution 2010
Victoria



Comment Number 9 on Public Suggestions

Stephen Luntz

2 pages

From: Stephen Luntz [sluntz@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, 23 April 2010 5:43 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Subject: Response to public suggestions
Attachments: response to submissions.doc

Please find attached my personal response to the other public suggestions.

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To the members of the Redistribution Committee,

The other public suggestions made in regard to the redistribution of Victoria raise some ideas the Greens had not considered, as well as many we contemplated and rejected. The proposals of most concern to the Greens are those of the ALP and Dr Mark Mulcair, both of whom propose removing parts of north Yarra from the seat of Melbourne.

I have been unable to open the ALP's maps, so I cannot see the exact boundary they propose, but cannot imagine anyway of dividing the area that makes sense.

I acknowledge the removal of Alphington has some merit, but the splitting of Fitzroy North and/or Clifton Hill strikes me as an especially ill-advised move. There is no question that this is against the Greens' electoral interests, but the fact that our interests are in keeping this area together is in large part because it has a particular local character that causes it to produce some of the highest Green votes in the state.

The community of interest that Clifton Hill and Fitzroy North share is demonstrated by:

- the existence of the longstanding community organisation the 3068 Group – one of the more active such community groups in the state (<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~grp3068/>)
- The presence of a community bank, generated through strong local support
- The common shopping strips and public institutions such as a single high school serving the whole area and a local library. The school was reopened after a long and vibrant community campaign, and a similar (albeit smaller) campaign has led to the expansion of the library.

Given the population requirements it is inevitable that at least one community will be split, undesirable as this may be. Much as I love Brunswick, being a resident, I do not believe it has demonstrated the same community of interest as the 3068 area.

On the other side of the river I will admit to some puzzlement as to the reasoning for the Liberal proposal for Melbourne Ports. Not only does this split Melbourne City Council between three electorates, rather than the current two, but it also involves the transfer of territory to Goldstein, an electorate not in need of extra enrolment.

Stephen Luntz

(Although I put together the submission made on behalf of the Australian Greens Victoria, this response is made in a personal capacity, as I have not had time to receive endorsement from the party on a more complete reply to the lodged submissions).