



# Comment on suggestion 37

Knox City Council

3 pages

**From:** Sandra Slapar  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Subject:** Knox City Council Comments on Suggestions - Redistribution of Victorian Federal Electoral Divisions  
**Date:** Friday, 1 December 2017 10:26:21 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[KCC\\_AEC\\_Electoral\\_Boundary\\_Submission\(2\).docx](#)

---

The Secretariat  
Redistribution Committee for Victoria  
Australian Electoral Commission  
[FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au)

Re Federal Redistribution Victoria

Please find attached Knox City Council comments on suggestions in relation to the redistribution of Victorian Federal electoral divisions.

I have been requested by Mr Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer for the Knox City Council to ensure that this submission is lodged prior to the closing time of 6pm on 1 December 2017.

If you have any enquiries in regards to Council's submission please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

**Rodney Mckail** | Governance Advisor

[REDACTED]

[cid:image001.jpg@01D369DA.481662D0](#)



\*\*\*\*\*  
This email may contain privileged and confidential information intended only for the use of the addressee named above. Privacy should be respected at all times. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify Knox City Council immediately by telephone (03-9298-8000) and destroy the original message.

KNOX CITY COUNCIL  
511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South. 3152. Australia

\*\*\*\*\*  
PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL

# SUBMISSION - COMMENTS ON SUGGESTIONS

## VICTORIAN FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION 2017/18

27 November 2017

### Overview

Public notice was given by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) that Victoria is undergoing a redistribution of House of Representative divisions (seats) due to the number of divisions increasing from 37 to 38 following a determination of the Electoral Commissioner in August 2017.

Additionally, when a division is added it is also a requirement to review and assess all current divisions against the prescribed statutory voter ranges, that are:

- Plus and minus 10% of the current enrolment quota; and
- Plus and minus 3.5% of the projected enrolment quota as at 25 August 2019.

Currently 27 of the 37 divisions do not meet either one or both requirements and therefore changes will be required for boundaries.

Knox City Council is currently covered by two electoral divisions, primarily Aston, with a portion to the north east in the division of La Trobe. Current enrolment data indicates that Aston is 10.13% below the state quota and La Trobe is 3.8% above.

### Consultation Period and Future Timings

Processes for consultation and timings are as follows:

- The initial consultation period of 4 weeks, closed on 17 November 2017.
- Public comments on the submissions received are invited up to 1 December 2017.
- Public comments invited on the proposed redistribution following the release of a report in April 2018.
- Final boundaries of electoral divisions announced in June/July 2018.

Knox City Council did not make a submission during the initial consultation period but would like to comment on the submissions made through the initial stage.

### Submissions received by 17 November

Many of the submissions made to the AEC provided recommendations in regards to Aston and La Trobe. There were a range of suggestions in regards to addressing the shortfall within Aston. The majority of submissions supported expansion of Aston to east into La Trobe and possibly Casey, with two exceptions which supported expansion to the west into Bruce.

### Knox City Council Submission

Council has considered the various options proposed and strongly support expansion of the Aston electoral boundary to the east taking in Boronia, The Basin, Ferntree Gully and Upper Ferntree Gully. This would have the effect of increasing voter numbers well within tolerance and provide for the entire Municipality to be covered by the Aston Electorate. The rationale for this position is set out below.

### Fragmentation of Representation

The existing boundaries of the Aston electorate to the west, south and north are very strong geographically and should be retained. The existing eastern boundary of Albert Avenue, Dorset Road, Glenfern Road and Lysterfield Road are not strong boundaries with little or no geographic basis for retention. Council is concerned that the current boundary to the east dissects communities of interest particularly in Boronia and Ferntree Gully.

Council is also of the view that as a principle, the fragmentation of Federal representation across Victorian Councils should be lessened wherever possible. Council is particularly keen to ensure that the community is not split, nor portions of the community disadvantaged through dislocation from natural/behavioural centres of attraction.

Moving the Aston electoral boundary to the east to align with the Knox City Council LGA boundary will unite the suburbs of Boronia and Ferntree Gully into one division, and also add the suburbs of Upper Ferntree Gully and the Basin.

This proposal has attracted the support of many submitters on the basis that single representation of these communities of interest would lead to a more balanced representation of those communities, and the constituents of the Knox community more generally.

Council would be pleased to see the outcome of a redistribution to include the whole of Knox within the Aston division. This would be manageable by moving the boundary to the east to align with the existing LGA boundary. If this creates a shortfall for La Trobe, the abutting divisions of McMillan, Flinders and Holt already exceed the quota which would provide an opportunity for realignment.

## Conclusion

Knox City Council recommends the above proposal to the Redistribution Secretariat as it will ease the current fragmentation of Federal representation across Knox City Council. Council believes that the electorate division review should aim to defragment as much as possible/ practical communities of interest and that communities of interest within an individual municipal district should be accommodated in one division wherever practical.

[www.aec.gov.au/vic-redistribution](http://www.aec.gov.au/vic-redistribution)

[FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au)