



Objection 31

Dr Nick Economou

3 pages

From: Nicholas Economou
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: public submission/objection to the Victorian redistribution
Date: Wednesday, 11 April 2018 2:10:50 PM
Attachments: [AECVicRedistribVic2018.doc.docx](#)

Dear AEC,

Please find attached a brief submission outlining objections to proposed naming of three electoral divisions and an objection to the proposed redistribution of the seat of Menzies.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process.

Dr Nick Economou
Monash University

11 April 2018

Dear AEC,

I would like to make a brief submission on the proposed redistribution currently underway for Victoria.

I would like to make a submission on the matter of the naming and re-naming of Victorian electorates. I object to the proposed naming of three divisions. I wish to object to the proposed re-naming of Corangamite (Cox) and Melbourne Ports (Macnamarra) on the grounds that those commemorated in the re-naming have a tenuous link to Australia's national political heritage whereas a case could be made for recognising some great Victorians for their historic achievements in national politics. I would also like to object to the proposal to name a potentially safe Labor division after a former Liberal prime minister implicated in the events of 1975, when in fact that former prime minister's name could be more appropriately used elsewhere in the redistribution (see below).

I have consulted the guidelines for naming divisions as provided in the AEC website. Consequently, I would ask that the Commission seek to commemorate those deceased Victorians whose historic achievements in national politics should be recognised. Two Victorian women stand out as deserving of such recognition.

Mrs Joan Child was the first woman to win a House of Representatives seat in Victoria and later went on to serve as Australia's first female Speaker. I humbly submit that the new electorate being created in western suburban Melbourne should be named "Child" in her honour.

Dame Margaret Guilfoyle was a Senator for Victoria, and was the first woman to hold a cabinet position and to be in charge of a public service department. I would humbly suggest that Melbourne Ports be re-named "Guilfoyle" in her honour.

The use of Malcolm Fraser's name for a Victorian electorate falls within AEC guidelines. My suggestion here is that Mr Fraser's long residential association with the western districts of Victoria makes him particularly suitable to be commemorated by having the seat of Corangamite re-named "Fraser".

I also wish to object to the proposed boundaries for Menzies. As I understand it, major physical geographic boundaries are amongst the criteria used to determine electoral boundaries as indeed are other boundaries such as local government areas. These criteria are critically important to realising another stated objective of keeping similar communities together when undertaking the design of electoral districts. This, in turn, is important as a means of protecting the integrity of the districting processes from allegations of contrived electoral boundary formation (a practice usually associated with 'gerrymandering'). Whilst there is no suggestion of gerrymandering occurring in the case of the Commission's redistribution it is still necessary nonetheless to preserve the integrity of the criteria by which boundaries are determined. I humbly suggest that the extension of Menzies across the Yarra River as proposed in this redistribution undermines these valuable criteria. I would submit that the Commission ought to continue the long practice of using the Yarra River as the basis for electoral boundaries and reconsider the proposed boundaries for Menzies.

I remain yours sincerely,



Dr Nick Economou

Politics, Monash University