



Comment Number Five on Public Objections

Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division)

18 pages

Liberal Party of Australia
(Victorian Division)

Comments Regarding Objections Submissions

on behalf of the
Liberal Party
of Australia
to the
Augmented
Commission for
Victoria



October 11 2002

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1. Maps were produced from CDATEA2001 © (Australian Bureau of Statistics)
and MapInfo *Professional* V7.0© software.
2. Map Data supplied by © PSMA *Australia* Limited 2002.

Introduction

The Liberal Party was pleased to see a range of submissions from organisations and members of the public raising a number of issues for consideration by the augmented Electoral Commission for Victoria.

In assessing some of the suggestions which relate to particular boundaries the provisions of the Act must be remembered:

In making the proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee:

- (a) Shall, as far as practicable, endeavour to ensure that, if the State or Territory were redistributed in accordance with the proposed redistribution, the number of electors enrolled in each Electoral Division in the State or Territory would not, 3 years and 6 months after the State or Territory had been redistributed, be less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment of that State or Territory at that time; and*
- (b) **SUBJECT** to paragraph (a), shall give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division, to:*
 - (i) community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;*
 - (ii) means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;*
 - (iii) the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division; and*
 - (iv) the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory,*

and subject thereto the quota of electors for the State or Territory shall be the basis for the proposed redistribution, and the Redistribution Committee may adopt a margin of allowance, to be used whenever necessary, but in no case shall the quota be departed from to a greater extent than one-tenth more or one-tenth less.

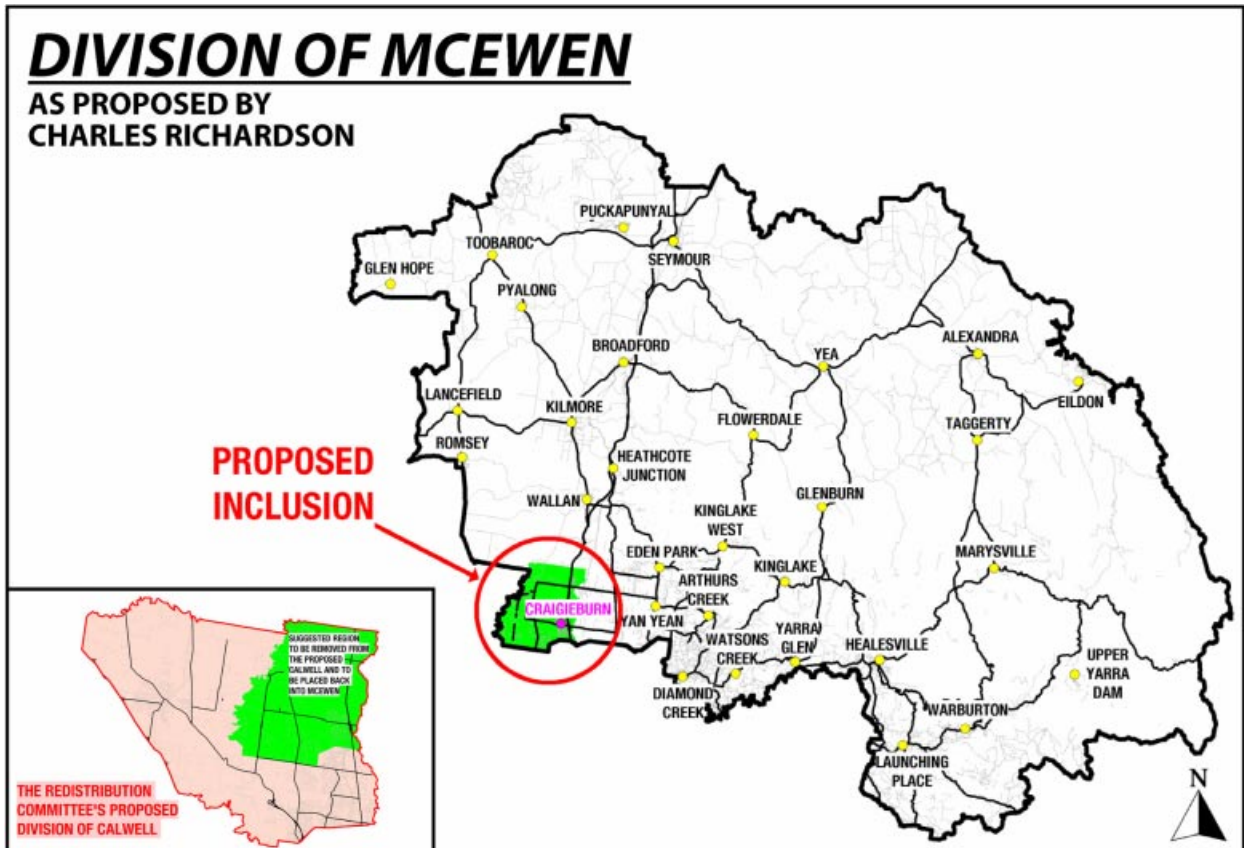
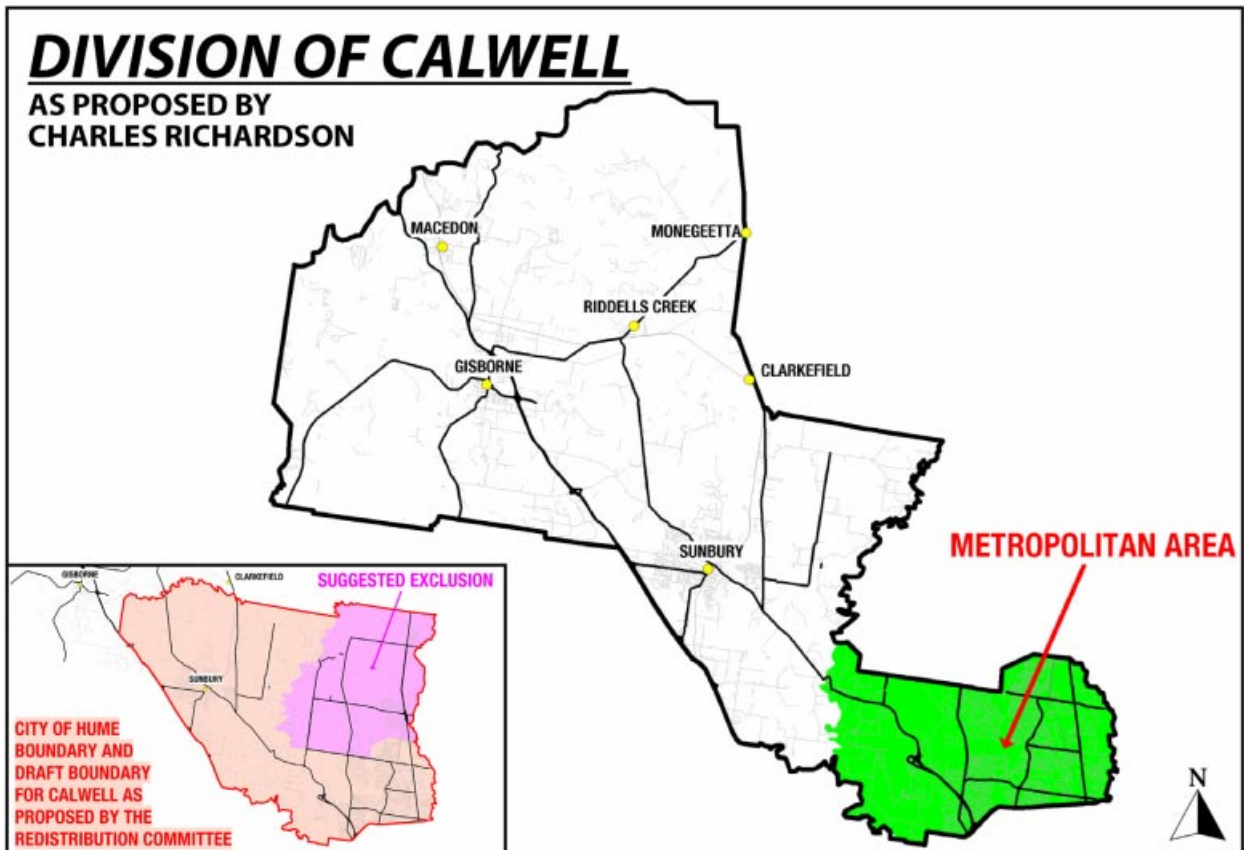
Further evidence of what is essential in defining new boundaries during Redistribution was established by the immediate past Redistribution Committee for Victoria when it stated:

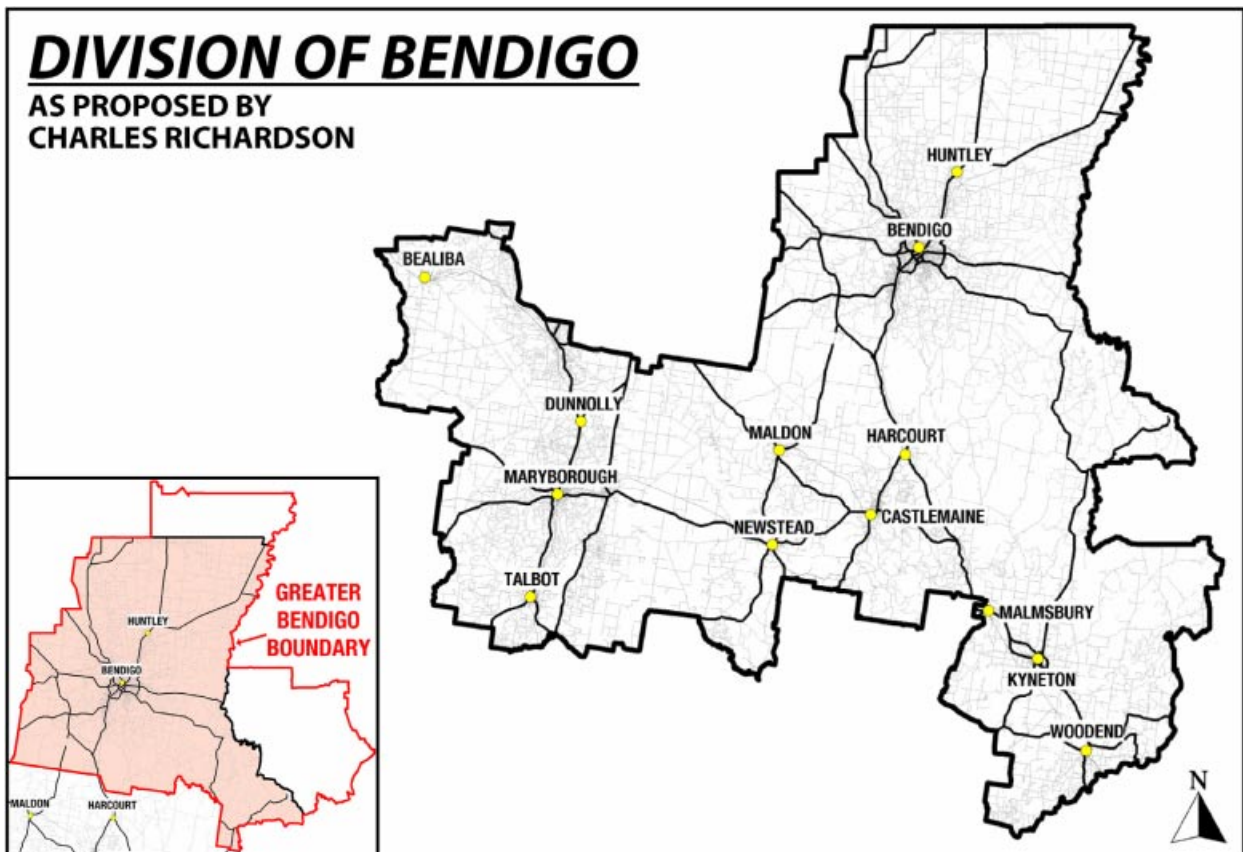
*'The criteria set out in sub-section 66(3)(b) of the Act – community of interests, means of communication and travel, physical features and area, and boundaries of existing Divisions – are **subordinate** to the objective of enrolments in proposed divisions...' – 1994 Redistribution of Victoria into Electoral Divisions, page 134, section 18.*

As Charles Richardson and the Australian Labor Party have submitted the two wider ranging submissions but have neglected to provide maps of their proposed changes, the Liberal Party has taken the liberty of creating maps based on their proposed text offered changes for the Divisions that we feel do not stand up to scrutiny.

This Submission is a detailed analysis regarding objections and the inconsistencies evident to the Liberal Party of submissions received by the augmented Electoral Commission for Victoria.

Calwell/McEwen/Bendigo:





The Redistribution Committee must be commended for the decision to remove Craigieburn from McEwen and unite it with the other satellite areas within Calwell in the draft boundaries handed down. This has allowed the redrawing of Calwell to be identical to the City of Hume's local government boundary.

An interesting point to note is that in Charles Richardson's own initial submission to the Redistribution Committee for Victoria, he offered:

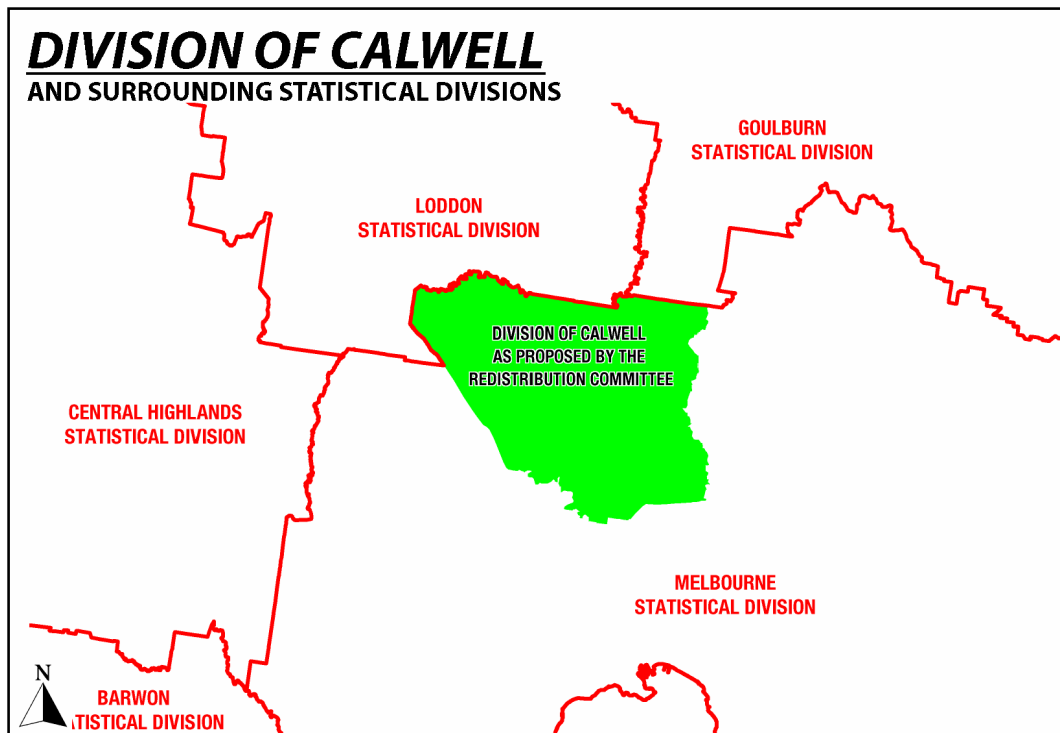
"The new municipal boundaries (restructured in 1993-95) are an obvious place to look when new boundaries are required, and themselves provide a reason for change when electoral boundaries can be aligned with them by making minor alterations." - Suggestions on the Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in Victoria by Charles Richardson, Preliminary Remarks, page 2.

He then proceeds to add that:

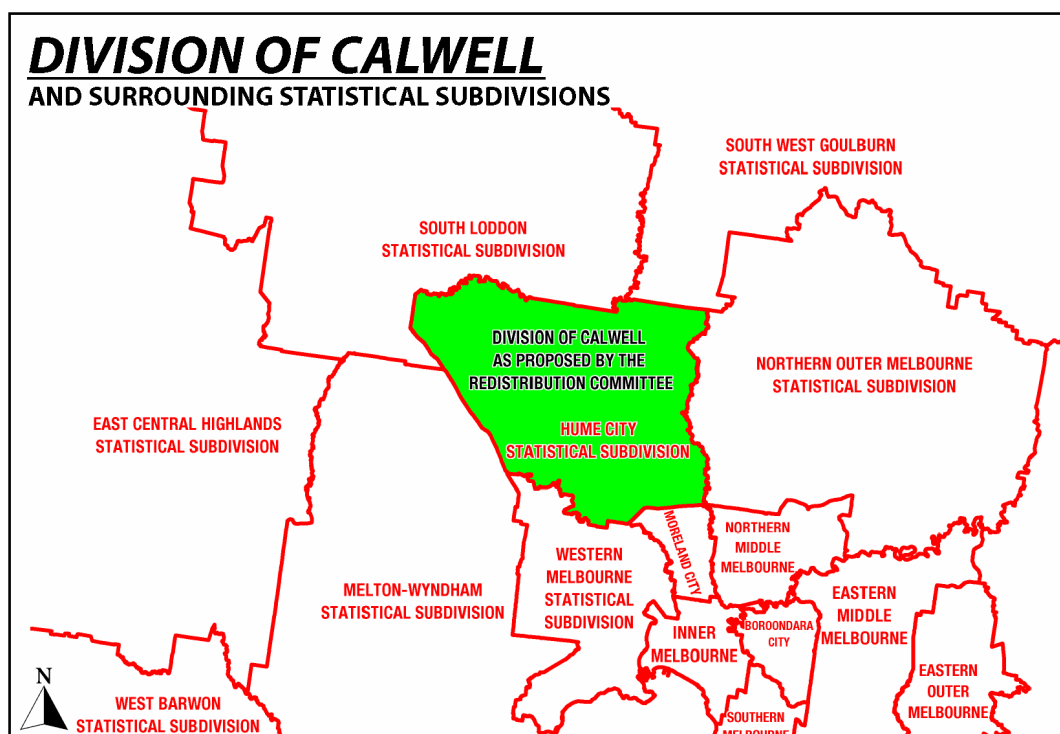
"Mention should also be made of the official definition of locality (suburb, town and rural district) boundaries in all Victorian municipalities, carried out during 1998-99. These official boundaries provide a rich source of new boundaries for electoral divisions." - Suggestions on the Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in Victoria by Charles Richardson, Preliminary Remarks, page 2.

Not only does the Redistribution Committee's proposed Division of Calwell meet these two previously stated criteria, it also stands up to the use of the of Statistical Divisions and Statistical Subdivisions.

A Statistical Division (SD) is an Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) defined area which represents a large, general purpose, regional type geographic area. SDs represent relatively homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable social and economic links between the inhabitants and between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities. Below is a map showing the current Statistical Divisions in relation to the draft Division of Calwell suggested by the Redistribution Committee.



The Statistical Subdivision (SSD) is an Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) defined area which represents an intermediate level, general purpose, regional type geographic unit. Below is a map showing the current Statistical Subdivisions in relation to the draft Division of Calwell suggested by the Redistribution Committee.



To compensate for the changes proposed to Calwell and McEwen, Charles Richardson has suggested a transfer of population into the south east area of the Division of Bendigo. This transfer of population would cause Bendigo to be over populated and thus Charles Richardson suggests transferring areas around the townships of Elmore and Heathcote in Greater Bendigo into the Division of Murray, and further causing another municipal boundary to be split between two Divisions in regional Victoria.

An interesting point to note is that in Charles Richardson's own initial submission to the Redistribution Committee for Victoria, he offered:

"The new municipal boundaries (restructured in 1993-95) are an obvious place to look when new boundaries are required, and themselves provide a reason for change when electoral boundaries can be aligned with them by making minor alterations." - Suggestions on the Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in Victoria by Charles Richardson, Preliminary Remarks, page 2.

It is clear that the proposed changes to these three Divisions by Charles Richardson, is change offered for the sake of change and does nothing to improve the community of interests through this region. After continually arguing for the importance of municipal boundaries in his initial submission as well as the objections submission, Charles Richardson has chosen to disregard this important principle. The Redistribution Committee has largely consolidated municipal boundaries in the region by including the entire City of Hume within the draft boundary of Calwell. Charles Richardson would prefer an outcome which would have an extra split municipal boundary in McEwen, an additional split municipal boundary in Calwell and the first time split the City of Greater Bendigo between two Federal Divisions.

Other Suggested Changes to Divisions:

In his Objections Submission, Charles Richardson proposes a number of other changes to Divisions namely Aston, Bruce, Deakin, Dunkley, Flinders, Gellibrand, Gippsland, Gorton, Holt, Indi, Isaacs, Jagajaga, Lalor, Menzies, McMillan, Maribyrnong, Murray and Scullin.

Aston/Deakin/Menzies

The Liberal Party supports this proposal of Charles Richardson, which is consistent with the submission by the Maroondah City Council in part regarding the transfer of the area south of Williams and Oban Roads from Menzies to Deakin. In our own Objections Submission, we have discussed in depth, the splitting of the homogenous community of Ringwood North

Bruce/Holt/Isaacs

Charles Richardson has suggested some minor boundary realignments between the Divisions of Bruce, Holt and Isaacs which the Liberal Party agrees would further strengthen community of interest and allow for more definable boundaries.

Gippsland/McMillan

The Liberal Party supports the proposed changes to Gippsland and McMillan by Charles Richardson, which is consistent with our own Objections Submission in which we have discussed in depth, the redrawing of the Gippsland region which further strengthens the community of interests.

Jagajaga/McEwen/Scullin

It has been suggested by Charles Richardson that some minor boundary realignments could occur between the Divisions of Jagajaga, McEwen and Scullin which the Liberal Party agrees with in principle and that more definable boundaries are needed in these area rather than minor streets and arbitrary lines. As shown in the Liberal Party's Objection Submission, this can be achieved with very minor changes through these three Divisions.