



Objection 411

Mr Joel A McAlister

7 pages

Objections to the AEC's proposed redistribution in Victoria

I wish to begin this formal objection by noting the following: that I commend the AEC on its decision to remove Higgins as an electorate, as it was evident that an electorate from the inner suburbs and likely the inner eastern suburbs was necessary on the basis of the data as provided by the ABS. Additionally, I support the decisions made to expand the electorate of Casey as necessary through the addition of the localities of Bend of Islands, Christmas Hills, and portions of Panton Hill and Kinglake. These were the most appropriate regions to add to the electorate should it require, as it has been deemed necessary, to expand. My objections stem from a variety of factors including the [Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918](#), which states that the Redistribution Committee consider “(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 (iv) the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division; and (v) the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State;”. These objections listed in this document adhere to these principles and concern the proposed addition of specific localities to electorates, as well as the removal of specific localities from electorates.

Names of electorates

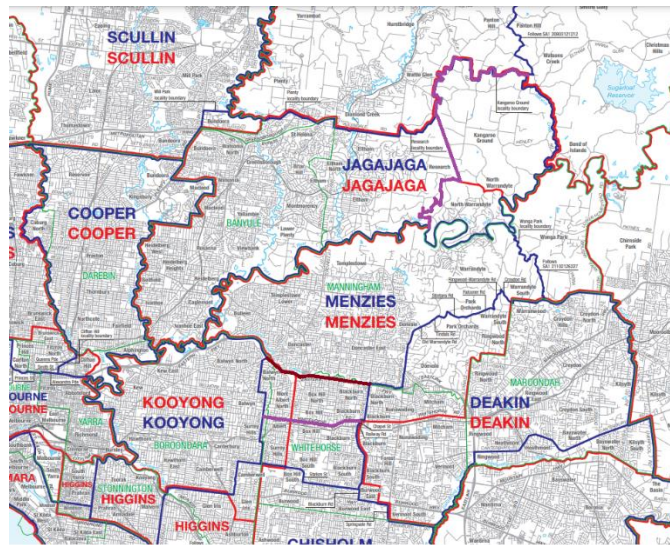
I support the AEC's decision to retain the existing name of electorates for voter's convenience, especially given the recent nature of the last electoral boundary change. With regards to this it is rational to not confuse electors still within the boundaries of their previous electorates through any changes to the electorate names.

Objections Regarding Electorates

Menzies:

Objection pertaining to the addition of Box Hill and the surrounding suburbs transferred to Menzies from Chisholm. The objection stems from the substantial demographical, geographic and economic differences between the transferred areas and the former regions of the electorate of Menzies. The [Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918](#) Section 66, 3b states that the redistribution committee should “give due consideration” to amongst others the “community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests”. This is due to the large differences between electors present in Box Hill and its surrounds to those already in Menzies. I propose the sections transferred to Menzies be part of a differing electorate with greater ties to the inner east of the city.

Proposed Alteration to correct the electorate:

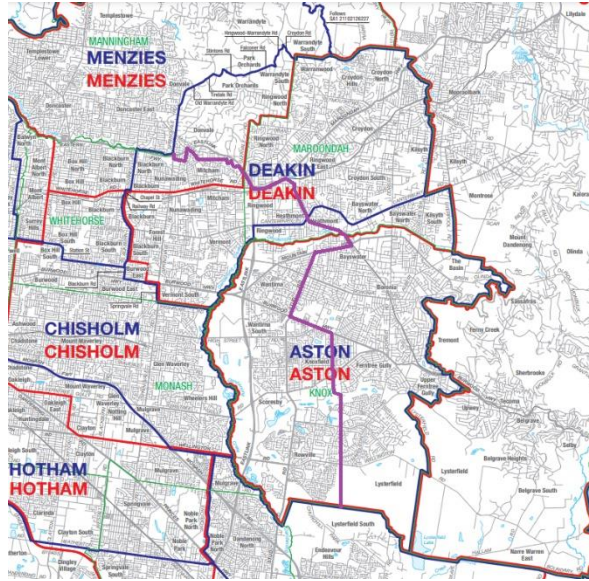


The Map shows the Purple boundaries as the minimum suggested, with the moron line at east link denoting the ideal.

That the Electorate of Menzies receive the [1208](#), [3027](#), [671](#) and [3835](#) electors from Kangaroo Ground, North Warrandyte, Warrandyte South and Park Orchards respectively (Australian Census, 2021). That the [8491](#) electors (Australian Census, 2021) from Box Hill South and its surrounds be transferred instead to the either of the electorates of Kooyong or Chisholm. This would position Menzies to have a more homogenous population of electors, and place Box Hill with more similar populations of electors, with a more distinct and representative electorate as is suggested by the AEC.

Objection to boundary changes for Aston & Deakin:

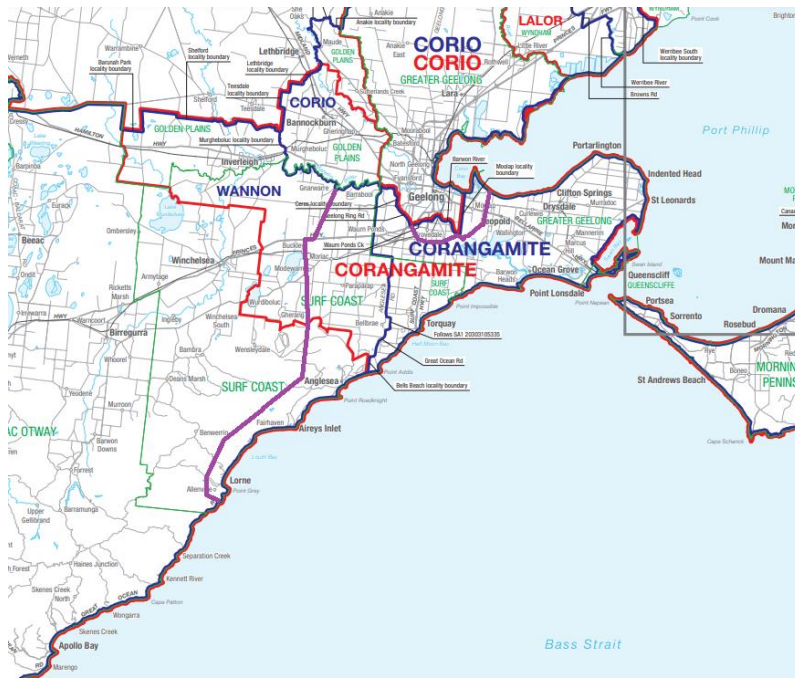
The boundaries for Aston and Deakin have been moved further into the city of Melbourne, resulting in increased underrepresentation for electors in the outer suburban portions of these electorates. I recommend to the committee that these be changed to include fewer new areas closer into the city or if as is likely due to the removal of Higgins as an electorate, that the boundaries changes below be made to resolve this problem.



The Map above shows a proposal for the new boundaries between Aston and Deakin, along the East/West divide.

In place of the current boundaries proposed, the electorates should be divided, not north and south, but east and west, or more precisely divide between middle and outer suburbs. This division would better represent the populations within them, as there remain more similar populations these areas based upon their proximity to the CBD, and the inner suburbs rather than by their latitudes. I argue that the communities such as Upper Ferntree Gully, and Croydon, for instance, have greater similarities in their concerns, in their lives and the issues that affect them than with the community in Burwood as an example. I believe this change would enable both inner, and outer suburban populations of Melbourne's east greater representation which is more reflective of their populations and the lines of work, housing, and other factors which affect the concerns individuals face, than the current division.

Objection to boundary changes for Corangamite



Proposed alterations to Corangamite, include adding more of the surrounding areas along the surf coast and into the main so as to balance the population changes, the areas of Grovedale and Moolap would be removed.

I object to the removal of several of the coastal areas of the division of Corangamite, from Anglesea to Lorne, as well as the removal of more inland portions of the electorate, as it erodes the Surf Coast and Bellarine peninsular status of the electorate, turning it into more of a satellite electorate to Corio and Geelong. To amend this I propose that Corangamite should receive Anglesea, Inverleigh Bellbrae, Lorne and Aries Inlet. These areas have respective populations of [3208](#), [1346](#), [1746](#) [1327](#) and [979](#) people (Australian Census, 2021). While surrendering more of the greater Geelong area to the electorate of Corio, including Grovedale and Moolap, with populations of [14869](#), and [1825](#) respectively. By including the intermittent areas in the aforementioned areas to be added to Corangamite the area would receive an amount similar to the number of electors lost. Thereby reducing the population who have greater connections to Geelong than the Bellarine and Surf Coast present in the electorate and creating a more representative boundary.

Miscellaneous recommendations:

- That Clifton Hill population [6,606](#) and Northcote population [24,561](#) (Australian Census, 2021) be added into the electorate of Wills, and instead that Coburg North population [8,327](#), Fawkner population [14,002](#), Hadfield population [6,269](#), (Australian Census, 2021) be included in the electorate of Cooper.
- I recommend that McEwen maintain the boundaries proposed by the AEC in this redistribution as it helps to resolve the electorate's identity crisis as either a seat for the outer North-West or North-East and makes it a more coherent entity.
- That minimal amendments be made to rural seats.

Joel McAlister

I would like to note a few additional concerns I hold for the final amendments. For instance, while I believe that the changes to the boundaries of Nicholls, in losing Emu Flat, and gaining Kilmore, appear relatively arbitrary and largely unnecessary, do not constitute enough of a distinction to warrant any change to the proposed redistribution concerning them. However, I humbly suggest that the redistribution refrain from too serious an attempt to redraw the boundaries of rural seats such as Nicholls. I also am concerned that there will be a general reduction of outer suburb seats, or that outer suburban and periurban areas will be merged with middle suburban and inner suburban localities which may undermine the representation of those communities, I advise the committee against such action.

Finally, I note that for all electorates which I have not mentioned in this document, I have no substantial opposition to their new boundaries as they are in this current redistribution.

I thank the redistribution committee for their consideration of these objections as well as the proposed alterations to resolve them. I hope that you may find them of benefit to you during this process, and that you may adjust the current boundaries to reflect some of these concerns. Sincerely, Mr Joel A. McAlister.

Joel McAlister

References

The following sources were referenced in writing this formal objection:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021). *Census*. Abs.gov.au; Commonwealth of Australia. <https://www.abs.gov.au/census>
- Australian Electoral Commission. (2024a). Map of the proposed Commonwealth electoral divisions of Gippsland, Indi, Mallee, Monash, Nicholls and Wannon [Online Map]. In *AEC*. <https://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2023/vic/proposed-redistribution/maps/comparison/2024-AEC-Victoria-Composite-Victoria-proposed.pdf>
- Australian Electoral Commission. (2024b, May 31). *Proposed redistribution for Victoria*. Australian Electoral Commission; Australian Electoral Commission. <https://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2023/vic/proposed-redistribution/>
- Australian Electoral Commission. (2024c). Victoria Composite Melbourne Metropolitan Proposed [Online Map]. In *AEC*. <https://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2023/vic/proposed-redistribution/maps/comparison/2024-AEC-Victoria-Composite-Melb-Metro-Proposed.pdf>
- Australian Electoral Commission. (2024d). Victoria Composite Outer Melbourne Proposed [Online Map]. In *AEC*. <https://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2023/vic/proposed-redistribution/maps/comparison/2024-AEC-Victoria-Composite-Outer-Melb-Proposed.pdf>
- Australian Electoral Commission. (2024e, May 31). *Victorian federal redistribution*. Australian Electoral Commission; Australian Electoral Commission. <https://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2023/vic/objections.html>

- An Act to Consolidate and Amend the Law relating to Parliamentary Elections and for other purposes, no. 16th Act of 1918, House of Representatives, Senate (1918).

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/C1918A00027/2023-03-27/text>