Comment on suggestions 10

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2 pages

Comments on Suggestions Victorian electoral Redistribution

In addition to my submission, I would like to make some comments on the submissions received by others.

General Comments:

There have been some excellent submissions. I particularly endorse S63 and the one by Trent Wilson, as they address many of the issues raised in my original submission. Two other excellent submissions by Darren McSweeney and Mark Mulcair are also noteworthy.

Naming:

I recommended that Hotham be retired if the submissions of Trent Wilson or S63 are accepted. Hotham will be abolished, so the name can be retired. Other submissions have suggested that either McEwen or Casey be abolished. If McEwen is abolished, then Casey would be retired. Casey is a name worth retaining, so Mark Mulcair's proposal of having names in the east reassigned with Chisholm being used instead of Hotham and Casey used for an eastern suburbs division is something that I would support. Other suggestions have proposed that Barak replace Casey; I do not oppose this if the AEC decides to accept this proposal. However, Hotham, as a colonial name, is not worth retaining. The Labor Party has proposed that Tucker be used in place of Gellibrand. I support this proposal as well.

Northwest Melbourne:

The Liberal party has suggested that the seat of Maribyrnong be abolished. I strongly oppose this suggestion as Moonee Valley LGA forms a community of interest. Moonee Valley is much wealthier than surrounding LGAs, less industrial, less ethnically diverse, and has always consisted mostly of middle-class suburbs. In fact, the entire M79 corridor up to Sunbury has always been more middle-class than the Northern & Western suburbs. It has been suggested that Keilor be moved into Maribyrnong in some of the submissions. I support this, as Keilor is much more affluent than areas such as Delahey or St Albans. Hillside can then, in turn, be transferred into Gorton due to a better community of interest with Fraser Rise, Taylors Hill, and Caroline Springs.

South East Growth Corridor:

In addition to the comments, I made in my original submission, I described the South East Manufacturing Belt as a community of interest. The South East Growth corridor, based around Casey and Cardinia LGAs, should be examined. Both LGAs are part of the National Growth Areas Alliance and have taken in much of Melbourne's phenomenal population growth shaped by migration. The Growth corridor has a much younger demographic in contrast to surrounding areas. Being a growth area, this area should be adequately represented. Currently, Holt and La Trobe are badly drawn. The coastal hamlets along the western part, such as Cannons Creek and Tooradin, increasingly have little in common with Cranbourne, and Koo Wee Rup has little in common with Pakenham. These areas lie beyond the Urban Growth Boundary, including prime agricultural land growing much of Victoria's vegetables and will not experience the massive population growth and demographic change

expected in the Growth corridor. The proposals of Trent Wilson and S63 would allow La Trobe to focus on the Pakenham line growth corridor between Narre Warren and East Pakenham. This would allow La Trobe to be a suburban electorate rather than the hybrid one it currently is. It would also allow Holt to focus on the Cranbourne Line growth corridor, something I endorse.

Inner Melbourne:

I would strongly oppose any suggestion to have an electorate from Melbourne CBD to the Bay. I am open to having a simple crossing of the Yarra River that extends into Southbank or Fishermens Bend, but having Albert Park and Carlton in the same division with no community of interest is a bridge too far.

Outer East:

I also oppose extending Aston into very rural areas such as Narre Warren East, which has little in common with ethnically diverse and heavily suburban Wantirna South or Scoresby. If Aston needs to be extended, it ought to follow the Belgrave line to include Upwey and Tecoma or extend north to include Bayswater North.