



# Suggestion 53

Josh Gilligan

2 pages

15 November 2017

Dear Redistribution Committee,

I make a submission in my capacity as an elector in the federal division of Lalor who also holds public office as a local councillor at Wyndham City Council.

My submission pertains to the Federal seat of Lalor and the proposed redistribution's impact on the municipal boundaries of the electorate.

### **Wyndham City Council boundary is parallel to current Lalor federal boundary**

The proposed redistribution for the federal seat of Lalor is likely to result in substantial boundary changes arising from the current boundaries being well over quota in what is acceptable under the AEC guidelines. This is clear given the maximum permissible number of electorates plus 3.5% by 2019 is still over 36,000 more than the current boundary allows.

It is therefore critical that any boundary shift takes into consideration the subsequent impact on the municipal boundaries of one of Australia's fastest growing local councils, Wyndham City Council. The easier option available to the AEC will be to redistribute remaining portions of suburbs that still remain in the boundaries but where the majority of the overall suburb lay outside the Lalor boundary.

This would therefore quite appropriately enable the following suburbs to be redistributed out of Lalor and into the joining electorate, Gellibrand:

- Altona Meadows (3,294 projected electors)
- Seabrook (3,346 projected electors)
- Laverton (4,996 projected electors)

### **Wyndham's reliance on industrial precinct in Truganina**

The AEC must consider the impact of any redistribution of Truganina into Gellibrand on the municipal boundary of Wyndham City Council. Currently, "Wyndham's Industrial Estate" largely presides in the federal electorate of Lalor and within the Wyndham City Council boundary.

Any decision by the AEC to shift Truganina into Gellibrand could result in a realignment of the municipal boundary to transfer Truganina out of Wyndham City Council. This would create significant risk to the industrial rates base of the municipality & impact on the business and community harmony that continues to be developed in this growth corridor.

Wyndham City Council's industrial rates revenue is approximately 18 million per annum with a significant portion of this revenue being derived from the suburb of Truganina where the major industrial zone of the municipality is located.

This could lead to substantial issues in terms of investment uncertainty in the business sector and a dispute over the ultimate boundary ownership as council considers the risk of future investment around the portion of the municipality that may ultimately be redistributed to another municipality. It is on the basis of these factors that I believe Truganina should remain within the Lalor boundary.

### **Point Cook to be redistributed out of Lalor boundary**

I believe it is in the best interests of the federal boundary redistribution to, where possible, redistribute entire suburbs out of the Lalor boundary to assist in the reduction of the over quota of maximum permissible electors.

The Point Cook suburb holds 28,188 projected electors and represents the greatest portion of the electorate proposed in this submission to be redistributed out of the Lalor boundary.

Due consideration should be given to the character of the division and the closer proximity that Point Cook has both in its municipal boundary to Hobsons Bay but also to the Gellibrand electorate. This in culmination with the Seabrook, Laverton and Altona Meadows suburbs being redistributed out of the Lalor boundary would result in a net reduction of 39,824 electors & puts Lalor within the appropriate level of permissible voters.

The proposal to move the suburbs of Point Cook, Laverton, Seabrook and Altona Meadows out of the Lalor boundary helps provide certainty to Wyndham City Council's future investment pipeline. It also mitigates disputes over boundary responsibilities as is frequently around community infrastructure in the area including Aircraft Station (bordering Hobsons Bay and Wyndham) and Point Cook Road amongst a myriad of other projects.

A scenario whereby parts of Tarneit and Truganina suburbs are redistributed out of the boundary instead of whole suburbs like Point Cook out of the boundary will likely further amplify this issue.

Thus, I am submitting that the AEC consider the possibility of Point Cook being redistributed out of the Lalor boundary in anticipation of a subsequent realignment of the municipal boundary.

### **Lalor's record population growth and subsequent elector growth**

The Lalor growth rate provides a unique challenge for the electorate boundary in terms of ensuring the commission balances the suburb growth with the community connectedness that each suburb has to the overall electorate.

A net reduction in the boundaries across Tarneit, Truganina and Point Cook is another theoretical approach but would, in my view, result in pushing these significant and fast growing suburbs into two federal seats and potentially within two municipal boundaries.

This would make managing greenfield development from a municipal perspective more difficult in terms of the requirements of cross council engagement and the subsequent issues that arise from that.

It is therefore why I have made the submission of requesting a redistribution of whole suburbs as opposed to the slicing and dicing of suburbs along the Lalor boundary into the Gorton and Gellibrand boundaries.

Regards

**Josh Gilligan**

**\*\*Please note this submission is made in an individual capacity and has not been brought before Wyndham City Council nor is this submission to be interpreted as a council position\*\*.**