



Comment on suggestion 1

Maroondah City Council

6 pages



VICTORIAN FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION 2020/21

Comment on 'suggestions'

Maroondah City Council expresses its grave concerns and strenuously opposes any 'suggestions' that would further split and fragment representation of electors within Maroondah, as put forward in 'suggestions' 24, 28, 31, 34, 70, 99, 100 & 101. All of these 'suggestions' would fracture communities of interest over the entire municipality of Maroondah and significantly split the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre and Croydon Major Activity Centre.

Council is particularly keen to ensure that communities of interest are not split, or portions of the community disadvantaged through dislocation from natural/behavioural centres of attraction.

Council most strongly reiterates its own position of the strong desire for less fragmentation of representation within its municipality and the suggestion of communities of interest within an individual municipality should be in one Division – preferably Deakin – covering the entire municipality for the ease of consultation and focused advocacy. Council therefore supports 'suggestions' 13, 43, 85, 97 & 90 advocating the inclusion of Warranwood within Deakin, which would see all of the City of Maroondah within the one electorate.

Maroondah's position is detailed in the attached submission hereunder, which due to technical issues experienced with internet connectivity on Wednesday 14 October at my home, was not received that date by the Victorian Redistribution Secretariat, and had to be re-submitted 2 days after the closing date on 18 October 2020.



Stephen Onans
Governance Advisor
For and on behalf of Maroondah City Council



SUBMISSION

VICTORIAN FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION 2020/21

14 October 2020

Overview

Public notice was given by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) that Victoria is undergoing a redistribution of House of Representative Divisions (seats) due to the number of Divisions increasing from 38 to 39, following a determination of the Electoral Commissioner on 15 July 2020.

When a Division is added it is also a requirement to review and assess all current Divisions against the prescribed statutory voter ranges, that are:

- Plus and minus 10% of the current enrolment quota; and
- Plus and minus 3.5% of the projected enrolment quota as at 26 January 2025.

The review process is undertaken by an Independent Redistribution Committee, supported by the AEC. At the present time it is very difficult to make any definitive comments and/or suggestions as no maps of possible boundary changes are yet available. The AEC has indicated that these will be available for comment in April next year 2021.

The public consultation process is quite extensive with several opportunities for public comment.

The initial stage of the redistribution process is focused on ideas, notions and principles re boundaries in addition to the names for the new division – *usually after Prime Ministers, Governor-Generals, Governors, prominent pioneers, and/or social workers.*

Consultation Period and Future Timings

Processes for consultation and timings are as follows:

September 2020

- Call for suggestions to the redistribution

October 2020

- Suggestions period closes
- Suggestions made available for viewing
- Comments on suggestions are able to be made
- Comments on suggestions period closes
- Comments on suggestions available for viewing

Nov 2020 to January 2021

- Redistribution Committee convenes to consider proposed Electoral Divisions

1st quarter (Jan - March) 2021

- Proposed Redistribution Report released

- Call for objections to the Proposed Redistribution
- Objections available for viewing
- Comments on objections are able to be made

2nd quarter (April - June) 2021

- Comments on objections period closes
- Comments on objections available for viewing
- Augmented Electoral Commission meets to determine Electoral Divisions
- Augmented Electoral Commission announces Electoral Divisions
- Further objection period (if required)

26 July 2021

- Augmented Electoral Commission makes determination of Electoral Divisions

After determination

- Report is tabled in Parliament

After tabling of report

- Report is made publicly available

Preliminary Analysis

Recognising that there are no maps yet available of possible boundary changes it is very difficult to make any definitive comments at the present time.

The City of Maroondah is currently covered by parts of two Divisions – Menzies in the north of the municipality, and Deakin representing the majority of the municipality (*refer Maps on pages 5 & 6*).

Fragmentation of Representation

Maroondah City Council is of the view that as a principle, the fragmentation of Federal representation across Victorian Councils should be lessened whenever possible.

Council is particularly keen to ensure that communities of interest are not split, or portions of the community disadvantaged through dislocation from natural/behavioural centres of attraction.

Council considers that the portion of Maroondah that is in the Menzies Division comprising Warranwood is dislocated from its natural major activity centres of Ringwood and Croydon. Single representation of these communities of interest would lead to a more balanced representation of these constituents within the Maroondah community.

The City of Maroondah is home to the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre, which is in the centre of the Deakin electorate. The Croydon Major Activity Centre is also within the Deakin electorate.

Council is of the view that the inclusion of Warranwood (which forms part of the City of Maroondah) in a single Division such as Deakin is highly desirable, and would result in a consolidation of community of interests and improved collective representation.

Accordingly, Council would be pleased to see the outcome of a redistribution with the aim of only 1 (one) Division covering the City of Maroondah.

Maps of the current Division boundaries across the City of Maroondah are attached to this submission.

Conclusion

Maroondah City Council most strongly advocates for the above comments to be considered and adopted by the Redistribution Secretariat to ease the current fragmentation of Federal representation across its municipality.

Council suggests that the electorate review should aim to ensure that communities of interest are not split, or portions of the community disadvantaged through dislocation from natural/behavioural centres of attraction.

Council frequently with advocates with other levels of Government and relationships with local members of parliament are critical. Therefore, Council's preference into the future is for Maroondah not to be fragmented, and that there be a single seat – preferably Deakin – covering the entire municipality for the ease of consultation and focused advocacy.

Steve Kozlowski
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL

14 October 2020



July 2018
**MAP OF THE FEDERAL
 ELECTORAL DIVISION OF
 MENZIES**



