



Further Objection Number 188

John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer, Loddon Shire

3 pages

From: Claire Ryan [cryan@loddon.vic.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 28 October 2010 4:15 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Subject: objection - augmented Electoral Commission proposal
Attachments: Loddon.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please see attached letter of objection from Loddon Shire Council.

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Australian Electoral Commission
Victorian Redistribution Secretariat
GPO Box 9867
2 Lonsdale St
MELBOURNE VIC 8060

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Augmented Electoral Commission Proposal

I wrote to you on the 26 August 2010, setting out the Loddon Shire's view on the previous proposal for an electoral redistribution for Victoria. Thank you for considering Council's submission.

Council has now considered the proposal of the augmented Electoral Commission and wishes to make further comment.

The Loddon Shire Council believes that the people of the Shire of Loddon have a community of interest centred on the major regional city which lies immediately to its south – Bendigo.

Bendigo provides a vast array of services to the people of Loddon. The City of Bendigo draws people to its extensive retail sector and service sector to meet their personal and business needs on a daily and weekly basis.

The Australian Electoral Commissions current proposal places all of the people who reside in the Loddon Shire in the proposed Murray electorate. Council understands that this is effectively a status quo arrangement for its community but believes that the people of Loddon can be better served by being represented by the member for Bendigo.

There is a significant advantage to communities in having reasonable and convenient access to their member of parliament. If the people of Loddon are represented by the Member for Bendigo, Council believes the Member will have a clear appreciation of the issues that affect the people of the Loddon Shire given its close proximity to the City of Bendigo and the people of Loddon's regular interaction with Bendigo and its community.

Council is aware that in developing a proposed electoral redistribution that the Commission must meet the challenge of ensuring that the number of voters in each electorate is reasonably similar. I note that by including the Loddon Shire within the electorate of Bendigo that estimated enrolments in Bendigo will increase from 98,000 to approximately 103,000 which will remain well within the tolerance acceptable to the commission. A flow on consequence of Council's suggested inclusion of Loddon Shire into the electorate of Bendigo will be a reduction in enrolments in Murray from 88,700 to approximately 83,700. This appears to be on the lower side of that which may be acceptable to the commission, however I note that the Shire of Moira is covered by both the proposed Murray and Indi Electorates and there may be potential for the commission to consider including the entire Moira Shire within the Murray Electorate thus bolstering the enrolments in the Murray Electorate whilst still leaving Indi with an acceptable level of enrolments.

Council respectfully asks that you review the proposed redistribution and find a way to include the entire Loddon Shire community into the Bendigo Division.

In the meantime should you require any further information please contact me on Ph. 5494 1205.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McLinden', written in a cursive style.

John McLinden
Chief Executive Officer
27 October 2010

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