



Further Objection Number 196

Cheryl & Alan Phillips

2 pages

From: Cheryl Phillips
Sent: Saturday, 30 October 2010 5:51 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Cc: jpbeales@bigpond.net.au; cris@kinglakeolivegrove.com; rob.mitchell@alp.org.au
Subject: Objection to the augmented Electoral Commission's proposal for McEwen
Attachments: C&A Phillips Submission to Redistribution Secretariat of Victoria.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

Please accept the attached submission objecting to the proposed changes to the electorate of McEwen.

Regards
Cheryl & Alan Phillips.

30th October 2010

Cheryl & Alan Phillips

To the Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission
Level 8, Casselden Place,
2 Lonsdale St, Melbourne Vic 3000

Dear Sir/Madam,

We formally submit to you our objections to the proposed changes to the boundaries of the McEwen and Indi electorates.

We were unaware of **any** changes to the above boundaries until the evening of 29/10/10, and clearly not only has there been **no** consultation with the communities and local councils involved regarding the potential ramifications of the redistribution, but it was also not a topic of discussion leading up to the last Federal election. The area of the Kinglake Ranges is now at risk of being stuck on the outer most southern edge of a very large electorate with little or no importance, connection, or commonalities with the larger north eastern region of the proposed Indi electorate.

For much of the history of the Kinglake Ranges and surrounding districts, we have been divided by the boundaries of different local councils, urban & rural departments such as Ambulance services, local post code areas (which are used by government departments for statistics!!), and therefore have needed to fight extremely hard to be recognised as an important growing area needing services and infrastructure in our own right, instead of just being a junction on a map.

This proposed change would make the Kinglake Ranges insignificant once again in the larger scheme of things and something that our Murrindindi Shire Council, local community groups & individuals, tourism organisations, even State Government Departments have worked extremely hard to redress over recent years. Kinglake Ranges is closer to the urban fringe of Melbourne's growing outer northern suburbs and connects with the shires of Yarra Ranges, Nillumbik, Whittlesea & Mitchell, this is where residents traditionally commute for work, secondary schools & services and would like to be included in the decision making regarding **our local issues**. Being in the electorate of McEwen allows the Federal Member to lobby for services & issues that are relevant to us & many of the neighbouring local councils and communities, and gives the Kinglake Ranges voters a sense of inclusion as we are not in this case divided by a boundary. The Federal member for Indi would be hard pressed to connect with all the constituents in the enormous north-south electorate proposed, which would be of no benefit to anyone.

Combining this with the devastation of the Kinglake Ranges & Murrindindi Shire in the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires and the fact that people are still feeling disenfranchised, we vehemently request that before any changes are made to the electoral boundaries of McEwen a comprehensive community consultation process should be undertaken to address the concerns of all the communities and local government areas involved.

Yours sincerely,

Cheryl & Alan Phillips