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**Further Objection Number 209**

**Dr Mark Mulcair**

**4 pages**

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**From:** Mark Mulcair  
**Sent:** Monday, 1 November 2010 1:08 PM  
**To:** VIC Redistribution  
**Subject:** Further objections to Victorian Boundaries 2010  
**Attachments:** Vic Obj 2.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Committee members,

Please find attached my Further Objections to the Augmented Committee's proposals of 21st October.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Dr Mark Mulcair

## **“FURTHER OBJECTIONS” TO VICTORIAN REDISTRIBUTION 2010**

### **Original boundaries:**

I tend to prefer the original boundaries as proposed by the Committee back in July. While it had some unfortunate aspects, such as Lalor pushing into northern Geelong, I felt it did a good job in organising the Divisions in the north and west of the state. McEwen in particular was more logical as a mostly rural seat, and Burke had a coherency as an outer north-western division.

In contrast, retaining Murray has forced the Committee to undo many of these changes. McEwen remains an awkward urban/rural hybrid division, and the proposed changes extend its east-west nature in an area where all lines of communication run north-south. The changes also force a split of Mitchell Shire, Moira Shire, Colac-Otway Shire, a split of the Bellarine Peninsula, and leave Central Goldfields as a very awkward north-eastern appendage to Wannon.

**My first preference would be for the Committee to adopt the original boundaries as proposed by the Committee, subject to the Objections I have previously lodged. I believe these boundaries were superior to those now proposed by the Augmented Committee.**

However, if this is not possible, I would offer these recommendations as to how the Augmented Committee's proposals could be improved.

### **1) McEwen/Scullin:**

The Committee proposes that Scullin stretch further eastwards to take in more of Nillumbik Council. However, this leaves the growing South Morang/Mernda area split, and cuts the northern parts off from their community of interest in Epping and Mill Park (in Scullin). Likewise, the more semi-rural Nillumbik area is a much better fit in McEwen than in an outer suburban division.

I suggest the boundary in South Morang be moved north to Craigieburn Road, Epping Road, Bridge Inn Road, and the Plenty River, uniting all of South Morang and most of the developed parts of Mernda in Scullin. In exchange, I suggest the boundary in Nillumbik return to the existing Scullin/McEwen boundary along Yan Yean Road and Ryans Road, placing Hurstbridge and Wattle Glen together with the bulk of Diamond Creek in McEwen.

These changes would balance out at around 10,000 electors each, leaving both divisions within tolerance.

## **2) Melbourne/Wills/Maribyrnong/Gellibrand/Lalor:**

I propose a series of minor changes to improve the boundaries of these divisions:

- 1) I still believe that Park Street and the former railway alignment is the strongest boundary between Melbourne and Wills in the Fitzroy North area. Making this change would transfer around 2000 electors from Melbourne to Wills, which Melbourne can easily accommodate given it is close to the top of tolerance.
- 2) This gain puts Wills over quota, and it can then shed the Strathmore area to Maribyrnong, as originally proposed by the Committee. This removes around 3800 electors from Wills and provides a more logical boundary in the area.
- 3) Maribyrnong, now above tolerance, can adopt a better boundary with Gellibrand in the Maidstone area. I suggest using Ballarat Road (east of Ashley Street), which is a more obvious boundary than Suffolk Street. This would transfer around 2300 electors, bringing Maribyrnong back within tolerance.
- 4) Finally, I suggest placing all of Altona Meadows north of Central Avenue into Lalor, moving the proposed boundary in the area from Merton Street to Laverton Creek. Around 2000 electors are transferred from Gellibrand to Lalor, ensuring Gellibrand does not go above quota with the gain from Maribyrnong.

## **3) Higgins/Goldstein/Hotham (Carnegie):**

The proposed boundary appears to follow the Carnegie suburb boundary along minor side streets, whereas North Road would be a far stronger and more obvious boundary. Straightening the boundary along North Road would transfer 1200 electors from Goldstein to Higgins, and 650 from Hotham to Higgins. All three divisions can easily tolerate these changes.

## **4) Higgins/Hotham (Oakleigh):**

I still believe the municipal boundary along Poath Road and Princes Highway (as suggested in my original Submission) is a stronger boundary than the railway line and Warrigal Road. Removing the small portion of Monash Council currently in Higgins reduces by one the number of divisions into which Oakleigh is split. This change would transfer around 1500 electors in Oakleigh into Hotham.

## **5) Aston/Lalor:**

While I strongly support transferring parts of Boronia and Bayswater to Aston, I object to the use of the Boronia/The Basin suburb boundary between Miller Road and Forest Road. This

boundary runs along a minor street and an arbitrary line, and would be confusing for locals. I suggest instead using Albert Avenue (as suggested in my original Submission). This change would only involve around 1200 electors, which both divisions can accommodate.

**6) Calwell/Maribyrnong:**

To avoid confusion, I recommend straightening the boundary in the Keilor Park area to run along the Calder Freeway and Western Ring Road, rather than making the deviations onto Old Calder Highway and the railway line. This would only involve a handful of electors.