



Further Objection Number 213

Margaret Rae

3 pages

From:
Sent: Monday, 1 November 2010 2:10 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Subject: Re: objection to the augmented Electoral Commission's proposal
Attachments: objection to the newly revised boundaries for the seat of McEwen.doc

Dear Sir

Please find attached my objection to the augmented Electoral Commission's proposal in respect of the seat of McEwen.

If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Rae

Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 9867
Melbourne
Vic 8060

30 October 2010

To the Redistribution Secretariat:

I write as a resident of Murrindindi Shire and as President of the Alexandra District Hospital Board of Management to register a formal objection to the newly revised boundaries for the seat of McEwen.

The reasoning behind the initial proposed redistribution for McEwen was clearly supportable and, in spite of the fact that the seat became geographically enlarged, the synergies between the groupings included within the new boundaries were still clearly aligned.

However, the revised proposal which provides for the reinstatement of the seat of Murray, the deletion of the proposed seat of Burke and the redrawing of McEwen boundaries to provide for a geographically smaller but more densely populated seat has resulted in an extremely undesirable outcome. The newly proposed boundary for McEwen now excludes the Shire of Murrindindi. This shire, which has its most significant and strategic links with the groups within the existing seat of McEwen, is now placed in the seat of Indi. This has a number of key disadvantages; apart from the fact that this makes the seat of Indi geographically enormous, Murrindindi has no key linkages or synergies with other groups or shires to its northeast.

The key drivers for the shire are development and tourism, particularly post the 2009 bushfires. Strategic partnerships are already well established in central Victoria and also towards metropolitan Melbourne; these are currently encompassed in the seat of McEwen and work together strongly to achieve the development needs of the area. To place these closely allied groupings in separate federal electorates will serve only to weaken their voice and has the potential to stultify or even negate the goals they are trying to achieve.

In particular, the health needs of the shire are covered by Hume Health and by its Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs). Alexandra District Hospital and Community Health Service is the key health provider in the eastern part of the shire; Yea District Hospital and Community Health Service acts similarly for the western part of the shire. Both of these health service providers are active partners of the Lower Hume PCP – members of this PCP include Seymour Hospital, Seymour Mental Illness, Central Highlands Division of General Practice in Gisborne, Goulburn Valley Health in Shepparton, Kilmore and District General Hospital, Mitchell Shire Council, Murrindindi Shire Council and others. With the introduction of the National Health Reform initiated by the Federal Government currently under way and with the existing working models of service delivery in Victoria being endorsed and retained, it would be significantly detrimental to have the voice of health for this area split across yet another electoral division and thus potentially diminished. The involvement by and interaction with the Federal Government will increase significantly as these reforms progress.

The social, economic, health and tourism imperatives for Murrindindi Shire are driven by and drawn from the areas south and west of the shire and the key linkages for all providers already exist within the seat of McEwen. The shire sees itself as having strong linkages with the metropolitan area and needs to maintain these connections as it seeks

to rebuild. A single voice in the federal setting is therefore critical to maximizing its future opportunities.

Whilst the electoral numbers for each seat cannot be disregarded, it is vital that other criteria around social and economic issues are balanced with this factor in arriving at the most equitable and satisfactory outcome.

An alternative and more satisfactory solution for consideration by revisiting the proposed redistributions could be as follows:

	Actual enrolment	Projected enrolment
Murray	96110	100085
add Mitchell N	7240	7198
add Mitchell S (part) (<i>estimate</i>)	5000	6000
remove Moira E	5924	6222
remove Strathbogie	7332	7683
	95094	99378
 Indi	 93799	 98015
add Moira E	5924	6222
add Strathbogie	7332	7683
remove Murrindindi E	4739	4853
remove Murrindindi W	5224	5459
	97092	101608
 McEwen	 90003	 104401
add Murrindindi E	4739	4853
add Murrindindi W	5224	5459
remove Mitchell N	7240	7198
remove Mitchell S (part)(<i>estimate</i>)	5000	6000
	87726	101515

This would keep LGAs relatively intact with the exception of those which were already split across electorates. It would also maintain the integrity of the partnerships and alliances which exist and enable the voice of electorates to be heard clearly.

A review of the proposed boundaries for the seat of McEwen is therefore sought on the basis of the compelling social, economic and developmental issues which face the shire and which it shares with its strategic partners.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Rae