



Comment on objections 96

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To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
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The Chair and Members
Augmented Electoral Commission for Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission

Dear Chair and Members

I write in response to the public objections (received up to 4 May 2018) to the Redistribution Committee's proposed Commonwealth electoral division boundaries for Victoria released on 6 April 2018. I do so as a Moonee Valley resident, although not resident in the Flemington/Kensington/Travancore area.

I am sympathetic to the many (40+) objectors from Flemington, Kensington and Travancore who have expressed concern (and in some cases, dismay) that their communities (which have long historical links) might be separated not only by local government and state electoral boundaries, but also by Commonwealth electoral boundaries.

As I set out in my 4 May 2018 objection, it is practical to place Flemington, Kensington and Travancore in the same electoral division but more challenging (and less compliant with the statutory criteria that the augmented Commission must either follow or consider) to do so by placing those suburbs in the Division of Melbourne than in the Division of Maribyrnong. In summary:

- the City of Melbourne is already divided between the Divisions of Melbourne and Melbourne Ports, albeit along a very strong natural (Yarra River) and artificial (Coode Canal) waterway boundary, which the 2018 proposed boundaries would sensibly maintain;
- the City of Yarra is already divided between the Divisions of Batman, Melbourne and Wills, mainly along state arterial and municipal collector roads – the 2018 proposed boundaries better resolve the Melbourne-Wills divisional boundary to follow a suburb/locality boundary but would further divide the suburb of Clifton Hill;
- the Flemington-Kensington-Travancore-in-Melbourne objectors appear unaware (or unconcerned) that their wish to be included in the Division of Melbourne would require Melbourne to have voters transferred out to Batman, Kooyong, Melbourne Ports/Macnamara or Wills, with significant (and on balance, negative) consequences for meeting the non-numerical statutory criteria;
- the Flemington-Kensington-Travancore-in-Melbourne objectors could practically be accommodated, in accordance with the numerical statutory criteria, only by transferring more voters from the Division of Melbourne to Batman, Wills or both (assuming the Yarra River boundary with Melbourne Ports/Macnamara is retained), which would have the effect of further dividing previously homogeneously

represented suburbs (Fitzroy, Collingwood, Abbotsford and North Fitzroy);

- Flemington-Kensington-Travancore-***in-any-one-division*** proponents can have their objectives accommodated by being all placed in Maribyrnong – without requiring other equally worthy groups of suburbs with strong associations (Fitzroy, Collingwood, Abbotsford and North Fitzroy, for example) to sacrifice their right to be represented by the same MP in Canberra;
- additionally, as I set out on 4 May, another suburb with strong historical associations (Clifton Hill, in relation to Fitzroy, Collingwood, Abbotsford and North Fitzroy) could be transferred to Melbourne (as it was until comparatively recently) if Flemington, Kensington and Travancore (and possibly the whole of the southern end of the Parish of Doutta Galla) are transferred to Maribyrnong, with the consequential adjustments elsewhere that I previously described.

I urge the augmented Commission to consider the above comments as its members deliberate. Please advise if it is proposed to hold any Inquiry into objections or comments. I look forward to the augmented Commission's proposed boundaries when available.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Gunter

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