



Comment on suggestion 42

Yarra Ranges Council

5 pages

From: Jones Steve
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: Yarra Ranges Council comment on suggestions – Victorian federal redistribution
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Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[Federal redistribution - Yarra Ranges Council comments on submissions.pdf](#)

The Secretariat, Redistribution Committee for Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission
Urban Workshop
50 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Re: Federal Redistribution Victoria

Please find attached the submission of Yarra Ranges Council, which contains comments on the suggestions received in respect of the redistribution of Victorian Federal electoral divisions.

I have been requested by the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that the submission is lodged prior to the closing time of 6pm on 1 December 2017.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email and the attached document.

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

Kind regards,

Steve.



Steve Jones
Governance Coordinator



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Victoria is undergoing a redistribution because the number of members of the House of Representatives it is entitled to has increased from 37 to 38.

The division of Casey begins in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne and extends into the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. The municipality of Yarra Ranges falls largely within the electoral division of Casey, with some parts to the south coming within La Trobe.

The number of electors enrolled in each federal electoral division in Victoria must be between 96,259 and 117,649. The current and projected enrolment for Casey is:

Electoral division	Enrolment as at Monday 4 September 2017	Projected enrolment at Sunday 25 August 2019	Is the requirement met?
Casey	105,287	107,625	Yes

The Council acknowledge that the creation of a new electoral division will require consequential boundary changes in order to ensure that all electoral divisions remain within the required numerical range.

A number of the submissions received propose some realignment to Casey, with the suggestions ranging from relatively small changes to something more significant.

The Council would advocate that the division of Casey remains unchanged for the following reasons:

- in 2010, Casey met both the numerical test and the communities of interest test, as it does today, and is one of only eight divisions that does not need to change its boundaries
- it has been the past practice of redistribution committees to utilise the boundaries of local government areas in rural and regional areas - the last redistribution in 2010 expanded Casey to take in the communities of Yarra Glen, Healesville, Warburton and the Upper Yarra, as well as extending the boundary to the north to make it coterminous with the northern boundary of the Council
- regular, modest growth ensures the ongoing viability of the existing option
- non-numerical considerations, as set out in s.66 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, should be applied to any proposed change

- the current boundaries of Casey are considered to work well in that they strongly reflect:
 - communities of interest
 - the incorporation of all major service centres in the one electorate
 - the importance of travel corridors in the area
 - the common economic interests, based on agriculture and tourism.

The Council notes that a number of the suggestions received propose a more significant realignment to the division of Casey. These appear to be as a consequence of proposed realignment elsewhere and to balance enrolments in neighbouring divisions.

The focus of a number of suggestions therefore appears to be more on the numerical side, rather than taking into account the non-numerical considerations set out in s.66 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act.

In particular, a number of suggestions propose expanding Casey into the Nillumbik Local Government Area that currently fall within the divisions of Scullin, McEwen and Jagajaga. This would take in the communities of Hurstbridge, Panton Hill, St. Andrews, Research, Kangaroo Ground, North Warrandyte, Wattle Glen and Diamond Creek.

At the same time, suggestions are also made to:

- transfer parts of Casey to Aston (Olinda), Deakin (Bayswater North and part of Croydon) and Menzies (Chirnside Park) [s.45]
- extend Casey south to Narre Warren East, Beaconsfield Upper and Pakenham Upper, so this becomes a regional seat based on the Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley [s.61]
- remove to Deakin and Menzies its remaining Maroondah C 14,046 electors. The suburb of Kilsyth, 6,979 electors and within Yarra Ranges S is also given to Deakin so as to unite both Kilsyth and Kilsyth South in the same Division. That also reflects the State electoral District boundaries of the Croydon seat. The overall effect is that Casey becomes a completely interface Council Division containing parts of both Nillumbik and Yarra Ranges [s.65]

Although submission no.62 notes that the “*proposed boundaries see the division retain the Yarra Ranges local government area*” this is not the case, given the proposed loss of Chirnside Park (to Menzies), Mount Dandenong-Olinda (to Aston), Montrose (to Aston). In respect of this particular submission, the submitter acknowledges that “*while not ideal, current populations in Eastern Victoria doesn’t allow any other options.*”

The Council considers that other options exist and is not supportive of the suggestions that see significant changes being proposed to Casey. We would draw the attention of the Committee to the following points:

- the areas brought into Casey in 2010 have a natural link to the urban communities at the western edge of the municipality and the division along the Maroondah Highway and Canterbury Road. This cannot be said of the communities within the Nillumbik Local Government Area
- although a number of submissions seek to exert the existence of communities of interest, comment no.3 in respect of public suggestions on the 2010 redistribution remains particularly relevant to the suggestions that seek to move Casey westwards: *“A number of submissions propose adding parts of Nillumbik to Casey, which I oppose. Despite the two councils being adjacent, there is almost no connection between them; for the most part they are separated by the Yarra River at a point where there is no crossing of it. Yarra Ranges Shire’s community of interest lies along the Yarra Valley toward Lilydale, whereas the rural parts of Nillumbik look back towards Eltham and Greensborough.”*
- on the option to push Casey into the Diamond Creek and/or Eltham area, submission no.25 highlights that *“On paper, these look geographically close, and share some of the semi-rural feel of the northern part of Casey. However, there is no direct connection across the river at this point. To travel from one side of Casey to another would require going through the Division of Menzies, or making a roundabout route along Eltham-Yarra Glen Road further north.”*
- some suggestions seek to place Chirnside Park in a different electoral division, whereas the Council regards Chirnside Park as a ‘Gateway’ into the municipality and the Yarra Valley. These Gateways strengthen our identity, our culture and heritage and create a sense of belonging for our community – this should remain in the same electoral division as the rest of the Yarra Valley
- submission 46 uses projected enrolment data and, in order to obtain the best communities of interest, makes use of the full tolerance limits. This submission proposes changes to changes to Aston, Deakin and La Trobe, leaving Casey unchanged
- fragmentation of Federal Representation across Councils, particularly in rural and regional areas, should be lessened whenever possible. The Council is keen to ensure that communities of interest are not split or portions of the community disadvantaged through dislocation from natural/behavioural centres of attraction.

The Council thanks the Redistribution Committee for the opportunity to make comments in respect of the submissions received and looks forward to the release of the draft boundaries.

Glenn Patterson
Chief Executive Officer