



Objection 157

Knox City Council

3 pages

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To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: [VIC REDISTRIBUTION OBJECTIONS] Tony Doyle *WWW* [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
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Victorian Redistribution objections uploaded from the AEC website.

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Additional information: Submission of Knox City Council is attached as per Council resolution of 23 April 2018.

SUBMISSION

VICTORIAN FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION 2017/18

26 May 2017

Overview

The Committee's proposed redistribution of federal electoral divisions in Victoria was released on Friday 6 April 2018

Knox City Council is currently covered by two electoral divisions, primarily Aston, with a portion to the north east in the division of La Trobe. The redistribution proposes that Knox be covered by the three electoral divisions of Aston, Casey and Bruce.

In Council's previous submission, Knox strongly supported expansion of the Aston electoral boundary to the east taking in Boronia, The Basin, Ferntree Gully and Upper Ferntree Gully. Having the effect of increasing voter numbers well within tolerance and provide for the entire Municipality to be covered by the Aston Electorate.

The recommendation by the redistribution committee, goes some way to achieving this by expanding the Aston Electoral Boundary to the east taking in Boronia, The Basin and Ferntree Gully. However, it does not extend to include Upper Ferntree Gully which is proposed to be located in the revised Electorate of Casey. It is recommended that the boundary for Aston be extended to include Upper Ferntree Gully.

The revised boundary also excises the Tirhatuan Golf Club and the Rowville Recreation Reserve out of Aston and into Bruce. There is no residential land within this geographical area. It is proposed that this area, which is within the Knox City Municipal Boundary be retained within Aston.

Knox City Council Submission

Council has considered the recommendations and strongly support further expansion of the Aston electoral boundary to the east to include Upper Ferntree Gully. It is further proposed that the area comprising the Tirhatuan Golf Course and Rowville Recreation Reserve, which is situated within the Knox City Council Municipal Boundary, be retained in the electoral division of Aston. These changes would have the effect of maintaining voter numbers well within tolerance, continue long established communities of interest and provide for the entire Municipality to be covered by the single electorate of Aston. The rationale for this position is set out below.

Fragmentation of Representation

Council is of the view that the fragmentation of Federal representation across Victorian Councils should be lessened wherever possible. Council is particularly keen to ensure that the Knox community is not split, nor portions of the community disadvantaged through dislocation from natural/behavioural centres of attraction. Upper Ferntree Gully has strong links to the neighbouring suburbs of Ferntree Gully, Boronia and the Basin and has considerably lesser communities of interest to the Dandenong National Park, and the towns of Tremont, Belgrave and Upwey to the East.

This proposal has previously attracted the support of many submitters on the basis that single representation of these communities of interest would lead to a more balanced representation of those communities, and the constituents of the Knox community more generally.

Including Upper Ferntree Gully in Aston would still fit within the numerical requirements of the review. Based on estimated voter figures for Upper Ferntree Gully (of 1,900) the

following tables demonstrate the current proposal by the redistribution committee and the revised figures for Councils proposal.

	September 2017	% Variance	August 2019	% Variance
Aston – As Proposed by redistribution committee	107,614	0.62%	109,204	-1.06%
Aston – As proposed by Knox City Council	109,514	2.39%	111,104	0.66%
Casey – As Proposed by redistribution committee	102,129	-4.51%	109,705	-0.60%
Casey – As proposed by Knox City Council	100,229	-6.29%	107,805	-2.33%

In regards to the proposed changes to the south, there appears to be no basis for these proposed changes. Excising the Tirhatuan Golf Club and the Rowville Recreation Reserve from Aston. Police Road is not a through road to the East or West and is therefore not a strong or natural border to use as the boundary.

Council continues to support the principle that the fragmentation of Federal representation across Victorian Councils should be lessened wherever possible and that communities should not be split, nor portions of the community disadvantaged through dislocation from natural/behavioural centres of attraction. The removal of this geographic area to Aston is clearly contrary to this principle.

Council submits that the redistribution should include the whole of Knox within the one division of Aston. This would be manageable by moving the boundary to the east and south to align with the existing LGA boundary.

Conclusion

Knox City Council strongly supports the above submission being considered by the Redistribution Secretariat to provide for a consistent and improved Federal representation across Knox City Council. Council believes that the aim of the electorate division review should be to retain, as much as possible/practical communities of interest and that municipal districts should be accommodated in one division wherever practical.