



Objection 223

Peter Gavin

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From: Peter Gavin
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: Objection to the boundaries of McEwen
Date: Wednesday, 2 May 2018 1:45:28 PM
Attachments: [McEwen Objection.docx](#)

Hi

Hope you will consider this objection.

Sunbury deserves better.

regards

Peter Gavin

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Objection in relation to the Proposed Redistribution of Victoria - McEwen

I write to object to the proposed boundaries of the Federal Electoral Division of McEwen, as per the proposed redistribution report released on 6 April 2018.

I wish to submit a very strong protest about the proposed Federal Electoral Division of McEwen.

The proposed Federal Electorate of McEwen is an east-west horseshoe shape made up of an eclectic group of communities with no shared communities of interests.

I am deeply concerned that Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has ignored its obligation to consider the community of interest that is Sunbury.

The AEC must maintain communities of interest to reduce confusion and retain cohesion in representation, and those areas that have traditionally and practically have looked to Sunbury to provide the economic, recreational, and social support should remain with Sunbury.

A Federal Electorate centred on Sunbury would better reflect the nature, character and aspirations of the local community.

Sunbury is a stand-alone town, which provides many services to its residents and surrounds such as Diggers Rest and Bulla. The town is already contained within the confines of the Jacksons Creek valley, surrounding hilltops and the Calder Highway, to retain an open rural backdrop to the town and its unique 'country town' character.

Sunbury has a strong sense of community and independent identity that is not shared with other parts of McEwen. Sunbury sees itself as the entry to the Macedon Ranges on the Calder Freeway; a country town near the Macedon foothills, with a big commuter population; a well-balanced image of city living, country style.

It has developed as a satellite city, and as such, Sunbury has unique requirements that need to return to the fore to ensure the town gets the appropriate infrastructure for our community.

This includes the provision of infrastructure specific to Sunbury, to allow families to conduct their affairs locally so that they do not have to travel. For example, local TAFE services, sports and leisure, a hospital, schools and emergency services hub.

Whether Sunbury gets appropriate facilities will depend on strong advocacy for the area for health and tertiary education needs of the future Sunbury population. This will depend on strong advocacy and not having to compete with areas that share no common interests.

In terms of transport and geography, Sunbury is vastly different from the rest of the McEwen electorate. As a satellite city, it is well-served by an existing road and rail network. The Calder Freeway bisects the area in the south-west, while Sunbury Road bisects it in the southeast and links Sunbury to Melbourne Airport and the Tullamarine Freeway. The Bendigo rail line extends north south through the area and there are existing stations at Sunbury and Diggers Rest.

To travel to Hurstbridge in the east of the proposed electorate would take at least 50 minutes, and necessitate travel through four other electorates (Gorton, Calwell, Scullin and Jagajaga). For someone from Sunbury, there is really no reason to travel to Hurstbridge unless one has family and/or friends. There are no sporting, educational, employment or services connections. The same applies to most towns around the proposed McEwen electorate. Sunbury people generally do not have any links with these other towns.

The Australian Electoral Commission has a responsibility to maintain communities of interest to reduce confusion and retain cohesion in representation, and those areas that traditionally and practically have looked to Sunbury to provide the economic, recreational, and social support should remain with Sunbury. Sunbury has far more shared community interest with Gisborne, Sydenham, Diggers Rest and Tullamarine than with Wallan, Doreen or Hurstbridge.

The issues facing Sunbury now, such as health, education (including tertiary education) and community infrastructure to cope with current and projected current population growth will require strong, focused advocacy by a federal representative who is not simultaneously juggling priorities with small, rural villages that are scattered throughout McEwen, burgeoning growth corridors from Craigieburn north through to Wallan and the Plenty Valley growth corridor.

I trust in your future deliberations you will consider these factors to ensure Sunbury receives the representation it is due.

Kind regards,

Peter Gavin

