



# Objection 306

Australian Greens Victoria

4 pages

## **Australian Greens Victoria**

### **Objection to the proposed redistribution for Victoria**

#### **Introduction**

The Australian Greens Victoria appreciates the chance to respond to the draft redistribution proposal. Overall, despite some media reports, we regard the proposed boundaries as doing a good job of balancing the competing needs of the redistribution. We also welcome the recognition given to a number of worthy Victorians in the proposed name changes, and the addressing of the inappropriate existing name of McMillan.

Nevertheless, we would like to suggest a number of relatively minor, but nonetheless very important, alterations for consideration.

These include:

- The retention of Flemington within the seat of Melbourne, a suburb that has been part of the seat for almost 100 years and shares a strong community of interest with Kensington. The proposed redistribution can be virtually undisturbed, and Flemington is able to be retained within the seat, by adopting one of the two proposals outlined below.
- Retention of the name Melbourne Ports, a reconsideration of the failure to change the name of the seat of Batman and renaming of Corangamite to Cox.

#### **Retention of Flemington within the seat of Melbourne**

The Committee has proposed to shift the area of Flemington into the seat Maribyrnong. This is a significant and unwarranted change which is widely opposed by the Flemington and Kensington communities.

It will mean that, for the first time in almost a century, Flemington would be removed from the electorate of Melbourne. The change is not required because it is balanced by the insertion of two additional areas into the seat, has not been justified and the Committee has failed to take to account the significant community concern regarding the splitting of the Flem/Ken community.

As we argued in our initial submission, and the Report of the Redistribution Committee acknowledges, there are considerable community of interest connections between Flemington and Kensington, such that it would be best to maintain the two in the same electorate.

We can see two ways this can be done with relatively little disruption elsewhere, indeed in some cases improving communities of interest.

## Proposal 1:

The Greens preferred option is to keep Flemington and Travancore in the electorate of Melbourne, while restoring North Fitzroy north of Park Street to Wills and Clifton Hill west of Hoddle Street to Batman, minimizing the transfer of voters between seats. This would maintain all of these electorates within the acceptable ranges. Meanwhile, the southwestern boundary between Fraser and Maribyrnong could be made Melon St, instead of Ashley St, amounting to a transfer of 4 SA1s (134735,134710, 134711,134701) thus also leaving these electorates within the permissible range.

	2017 enrolment	2017 quota and permissible range	2019 enrolment	2019 quota and permissible range
Melbourne	104,982 + 6,138 + 40 - 1,192 - 2,988 = <b>106,980</b>	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	111,134 + 6,293 +41 -1,211 -3,027 = <b>113,230</b>	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)
Batman	109,048 + 1,192 = <b>110,240</b>	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	112,299 + 1,211 = <b>113,510</b>	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)
Wills	107,306 + 2,988 = <b>110,294</b>	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	110,841 + 3,027 = <b>113,868</b>	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)
Maribyrnong	108,119 - 6,138 - 40 + 1 195 = <b>103,136</b>	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	111,765 - 6,293 - 41 + 1,233 = <b>106,664</b>	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)
Fraser	109,317 - 1,195 = <b>108,122</b>	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	111,482 - 1,233 = <b>110,249</b>	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)

## Proposal 2:

An alternative would be to keep Flemington in Melbourne, but transfer Travancore to Maribyrnong along with Ascot Vale. Ideally, Flemington, Kensington and Travancore would all be in the same electorate, indeed many institutions and organisations are focused across the three communities, for example Flemington Primary School is in Travancore. However, if decisions elsewhere make this impossible, this is an option open to the Commission.

Mount Alexander Road is a clear boundary between Flemington and Travancore. On the other hand, much of the boundary between Travancore and Ascot Vale is not even a residential street. Indeed some maps define the northern boundary as being at Ormond Road, rather than Baroda Street, nearly doubling the suburb's area, and Moonee Valley Council has given consideration to adjusting the boundaries to meet this. We note that

Flemington and Kensington share the postcode 3031, while Travancore and Ascot Vale share 3032.

In this option, Maribyrnong remains within the required population range, so no further changes are needed relative to the draft. Meanwhile, the addition of Flemington puts Melbourne's projected enrollment above the acceptable range. However, this can be addressed by keeping the current boundary with Wills, leaving the area of North Fitzroy north of Park Street in Wills.

	2017 enrolment	2017 quota and permissible range	2019 enrolment	2019 quota and permissible range
Melbourne	104,982 + 6,138 - 1181 + 40 - 2988 = <b>106,991</b>	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	111,134 + 6,293 - 1265 + 41 - 3027 = <b>113,176</b>	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)
Wills	107,306 + 2,988 = <b>110,294</b>	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	110,841 + 3,027 = <b>113,868</b>	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)
Maribyrnong	108,119 - 4,957 - 40 = <b>103,122</b>	106,954 (Between 96,259 and 117,649)	111,765 - 5,028 - 41 = <b>106,696</b>	110,372 (Between 106,509 and 114,235)

## Changes to seat names

We strongly support the proposed renaming of Murray to Nicholls, and that the new seat is called Fraser, but have the following concerns about other proposed names:

We are saddened by the continued use of the name Batman, commemorating a man whose abuse of the Indigenous people of the area is one of the most shameful aspects of Victoria's history. If the preference of the local indigenous community to name the electorate after Simon Wonga is rejected, there are still many alternatives that would be preferable to the current situation, including many indigenous women worthy of commemoration.

We endorse the idea of naming an electorate after Sir John Monash, who could not have been expected to foresee the long term contribution of brown coal to climate change. However, in light of the location of the university and local council in the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne, it might be better to have the name applied to an electorate there, while the Gippsland electorate could commemorate a local indigenous figure. We note that the name Bunjileene-Purrine has been proposed by the local community. Given that the new boundaries of Hotham encompass most of the City of Monash, Monash University's Clayton Campus, and a section of the Monash freeway, Hotham seems to us to be a better candidate for the name Monash.

We welcome the recognition of an outstanding, but under-appreciated woman scientist in Annie Jean Macnamara. However, we believe that the Melbourne Ports name should be retained, given that it is both a federation seat, and the strong identification with Melbourne Ports as a name amongst many residents within the local community. Although the AEC's preferred approach is to move away from geographic names due to the nature of regularly changing boundaries, the ports and bay within City of Melbourne remain the strongest defining boundary and characteristic of any seat located within this part of Melbourne, and given the continued use of this name for over 100 years, and its status as a federation seat, we believe the AEC should retain the name.

In the light of the concerns that have been expressed by many in the media and elsewhere about the use of the name Cox for an electorate, we therefore suggest that the electorate currently known as Corangamite be renamed Macnamara, thus giving the desired recognition to the sciences in general, and Dame Macnamara in particular, while maintaining the Melbourne Ports name.

**Australian Greens Victoria**