



# Objection 322

Brad Stewart

4 pages

**From:** Brad .  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Subject:** Brad Stewart - Objection to the proposed boundary changes in relation to the division of McEwen  
**Date:** Friday, 4 May 2018 11:16:49 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Redistribution Committee for Victoria  
Australian Electoral Commission  
GPO Box 768  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Committee Members

I wish to submit an objection to the proposed boundary changes in relation to the division of McEwen – specifically the combined impact of removing the suburb of Craigieburn while retaining the suburb of Sunbury in the division.

“Sunbury Out of Hume” has been the subject of a long running political debate at both the local and state government levels. For your information I have attached two articles from recent months that make it clear that this remains a live and highly political issue which has led to an “enormous amount of anxiety and concern”.

As the article explains, the former Liberal Government undertook to remove Sunbury from the City of Hume. Subsequently the Andrews Labor Government overturned this policy and reversed the work that was well underway to separate Sunbury from Hume.

While Craigieburn and Sunbury co-exist in the seat of McEwen in the current boundaries there has been no participation in this debate by the federal government or its agencies. That now appears to have changed.

Now in the 2018 draft boundaries, through specifically removing the suburb of Sunbury alone from the City of Hume, the AEC appears to be vicariously supporting the Liberal Party’s policy to separate the suburb of Sunbury from its municipal neighbours.

To do this at one level of government will be seen locally as either a) the AEC being ill-informed as to the implications of excising Sunbury or, and more concerningly, b) the AEC taking a political position in relation to this highly contentious local issue.

Separating Craigieburn at a federal level from the City of Hume would have no such implications because there is no push for Craigieburn to succeed, but the removal of Sunbury will have significant political and reputational outcomes, be they intentional or not.

I would ask the Committee to reconsider its position on this matter.

Yours Sincerely  
Brad Stewart

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

## City of Sunbury back on the agenda

JANUARY 9, 2018 1:07 AM BY SERENA SEYFORT

**HUME COUNCIL MATTHEW GUY LIBERAL PARTY**



The state opposition has renewed its commitment to establish Sunbury as a standalone municipality if elected in November.

Speaking exclusively to *Star Weekly*, Opposition Leader Matthew Guy said the Liberals would make good on a promise made four years ago for Sunbury to cut ties with Hume. “We have clear commitments for Sunbury – a specific City of Sunbury, which we stand by as a promise,” Mr Guy said. “We will have a City of Sunbury, we will give them their own council, we will have that split from Hume.”

Sunbury Residents Association vice president Trevor Dance said the association was strongly in favour of the move, but wanted “no political games this time”.

“Even if the Sunbury seat is won by Labor but Liberals win the election then Sunbury out of Hume is to still occur,” Mr Dance said.

The idea of Sunbury splitting from Hume council has been discussed for a number of years. Agitation for the break-up stemmed from semi-rural Sunbury residents arguing their metropolitan neighbours were not on top of their needs.

In September 2014, the Napthine government announced Sunbury and Bulla would be allowed to leave Hume council, after a poll held in October 2013 showed Hume residents were in favour of the split.

The non-compulsory postal poll was completed by 60,576 Hume residents, revealing 59.96 per cent favoured Sunbury breaking away.

But the move was abandoned by the Andrews government in October 2015, after independent Transition Auditors advised against it, claiming it would come at a significant financial cost to local residents.

The Andrews government said it was in favor of the split prior to the October announcement.

Mr Guy said he believed the Liberals had “what it takes” to claim the seat of Sunbury from current Sunbury MP Josh Bull in the state election.

*Star Weekly* contacted Hume council.  
[ENDS]

## talk of Sunbury split

MARCH 6, 2018 1:02 AM

BY SERENA SEYFORTH

**HUME COUNCIL MATTHEW GUY STATE ELECTION**



Hume council has asked to meet “urgently” with Opposition Leader Matthew Guy, saying it had not been consulted about the Liberals’ plan to make Sunbury a stand-alone municipality if the party is successful in the state election.

Councillors say they are disappointed to have first heard the policy had been put “back on the table” in a January 9 *Star Weekly* story.

At the council’s February 26 meeting, six of the 11 councillors spoke about the idea of Sunbury splitting from Hume, emphasising the “enormous amount of anxiety and concern” caused when the idea was on the table in 2014-15.

Several speakers outlined reasons why plans to cut Sunbury’s ties with Hume had fallen over in 2015 and suggested reasons why it could again in the future.

Hume council sent a written request to meet Mr Guy following the *Star Weekly* article in January.

In an interview with *Star Weekly* last month, Mr Guy said he had not recently discussed the matter with the council and he would understand if it felt “under siege” on the issue. Last week he confirmed the policy had been a long-term goal for the party.

The idea to establish a City of Sunbury was prominent back in 2013 when the Liberal government undertook a plebiscite on Hume residents’ opinions on the issue.

The poll showed residents favoured a split, but the Andrews government abandoned the idea in October, 2015, after independent auditors advised against it, claiming it would come at a significant financial cost to residents.

[ENDS]

Brad Stewart

