



# Objection 358

Andrew Gunter

8 pages

**From:** A J Gunter  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Subject:** AEC Federal Redistribution of Victoria  
**Date:** Friday, 4 May 2018 2:28:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [Parish\\_of\\_Doutta\\_Galla.pdf](#)  
[Parish\\_of\\_Buttlejorrk.pdf](#)  
[Parish\\_of\\_Holden.pdf](#)  
[Parish\\_of\\_Yangardook.pdf](#)

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The Chair and Members  
Augmented Electoral Commission for Victoria  
Australian Electoral Commission

Dear Chair and Members

I write in response to the Redistribution Committee's proposed Commonwealth electoral division boundaries for Victoria released on 6 April 2018.

As a resident of Moonee Valley, I am broadly in favour of the Committee's efforts to unite Moonee Valley in a single electoral division. However, there have been some knock-on effects on neighbouring communities that can be better ameliorated, consistent with the criteria that the Committee and the augmented Commission must consider. To that extent, this is an objection.

### **Boundaries**

The Flemington and Kensington communities are, on balance, right in wishing to be included in the same electoral division. The two suburbs have a strong historical affinity. In my view that wish can be more effectively accommodated by uniting them in the same division as all of the City of Moonee Valley rather than placing them in the Division of Melbourne with part (but not all) of the City of Melbourne and part (but not all) of the City of Yarra.

That can be achieved by judicious transfers (relative to the Committee's proposed divisions) as follows:

1. Transfer Kensington (7487 voters in 2017; 7762 voters in 2019) from Melbourne to the proposed Maribyrnong (whatever it is eventually named): as an interim step, Maribyrnong increases enrolment (to 115606/119527 in 2017/2019) until the remaining steps below are completed – the boundary can, if the augmented Commission wishes, follow the Doutta Galla parish's southern boundaries (copy **attached**), resulting in very strong waterway-based boundaries;
2. Transfer Yarra-North (the Clifton Hill area) (5629/5824 voters in 2017/19) from the proposed Batman to Melbourne – this would restore the use of a waterway or local government boundary between the Melbourne and Batman divisions – with the changes in steps 1 and 2 Melbourne's enrolment becomes 103124/109196;
3. Transfer Bundoora West-Thomastown (4175/4212 voters back from the proposed

- Scullin to Batman – with the changes in steps 2 and 3 Batman's enrolment becomes 107594/110687;
4. Transfer the area of west Mernda south of Bridge Inn Road and east of Darebin Creek (an estimated 4000/5000 additional voters) from the proposed McEwen to Scullin – with the changes in steps 3 and 4 Scullin's enrolment becomes 102989/109026;
  5. Transfer Sunbury-South, Diggers Rest, Toolern Vale and northern section of the City of Melton (an estimated 5000/6000 voters) from the proposed Gorton to McEwen – with the changes in steps 4 and 5 McEwen's enrolment becomes 101358/108238;
  6. Transfer Kings Park back from the proposed Fraser to Gorton – with the changes in steps 5 and 6 Gorton's enrolment becomes 104594/110621;
  7. Transfer the ex-Gellibrand components of Braybrook (2570/2644 voters) and West Footscray-Tottenham (4997/5155 voters) proposed by the Committee to be transferred to Maribyrnong to Fraser instead – with the changes in steps 6 and 7 Fraser's enrolment becomes 111152/113672;
  8. As a result of the changes in steps 1 and 7 the proposed Maribyrnong has enrolments of 108039/111728.

## Communities

The above listed further changes comply with the numerical criteria imposed on the Committee and the augmented Commission. Additionally, they either equally or better meet the criteria in subparagraphs (i), (ii) (iv) and (v) of paragraph 66(3)(b) of the Act, as follows:

1. adopts the use of strong waterway boundaries (Moonee Ponds Creek, and the Maribyrnong and Yarra Rivers as used by the Parish of Doutta Galla) rather than the centreline of a road through Newmarket Village;
2. adopts the use of either a waterway boundary (Merri Creek) or local government boundary rather than dividing the Clifton Hill community internally;
3. adopts a strongly identified (and currently used) Ring Road boundary, which also proposed to be retained as a boundary between Calwell and Wills in the section to its west, and to become a boundary between Jagajaga and Scullin in the section to its east;
4. adopts the well-defined Bridge Inn Road for a longer section west of the Plenty River than the Committee's proposal, which oddly uses a poorly defined prolongation of Lehmanns and Hunters Roads;
5. adopts a position that recognises that the Sunbury-South and Melton LGA parts of Diggers Rest (those in the Parishes of Buttlejorrk and Holden – see **attached** plans) are much more in Sunbury's orbit than in Melton's, other than (in Diggers' Rest Village's case) strictly for the provision for local government services; residents shop and recreate in Sunbury to a more significant degree, and likewise use Calder Freeway and Sunbury line road and rail in preference to Western Freeway and Melton/Bacchus Marsh road and rail; Toolern Vale and northern Melton LGA residents (those in the Parish of Yangardook, in particular – see **attached** plan) are

more equally focused on Sunbury as on Melton for their needs, but also relate (especially those above the "breakneck" escarpment) to Gisborne – McEwen is therefore at least as good a "fit" for those residents as Gorton;

6. allows Kings Park to remain in Gorton, alongside its neighbours Albanvale and Burnside Heights;
7. adopts the position that the western section of the Maribyrnong LGA to be placed in the new division of Fraser need not only be the community west of Ashley Street, but also the community west of Summerhill and Warleigh Roads (also well-defined north-south roads representing boundaries between defined localities); and
8. overall provides for a more balanced compliance with community-of-interest considerations set out in the Act.

## **Names**

When names of divisions are adopted it can rarely be predicted when a division bearing the new name may need to be abolished or the name may become inappropriate.

The former divisions Burke and Yarra (unlike their companion-named divisions Maribyrnong and Wills) ceased to exist because of changing enrolment numbers, not re-evaluation of the person or geographical feature that they were named after. And yet, doing so inadvertently destroyed two name-pairs: Yarra paired with Maribyrnong, and Burke paired with Wills.

As naming divisions after places is problematic given the Victorian Electoral Boundaries Commission names almost all districts and regions geographically, there is a reasonable basis for retiring the name Maribyrnong (as Yarra has already been) and reinstating the name Burke in its place.

It is historically appropriate to name divisions after key people (whether Indigenous or non-Indigenous) in Australia's history, and appropriate that William John Wills continue to be honoured, but together with his co-leader Robert O'Hara Burke rather than alone. The division containing part of their route north-west from Melbourne, including their first-night camp at Moonee Ponds (where historical plaques feature them prominently), is very appropriate to be named after Robert O'Hara Burke.

## **Generally**

I request the augmented Commission consider the above factors in its deliberations. Please advise if it is proposed to hold any Inquiry into objections or comments. Otherwise, I look forward to the augmented Commission's proposed boundaries when available.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Gunter

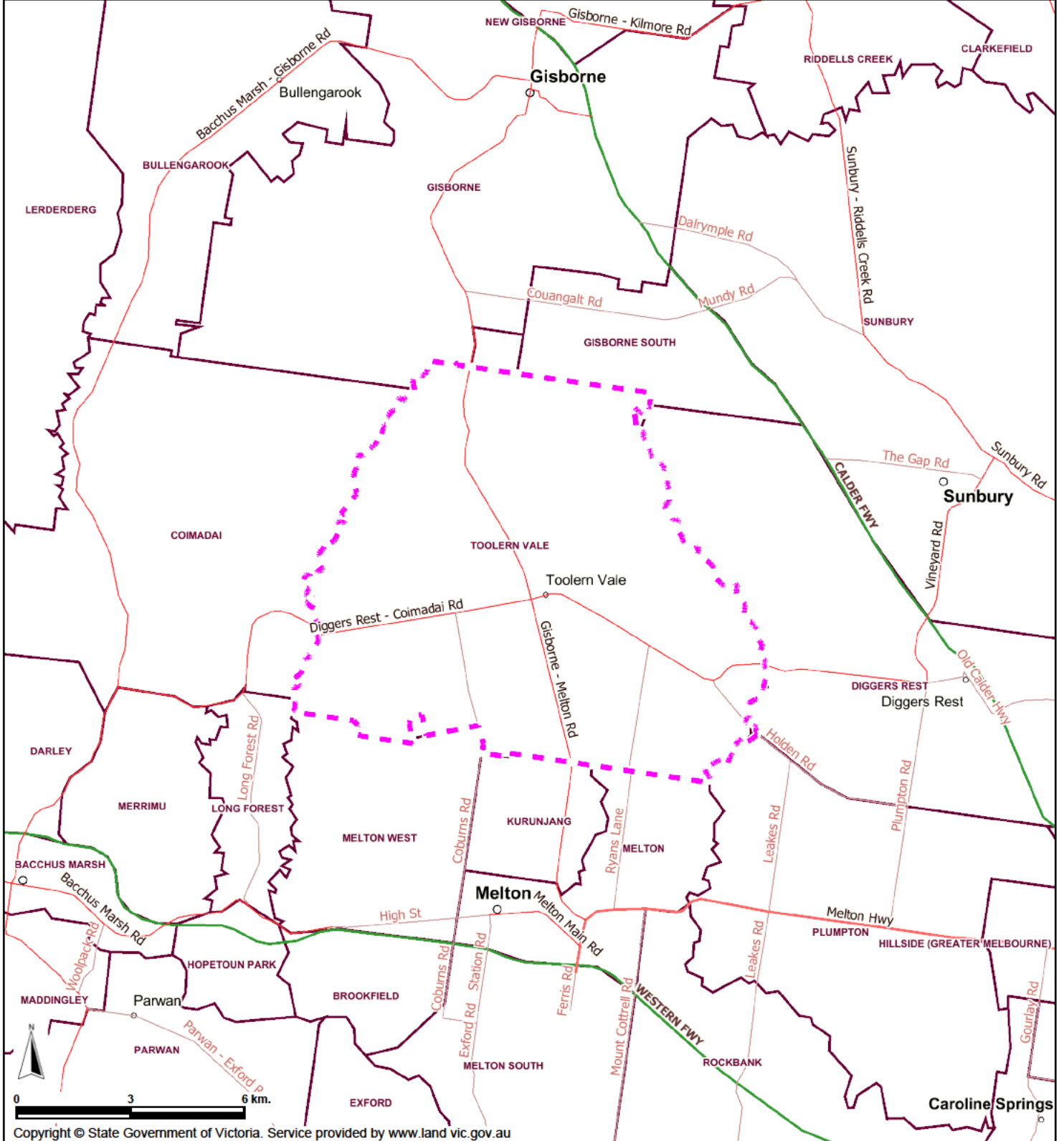
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Parish of Yangarook



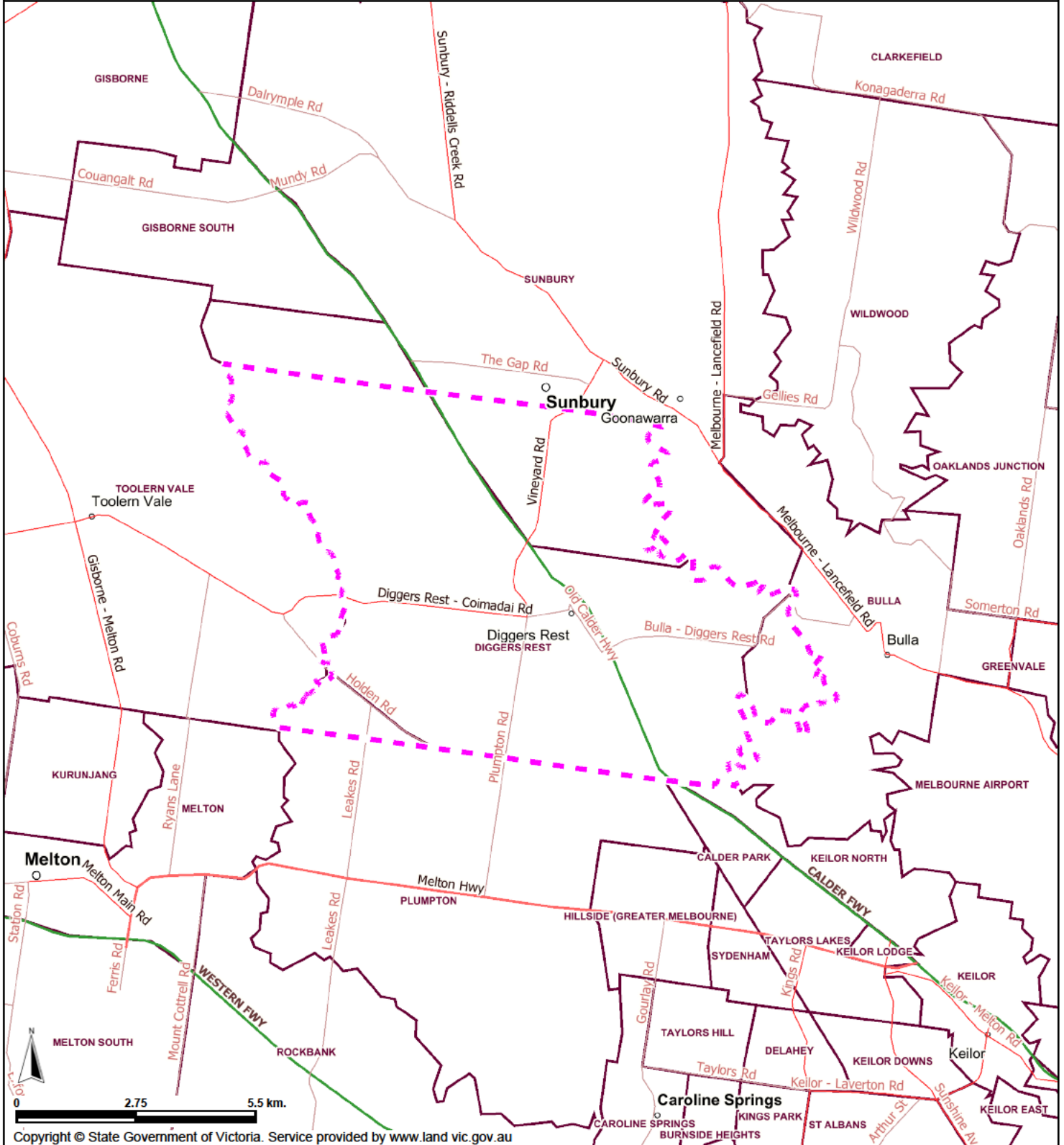
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Legend

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Major town</li> <li> Minor town</li> <li> Built up area</li> <li> Road</li> <li> Road name</li> <li> Railway</li> <li> Rail trail</li> <li> Tramway</li> <li> Property or parcel</li> <li> Highlighted property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> 25 Address</li> <li> 2 Lot number</li> <li> PS335972 Plan number</li> <li> 1C Crown allotment number</li> <li> River, stream, coastline</li> <li> Water body</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Locality</li> <li> Locality name</li> <li> Local Government Area</li> <li> LGA name</li> <li> Local Gov Ward (2012)</li> <li> Ward name (2012)</li> <li> Local Gov Ward (2006)</li> <li> Ward name (2008)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> State Lower House (2014)</li> <li> Lower House Name (2014)</li> <li> State Lower House (2001)</li> <li> Lower House Name (2001)</li> <li> Bushfire prone area</li> </ul>
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Parish of Holden



Legend	
	Major town
	Minor town
	Built up area
	Road
	Road name
	Railway
	Rail trail
	Tramway
	Property or parcel
	Highlighted property
	25 Address
	2 Lot number
	PS335972 Plan number
	1C Crown allotment number
	River, stream, coastline
	Water body
	Locality
	Locality name
	Local Government Area
	LGA name
	Local Gov Ward (2012)
	Port Ward (2012)
	Local Gov Ward (2006)
	Port Ward (2008)
	State Lower House (2014)
	BUNMYONG Lower House Name (2014)
	State Lower House (2001)
	BENAMBRA Lower House Name (2001)
	Bushfire prone area

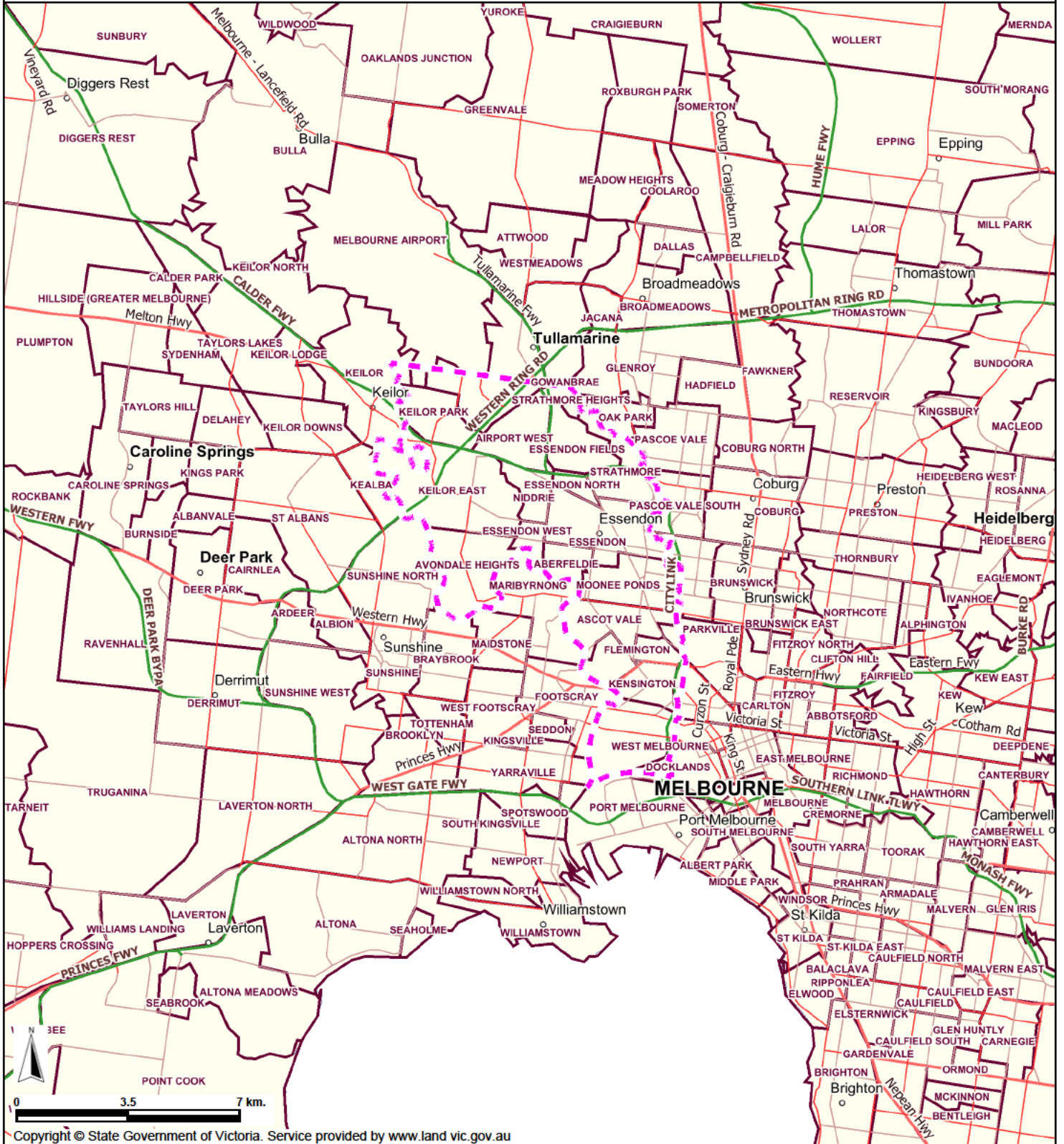
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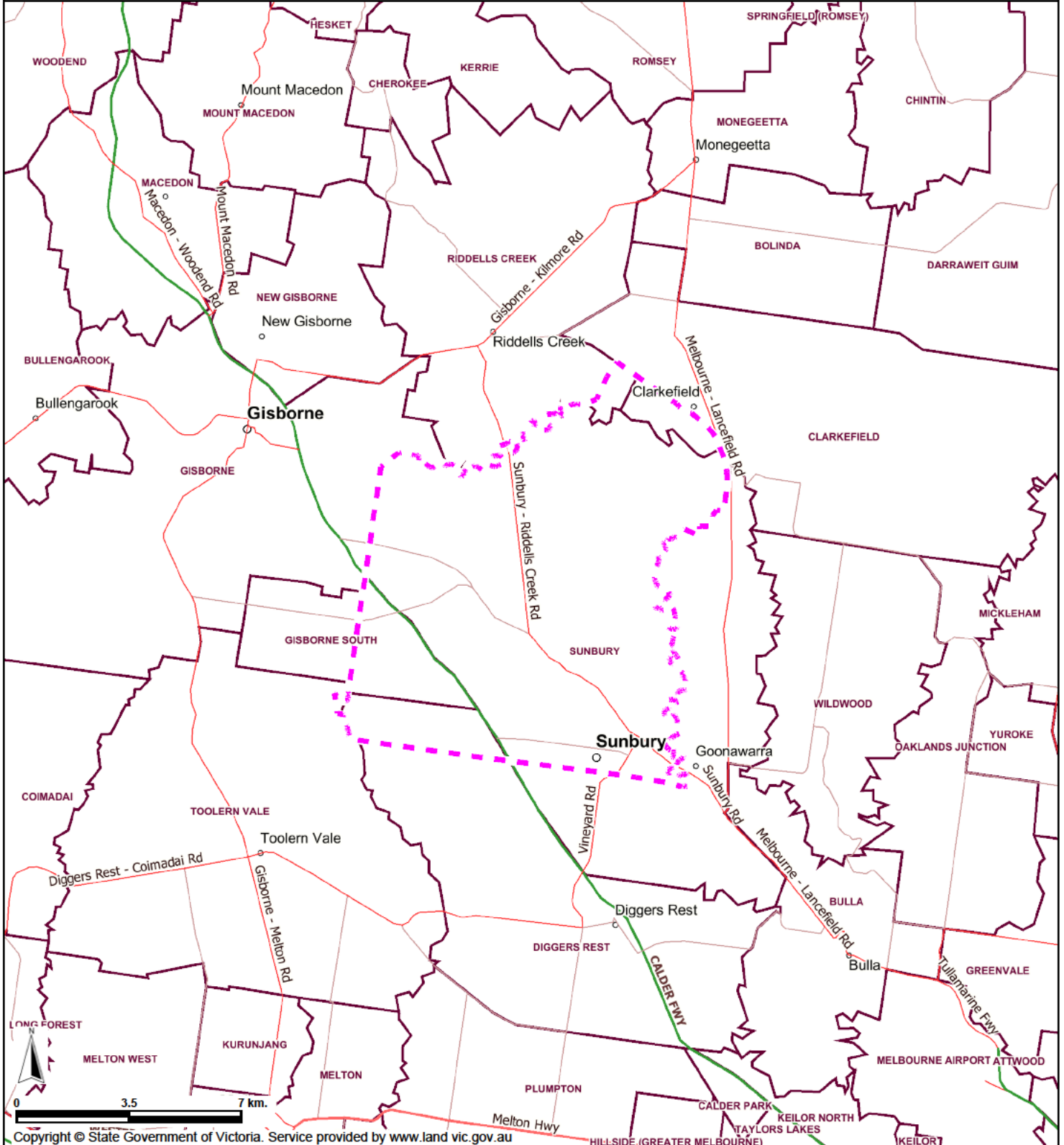
Parish of Doutta Galla



Legend	
Major town	Address
Minor town	Lot number
Built up area	Plan number
Road	Crown allotment number
Road name	River, stream, coastline
Railway	Water body
Rail trail	
Tramway	
Property or parcel	
Highlighted property	
Locality	State Lower House (2014)
Locality name	Lower House Name (2014)
Local Government Area	State Lower House (2001)
LGA name	Lower House Name (2001)
Local Gov Ward (2012)	Bushfire prone area
Ward name (2012)	
Local Gov Ward (2008)	
Ward name (2008)	



Parish of Buttlejorrk



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Legend	
	Major town
	Minor town
	Built up area
	Road
	Road name
	Railway
	Rail trail
	Tramway
	Property or parcel
	Highlighted property
	Address
	Lot number
	Plan number
	Crown allotment number
	River, stream, coastline
	Water body
	Locality
	Locality name
	Local Government Area
	LGA name
	Local Gov Ward (2012)
	Ward name (2012)
	Local Gov Ward (2008)
	Ward name (2008)
	State Lower House (2014)
	Lower House Name (2014)
	State Lower House (2001)
	Lower House Name (2001)
	Bushfire prone area